

# Mathematical Vocabulary Children in Year 6 Should know, understand, use and be able to spell.

(*Words new to Year 6 are emphasised.*)

## Numbers and the number system

### Place value, ordering and rounding

units, ones

tens, hundreds, thousands

ten thousand, hundred thousand, million

digit, one-, two-, three- or four-digit number

numeral

'teens' number

place, place value

stands for, represents

exchange

the same number as, as many as

equal to

*Of two objects/amounts:*

>, greater than, more than, larger than, bigger than

<, less than, fewer than, smaller than

≥, greater than or equal to

≤, less than or equal to

*Of three or more objects/amounts:*

greatest, most, largest, biggest

least, fewest, smallest,

one... ten... one hundred... one thousand more/less

compare, order, size

ascending/descending order

first... tenth... twentieth

last, last but one

before, after

next

between, half-way between

guess how many, estimate

nearly, roughly, close to, about the same as

approximate, approximately

≈, is approximately equal to

just over, just under

exact, exactly

too many, too few, enough, not enough

round (up or down), nearest

round to the nearest ten/hundred/thousand

integer, positive, negative

above/below zero, minus

## **Properties of numbers and number sequences**

number, count, how many...?  
odd, even  
every other  
how many times?  
multiple of  
digit  
next, consecutive  
sequence  
continue  
predict  
pattern, pair, rule  
relationship  
sort, classify, property  
formula  
divisible (by), divisibility, factor, *factorise*  
square number  
one squared, two squared....( $1^2, 2^2 \dots$ )  
*prime, prime factor*

## **Fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion**

part, equal parts  
fraction, proper/improper fraction  
mixed number  
numerator, denominator  
equivalent, reduced to, cancel  
one whole  
half, quarter, eighth  
third, sixth, ninth, twelfth  
fifth, tenth, twentieth  
hundredth, *thousandth*  
proportion, ratio, in every, for every  
to every, as many as  
decimal, decimal fraction  
decimal point, decimal place  
percentage, per cent, %

## **Calculations**

### **Addition and subtraction**

add, addition, more, plus, increase  
sum, total, altogether  
score

double, near double  
how many more to make...?  
subtract, subtraction, take (away), minus, decrease  
leave, how many are left/left over?  
difference between  
half, halve  
how many more/fewer is... than...?  
how much more/less is...?  
is the same as, equals, sign  
tens boundary, hundreds boundary  
units boundary, tenths boundary  
inverse

## **Multiplication and division**

lots of, groups of  
times, multiplication, multiply, multiplied by  
multiple of, product  
once, twice, three times  
four times, five times... ten times  
times as (big, long, wide, and so on)  
repeated addition  
array, row, column  
double, halve  
share, share equally  
one each, two each, three each...  
group in pairs, threes... tens  
equal groups of  
divide, division, divided by, divided into  
remainder  
factor, quotient, divisible by  
inverse

## **Using a calculator**

calculator, display, key  
enter, clear, *sign change*  
constant, *recurring*, *memory*, *operation key*

## **Solving problems**

### **Making decisions and reasoning**

pattern, puzzle  
calculate, calculation  
mental calculation  
method, strategy  
jotting

answer  
right, correct, wrong  
what could we try next?  
how did you work it out?  
number sentence  
sign, operation, symbol, equation

## **Money**

money  
coin, note  
penny, pence, pound, (£)  
price, cost  
buy, bought, sell, sold  
spend, spent  
pay  
change  
dear, costs more, more/most expensive  
cheap, costs less, cheaper, less/least expensive  
how much...? how many...?  
total, amount, value  
discount, *profit*, *loss*  
currency

## **Handling data**

count, tally, sort, vote  
survey, questionnaire  
data, database  
graph, block graph, line graph  
pictogram,  
represent  
group, set  
list, chart, bar chart, bar line chart  
tally chart  
table, frequency table  
Carroll diagram, Venn diagram  
label, title, axis, axes  
diagram  
most popular, most common  
least popular, least common  
mode, range, *mean*, *average*, *median*  
*statistics*, *distribution*  
maximum/minimum value  
classify, outcome

## **Probability**

fair, unfair  
likely, unlikely, likelihood, *equally likely*  
certain, uncertain  
probable, possible, impossible  
chance, good chance,  
poor chance, no chance  
*equal chance, even chance, fifty-fifty chance*  
risk, doubt  
*biased, random*

## **Measures, shape and space**

### **Measures (general)**

measure, measurement  
size  
compare  
unit, standard unit  
metric unit, imperial unit  
measuring scale, division  
guess, estimate  
enough, not enough  
too much, too little  
too many, too few  
nearly, roughly, about, close to  
about the same as, approximately  
just over, just under

### **Length**

length, width, height, depth, breadth  
long, short, tall, high, low  
wide, narrow, deep, shallow, thick, thin  
longer, shorter, taller, higher... and so on  
longest, shortest, tallest, highest... and so on  
far, further, furthest, near, close  
distance apart/between... to... from  
edge, perimeter, *circumference*  
kilometre (*km*), metre (*m*), centimetre (*cm*), millimetre (*mm*)  
mile, yard, feet, foot, inches, inch  
ruler, metre stick, tape measure, compasses

## Mass

*mass*: big, bigger, small, smaller, balances  
*weight*: heavy/light, heavier/lighter, heaviest/lightest  
weigh, weighs  
*tonne*, kilogram (*kg*), half-kilogram, gram (*g*)  
*pound*, *ounce*  
balance, scales

## Capacity

capacity  
full, half full  
empty  
holds, contains  
litre (*l*), half-litre, *centilitre* (*cl*), millilitre (*ml*)  
pint, gallon  
container, measuring cylinder

## Area

area, covers, surface  
square centimetre ( $cm^2$ ), square metre ( $m^2$ )  
square millimetre ( $mm^2$ )

## Time

time  
*days of the week*: Monday, Tuesday...  
*months of the year*: January, February...  
*seasons*: spring, summer, autumn, winter  
day, week, fortnight, month  
year, leap year, century, millennium  
weekend, birthday  
holiday  
calendar, date, date of birth  
morning, afternoon, evening, night  
am, pm, noon, midnight  
today, yesterday, tomorrow  
before, after, next, last  
now, soon, early, late, earliest, latest  
quick, quicker, quickest, quickly  
fast, faster, fastest, slow, slower, slowest, slowly  
old, older, oldest, new, newer, newest  
takes longer, takes less time  
how long ago?/how long will it be to...?  
how long will it take to...?  
timetable, arrive, depart  
hour, minute, second

o'clock, half past, quarter to, quarter past  
clock, watch, hands  
digital/analogue clock/watch, timer  
24-hour clock, 12-hour clock  
*Greenwich Mean Time, British Summer Time*  
*International Date Line*  
how often?  
always, never, often, sometimes, usually

## **Shape and space**

shape, pattern  
flat, line  
curved, straight  
round  
hollow, solid  
corner  
point, pointed  
face, side, edge, end  
sort  
make, build, construct, draw, sketch  
centre, radius, diameter  
*circumference, concentric, arc*  
net  
surface  
angle, right-angled  
congruent  
*intersecting, intersection*  
*plane*  
base, square-based  
vertex, vertices  
layer, diagram  
regular, irregular  
concave, convex  
open, closed  
*tangram*

## **3D shapes**

3D, three-dimensional  
cube, cuboid  
pyramid  
sphere, hemi-sphere, spherical  
cone  
cylinder, cylindrical  
prism  
tetrahedron, polyhedron, octahedron, *dodecahedron*

## **2D shapes**

2D, two-dimensional  
circle, circular, semi-circle  
triangle, triangular  
equilateral triangle, isosceles triangle, scalene triangle  
square, *rhombus*  
rectangle, rectangular, oblong  
pentagon, pentagonal  
hexagon, hexagonal  
heptagon  
octagon, octagonal  
polygon  
quadrilateral  
*kite*  
*parallelogram, trapezium*

## **Patterns and symmetry**

size  
bigger, larger, smaller  
symmetrical  
line of symmetry, axis of symmetry  
line symmetry, reflective symmetry  
fold  
match  
mirror line, reflection, reflect  
pattern, repeating pattern, translation

## **Position, direction and movement**

position  
over, under, underneath  
above, below, top, bottom, side  
on, in, outside, inside, around  
in front, behind, front, back  
before, after, beside, next to  
opposite, apart  
between, middle, edge, centre  
corner  
direction  
journey, route, map, plan  
left, right  
up, down, higher, lower  
forwards, backwards, sideways, across  
close, far, near  
along, through, to, from, towards, away from  
ascend, descend  
grid, row, column  
origin, coordinates



clockwise, anti-clockwise  
compass point, north, south, east, west (N, S, E, W)  
north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west  
(NE, NW, SE, SW)  
horizontal, vertical, diagonal  
parallel, perpendicular  
x-axis, y-axis  
quadrant  
movement  
slide, roll  
whole turn, half turn, quarter turn, rotate, rotation  
angle, ... is a greater/smaller angle than  
right angle, acute, obtuse, *reflex*  
degree  
straight line  
stretch, bend  
ruler, set square  
angle measurer, compasses, protractor

## **Instructions**

listen, join in, say, recite  
think, imagine, remember  
start from, start with, start at  
look at, point to, show me

put, place  
arrange, rearrange  
change, change over  
*adjusting, adjust*  
split, separate

carry on, continue, repeat  
what comes next?, predict  
describe the pattern, describe the rule

find, find all, find different  
investigate

choose, decide  
collect  
use, make, build, construct, bisect

tell me, *define*, describe, name, pick out, identify  
discuss, talk about  
explain  
explain your method/answer/reasoning  
give an example of...  
show how you...

show your working  
justify  
make a statement

read, write, record  
write in figures  
present, represent  
interpret  
trace, copy  
complete, finish, end

fill in, shade, colour  
label, plot

tick, cross  
draw, sketch  
draw a line between, join (up), ring, arrow

cost, count, tally

calculate, work out, solve, convert

investigate, *interrogate (data)*, question, *prove*  
answer  
check

## **General**

same, *identical*, different  
missing number/s  
number facts, number pairs, number bonds  
greatest value, least value

number line, number track  
number square, hundred square  
number cards, number grid  
abacus  
counters, cubes, blocks, rods  
die, dice, spinner  
dominoes  
pegs, peg board, pin board  
geo-strips

same way, different way  
best way, another way  
in order, in a different order

not  
all, every, each