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Week overview

Students at this age need to work out:

You will need the following objects:

Monday: At-Home Investigation

Tuesday: Connecting lesson

Wednesday: Connecting lesson

Thursday: Interleaved Practice Questions

Friday: Connecting and Generalising Lesson

How to use this work program

Accessing the online resources

To access the online resources, please go to: <https://www.backtofrontmaths.com.au/b2fmathshome>

Running the program each week

Each week is designed with five maths lessons so that you can do it each day. Different days have different types of lessons to make sure that students experience the kind of thinking that they need to continue growing in maths. The types of lessons include:

- **At-home investigation:** This is a hands-on task where students explore a new idea before they are taught that skill. They need to come up with an idea to try to solve the problem, try out their idea, decide if it worked or not, try again if needed, and explain what they did. If your child has time with your teacher with a webcam, the teacher will generally be doing this lesson with your child. This is the lesson that will require the heaviest input from you to help your child think through an idea and generally requires the use of some hands-on materials that are listed in the information page.
- **Connecting lesson:** This type of lesson has questions that lead students to develop their ideas and learn a new skill. It should be fairly easy for a student to do, but you will need to be available to read the question to your child as needed, encourage them to think further, and make sure that they complete the work. Most of these lessons will include 10 minutes of practising number operations or concepts through activities or games.
- **Interleaved practise lesson:** This type of lesson provides 8-10 questions from different areas of maths so that students practise remembering what they have previously been taught. Some of the questions may not be easy for your child, so feel free to help whenever you see them struggling.
- **Number practice:** This lesson contains games and number tasks to do regularly with your child. Number is the most important concept to establish in Foundation, so we will be using similar activities each week to help your child develop a very firm understanding of “how many”, to be able to picture that amount in their head, and to be able to add and subtract small amounts very flexibly. **These sessions will not focus heavily on counting, as counting is far less important than making amounts, drawing those amounts and recognising that the amount is still the same when the objects move.**

Getting help

The website above will have answers to frequently asked questions as well as videos to help you successfully teach your child at home. If you have further questions or need support, please contact your child’s teacher directly using the contact details that they have provided to you. If they can’t answer your questions, they will contact the B2FMaths@Home team directly to get an answer within 3 days.

What you need to know this week

Week overview

This week we are teaching the concept of fractions (especially: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ and multiples of any of these such as $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{4}{5}$, $\frac{3}{8}$...). We will look at fractions of shapes (2D), fractions of lengths, fractions of capacity (e.g. $\frac{1}{3}$ of a glass), and fractions of a collection or group.

For your information: When students are learning about fractions in later years, they need to understand that:

- Fractions, decimals and percentages are all different ways of expressing the same amount. We can use the context “of a dollar” to help with conversions. For example, what is half of a dollar? 50c. The number of cents is the same as that fraction converted to a percent, $\frac{1}{2} = 50\%$. If we write the amount in dollars, we are converting it to a decimal, $\frac{1}{2} = 0.50$ or 0.5
- In real life, we use fractions as numbers far more often than fractions of pizzas and cakes. For example, we express probability as a fraction, decimal or percentage (e.g. a 5% chance of rain), we use fractions in equations for measurement, we use fractions in budgeting. We will be using probability next week as a natural extension of what we learn about fractions this week.

Students at this age need to work out:

- Fractions need to be “fair”. If the pieces are to be given the same name, then the **size** of each piece needs to be the same. That includes fractions of a group of objects (e.g. half of 6 shells is 3 shells).
- We can have fractions of different types of wholes. We can have “half full” glasses, halves of string or ribbon, halves of amounts (e.g. half of \$4 is \$2) and also halves of shapes (e.g. rectangles, circles).
- Fraction names are related to the **size** of the pieces compared to the whole, not about how many pieces there are. If we cut a cake into 4 different sized pieces, they would not be quarters. Likewise, we could cut the cake into 1 half and 2 quarters, making 3 pieces altogether. They would not be called thirds.
- We can have different sized pieces in the same whole as long as we name them according to their size (e.g. one half, one quarter and two eighths cut into the same circle).
- Fractions can be compared to each other to work out which is bigger and to order them.
- The “whole” needs to be the same when comparing fractions. You can’t compare fractions if one is from a small pizza and one is from a family-sized pizza!
- Fraction names are related to ordinal numbers (e.g. position in a race: third, fourth, fifth...)
- When using a fraction symbol, e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$, the bottom number refers to how many parts there are in the whole (2 parts), and the top tells us how many we are talking about right now (1 out of the 2 parts is $\frac{1}{2}$). When they return to school, children will refer to the bottom number as the denominator and the top number as the numerator. You don’t need to use or remember those terms right now though.
- Fractions and division are different expressions of the same concept: $3 \div 4 = \frac{3}{4}$

You will need the following objects:

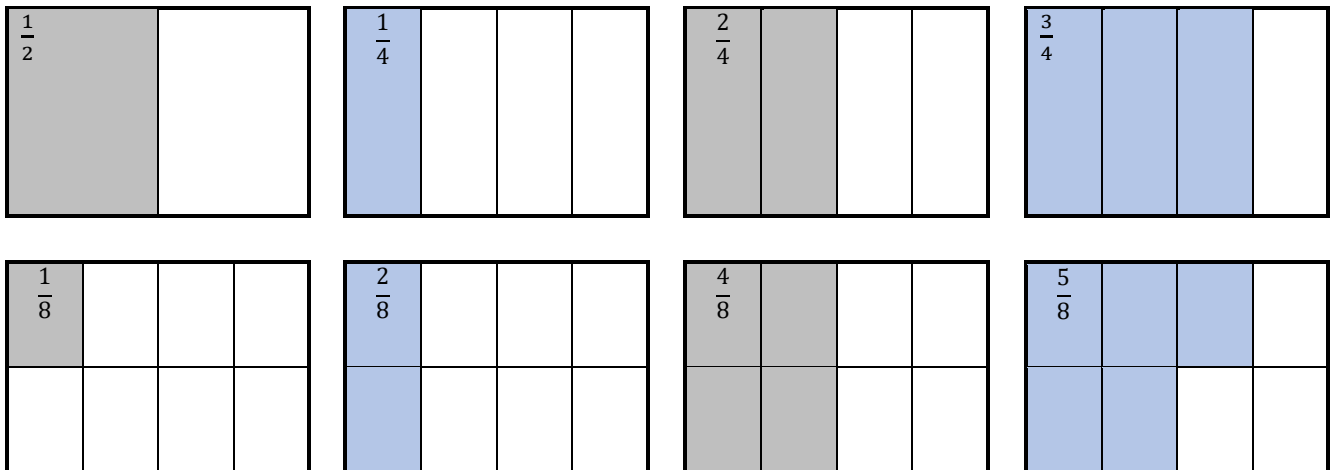
- Lots of scrap paper for Monday (at least 12 pieces)

Monday: At-Home Investigation

Today we are revising what we know about halves, quarters, eighths, thirds and fifths then using our representation to order and compare fractions. You may wish to consider providing your child with paper to make and colour each fraction, then comparing the size of each.

Steps:

1. Make sure you have read "What you need to know this week" so that you know what to emphasise with your child.
2. Read the sheet to your child. Ask for their ideas on how to fold/draw each fraction. Focus on using the terms "fair", "the same amount", or "the same size". One example of answers for the first two lines is shown below.
3. When making thirds and fifths, make sure that you try out their ideas first before you try to help them come up with a better plan. This is important because then they will know *why* their idea didn't work.
4. Help your child think about what worked and what didn't, then come up with a new plan if needed. Focus on the idea of "fair". For example, thirds should all be the same as each other. One half and two quarters is not thirds.
5. Encourage your child to draw or write answers to the questions on the page. It is important to make a record of this page, whether as a photograph showing their folded fractions or by keeping the page with the drawings.
6. Discuss what your child found out with them. Keep in mind the ideas from the "What you need to know this week" section so that you can ask questions that are appropriate to the issues identified.
7. At the end: consider writing a comment on the page to say what went well or what you are concerned about. Fractions can be hard to understand for children, so please contact your teacher for help as needed.

Example answers:

For the final question, the order for all the fractions is as follows:

$$\frac{1}{10} \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{4} \left(\text{same as } \frac{2}{8} \right) \frac{1}{3} \frac{2}{5} \frac{1}{2} \left(\text{same as } \frac{2}{4} \frac{4}{8} \frac{5}{10} \right) \frac{3}{5} \frac{5}{8} \frac{2}{3} \frac{3}{4} \frac{4}{5} \frac{7}{8}$$

At-Home Investigation

Revising fractions:

Today we are going to draw each of the fractions listed below. Draw the lines in with a pen, then take a photo of what you have made to send to your teacher.

- One half $\frac{1}{2}$
- One quarter, two quarters, three quarters $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$
- One eighth, two eighths, five eighths, seven eighths $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{2}{8}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{7}{8}$
- One third, two thirds $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3}$
- One fifth, two fifths, three fifths, four fifths $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{3}{5}$ $\frac{4}{5}$
- One tenth, five tenths $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{5}{10}$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\frac{2}{4}$$

$$\frac{3}{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{2}{8}$$

$$\frac{5}{8}$$

$$\frac{7}{8}$$

$$\frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{2}{5}$$

$$\frac{3}{5}$$

$$\frac{4}{5}$$

$$\frac{1}{10}$$

$$\frac{5}{10}$$
Compare the size:

Now that you have made each fraction, answer the following questions.

1. Which is the largest?
2. Which is the smallest?
3. Order the following fractions from smallest to largest: $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{8}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{3}{5}$ $\frac{5}{10}$

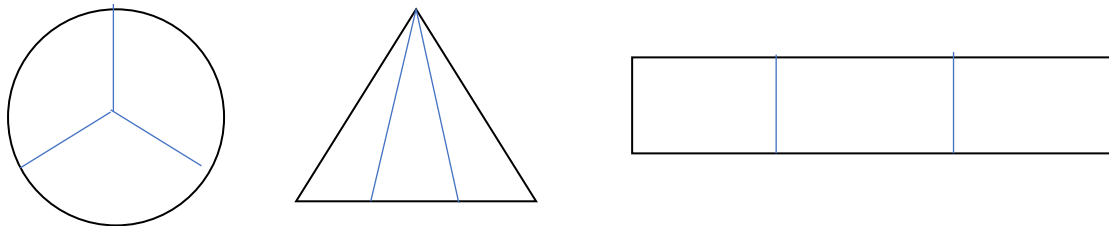
Tuesday: Connecting lesson

In this lesson we will revise the concept naming fractions and link it with positions in a race (ordinal numbers). After first and second places, fractions follow the same naming patterns as ordinal numbers: third, fourth, fifth... This simple connection should help your child to understand the number of parts needed for each fraction. The tricky part will be understanding that each part needs to be “fair” – just like it isn’t fair to have a bigger half, it also isn’t fair to have a bigger third or a bigger fifth.

When children are working on the second page they may have trouble dividing the shapes fairly. Just do what you can. If you get stuck, examine the table on the second worksheet from yesterday and let your child’s teacher know that you have had trouble. They can review this concept once we return to school.

Here is an example

Draw thirds:



For the triangle: splitting the base into equal lengths will really make that fraction. An explanation is provided below, however as this involves year 8 level algebra and measurement formulas you really don’t need to show it to your children 😊

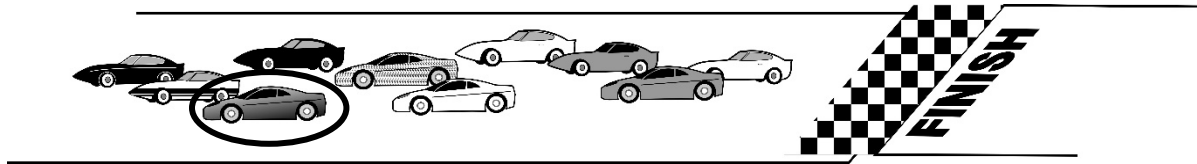
For those of you who are interested:

The area of a triangle is $\frac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height}$. As each smaller triangle has the same height, as long as you divide the base to make 3 equal lengths then you are keeping that dimension the same as well.

Fraction names are like racing

Fractions are named similarly to places in a race. Use this information to help you answer the questions below:

The cars below are having a race. Car number one crossed the finish line in first place. Car number two came in second place. What place did car number three come in?



This is the **same word** as that used for when one whole is broken into three fair parts. What would one of these parts be called?

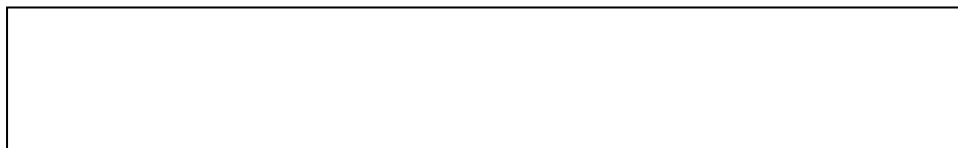
Divide the whole rectangle below into three fair parts. Write the name of each part on your picture.



What place would car number five come in?

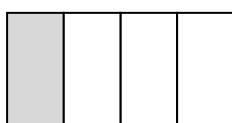
This is the same word as that used for when one whole is broken into five fair parts. What would one of these parts be called?

Divide the rectangle below into five fair parts. Write the name of each part on the picture



Fraction symbols

Use the picture below to work out what the one means and what the four means for the symbol of one quarter. Fill in the boxes.

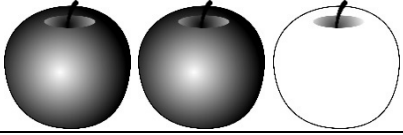
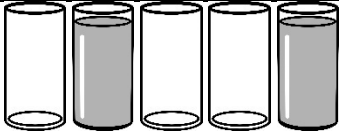


$$\frac{1}{4}$$

Numerator: The 1 means:

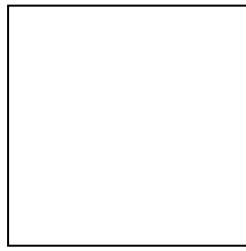
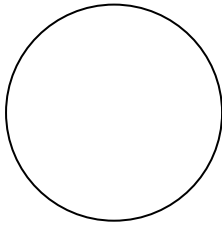
Denominator: The 4 means:

Putting it altogether: fill in the table

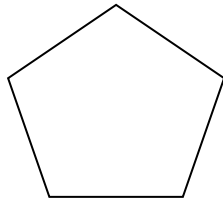
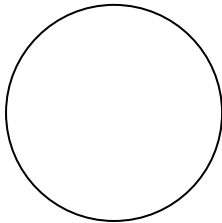
Picture	Words	Symbols
	<i>One third</i> of the apples are peeled	$\frac{1}{3}$
	<i>Two thirds</i> of the stickers are stars	
		

Draw the following fractions onto the shapes below:

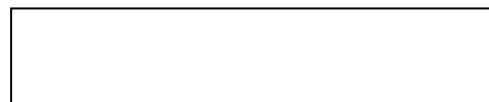
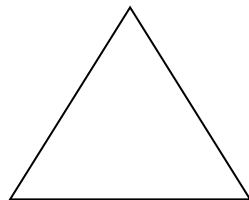
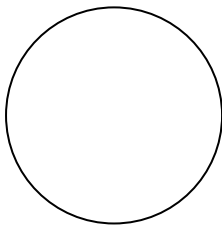
Draw halves:



Draw fifths:



Draw thirds:



Why are the fifths smaller than the thirds?

What do you think tenths might look like? Try drawing them here.



How are the tenths similar to and different from fifths?

Wednesday: Connecting lesson

In this lesson we will introduce the concept of equivalent fractions. Equivalent fractions are the same size as each other. For example, 2 quarters of a cake is the same as half a cake. $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

If the children worked through Monday and Tuesday's task properly, they should have been introduced to several fractions that were the same size as each other (equivalent). This worksheet should not be too difficult. If you have trouble, use the pictures or folding that your child did on Monday to compare sizes. Find ones that are the same and consider introducing others (e.g. $\frac{6}{8}$)

Terms you need to know: *NB these were introduced on the worksheet yesterday*

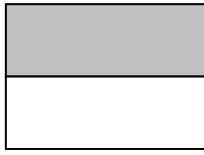
Denominator (bottom number in a fraction) represents the number of parts altogether in the whole and the

Numerator (top number in a fraction) represents how many of the parts we are specifically talking about.

Equivalent fractions

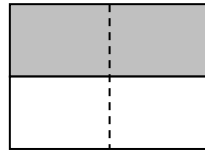
Different common fractions can be used to represent the same amount. These are called **equivalent fractions**. Use the diagrams below to help you to identify the common fractions.

Example:



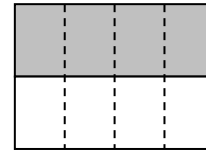
$$\frac{1}{2}$$

=



$$\frac{2}{4}$$

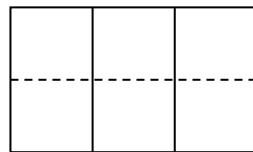
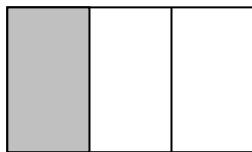
=



$$\frac{4}{8}$$

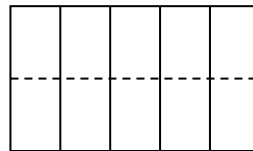
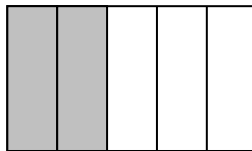
Colour the diagrams below and use them to help you answer the questions.

1. $\frac{1}{3} =$ how many sixths?



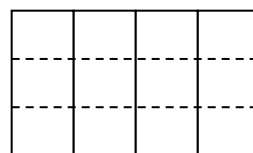
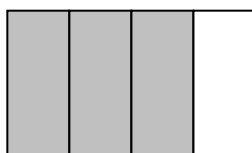
What is the pattern?

2. $\frac{2}{5} =$ how many tenths?



What is the pattern?

3. $\frac{3}{4} =$ how many twelfths?



What is the pattern?

Look at the numbers in each numerator and denominator in the set of equivalent fractions.

What patterns do you see between the numbers?

Extension question:

Some kids were playing in the pool. One third of the group went and bought ice creams. There were 4 kids who bought ice creams. How many didn't buy ice creams?

Thursday: Interleaved Practice Questions

Why we are using mixed up questions:

In this lesson your child will be reviewing a range of skills that they have learned previously. Each question is unrelated to the previous question, because we want your child to have to *think hard* about what to do. Mixing up questions like this, rather than just practising related questions, has been shown in research to improve student retention of concepts by 60% over a 4 month period.

What to expect:

Your child will probably have forgotten how to complete quite a few of the questions. If needed, change the numbers in each question to make them easier because this will still require your child to think hard and remember a process. If they still can't work it out, feel free to show them, but try using different numbers rather than the exact same question. There are answers to each question on the website in case you get stuck.

Interleaved practice

Number:

- Write the pattern that matches this description: **write multiples of 3 beginning with 6. Stop when you get to 60.**
 - If I take 157 from 1000, will my answer be odd or even? Explain your answer.
 - Show where these numbers would go on the number line: **250 675 920 1160**
-
- $6 \times \underline{\quad} = 42$ Show how you worked it out.
 - Write the decimal number for these fractions: $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{6}{10}$ $\frac{4}{10}$ $\frac{1}{5}$

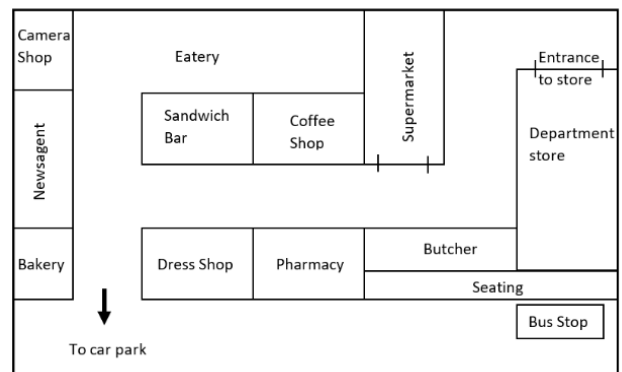
Measurement/Geometry:

- Add details to this thermometer to show what it looks like when the temperature is 24° .



- Give directions for how to get from the department store to the bus stop describing turns and approximate distances.

- Draw an angle that is bigger than a right angle and one that is smaller than a right angle.



Chance/Data:

I am going to use this spinner to play a colour game.
 List all of the possible results of my spins.
 Which colour am I most likely to spin and which is least likely?



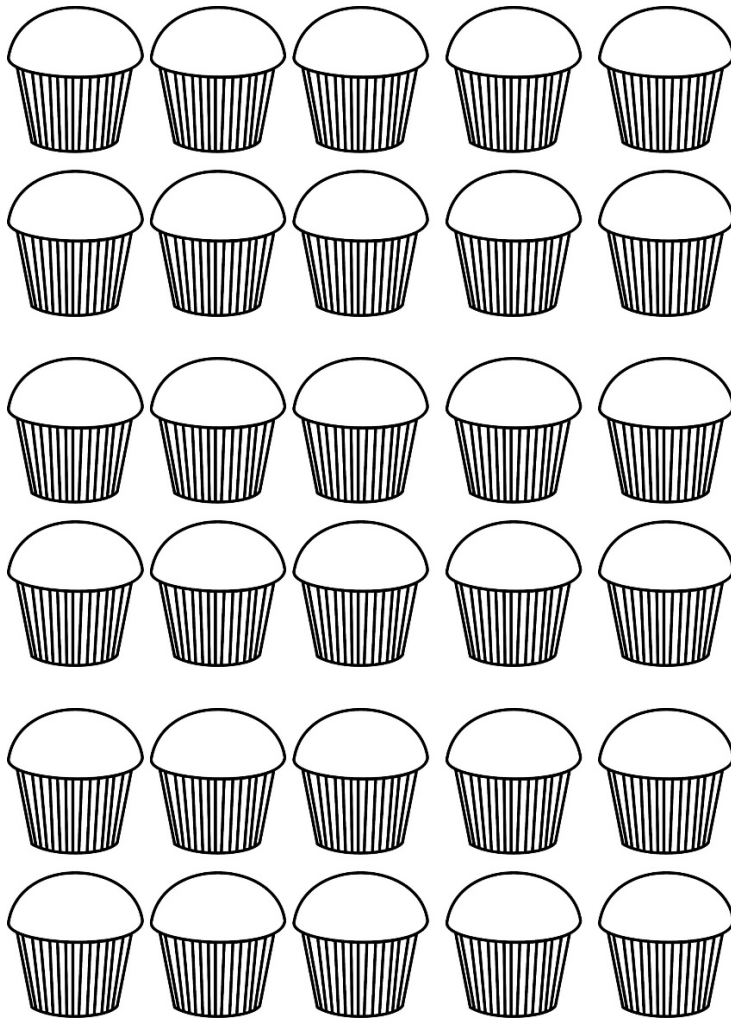
Friday: Connecting and Generalising Lesson

Fractions are not just shapes

The following picture shows 30 cupcakes. Your job is to work out what **equivalent fractions** you could make with the cupcakes without having to cut any of them into pieces.

You will need to start just by working out what fractions you could make with the 30 cupcakes. For example, you could make halves with two groups of 15. You couldn't make quarters though without having to cut some of the cakes. What others could you make?

When you have found some fractions, use the following page to circle each different fraction that you find and explain what it is. You need to find at least 2 sets of equivalent fractions, but there are more possible ones to find without cutting the cakes.



What equivalent fractions can you find? You need at least 2 sets.

