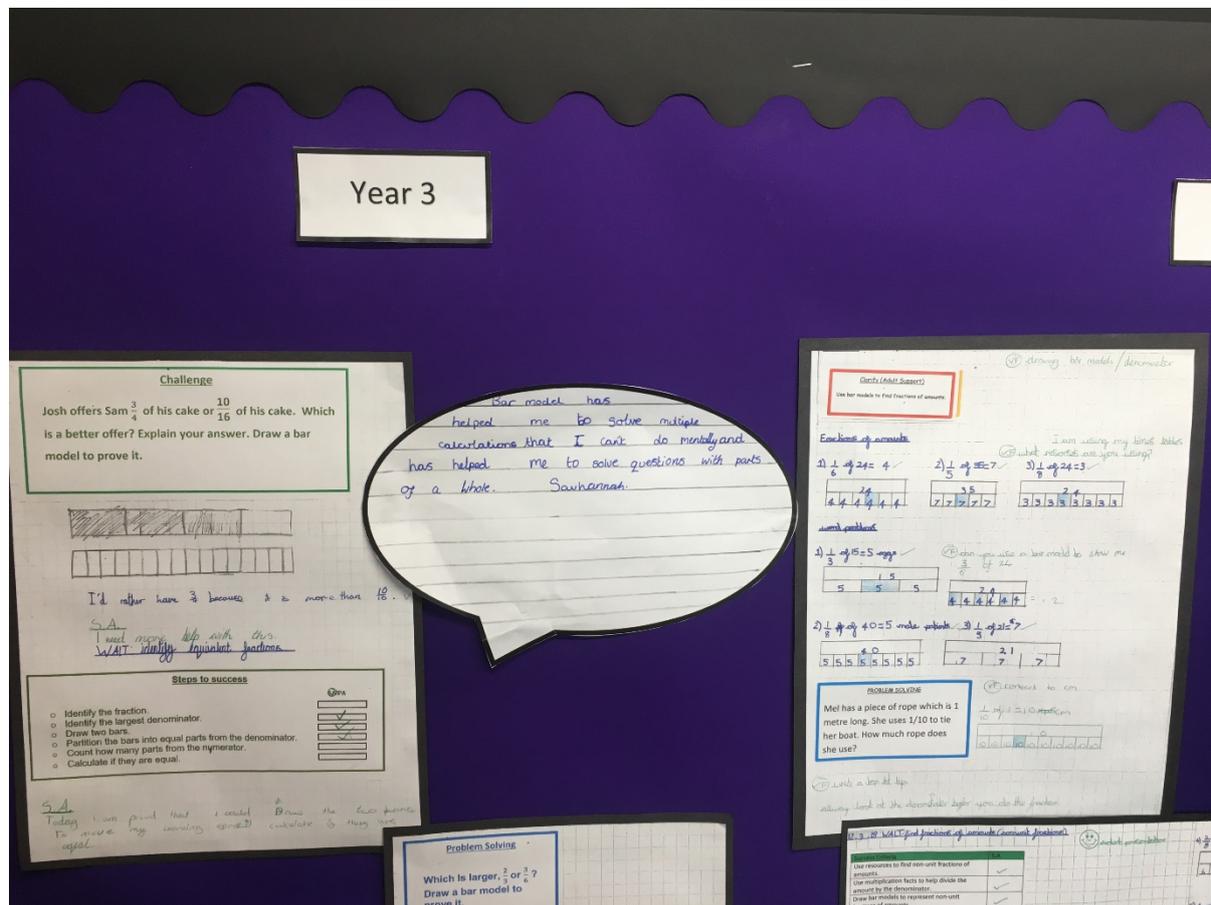
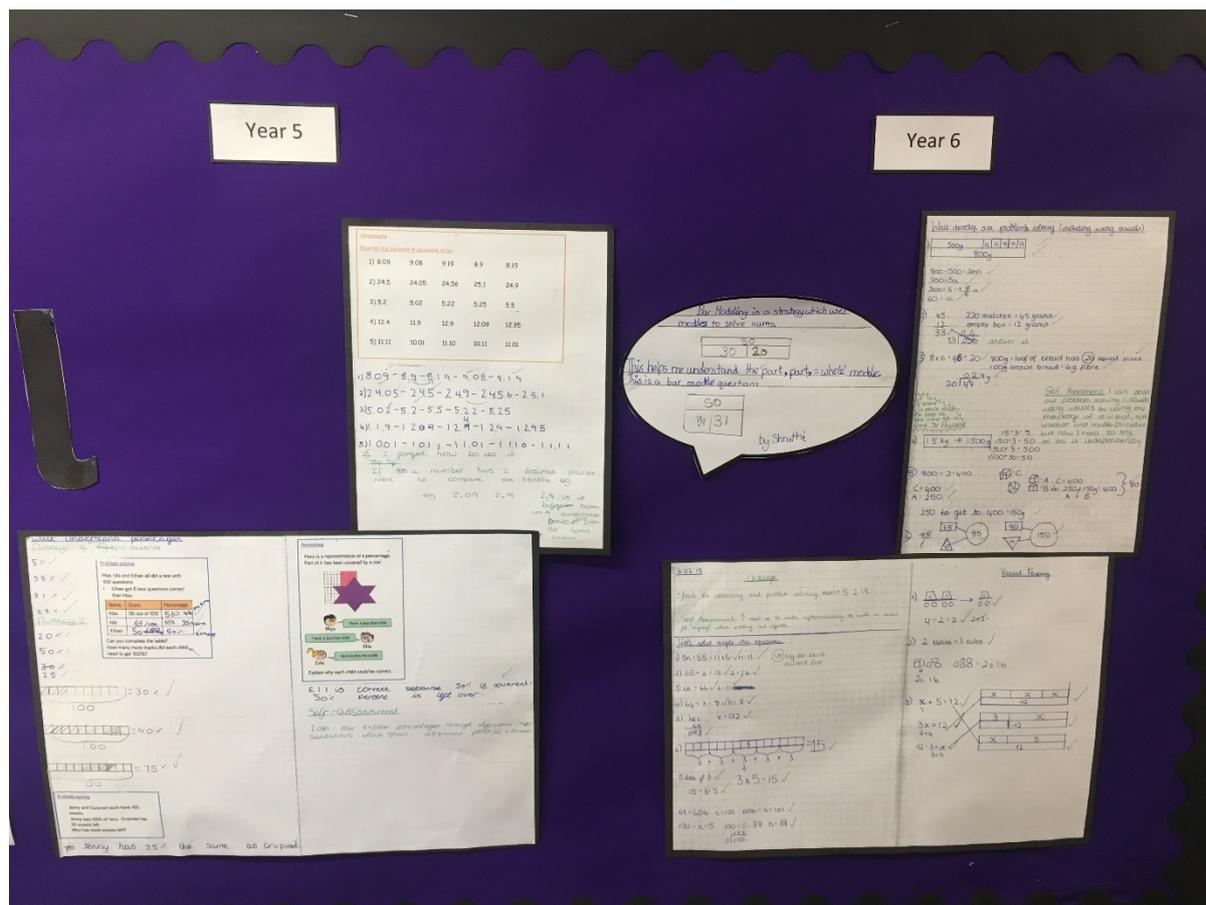


This year at Icen Academy, improving children’s mathematical understanding, as well as their enjoyment of maths, has been a big focus. There have been many things which we have worked extremely hard on throughout the course of the year to ensure that the maths provision at Icen Academy is the best it can be.

Bar Modelling

One of the first things which we implemented in September was the use of bar modelling, in order to aid children’s understanding of key mathematical concepts. Bar modelling is essentially a way of visually representing mathematical problems. It allows children to understand exactly what the problem is asking them and therefore be able to solve it accurately. It also links in very well to our policy of using mathematical resources as much as possible within maths lessons. The use of resources and the bar model allow us to build up children’s knowledge of concepts by first giving them a concrete understanding (resources), then a pictorial understanding (bar model) and then an abstract understanding. Here are some examples of children’s use of the bar model in the books, from Year 3 up to Year 6:





Reasoning and Problem Solving

There has also been a big emphasis this year on children’s ability to reason and problem solve. ‘Reasoning and Problem Solving’ style questions are now provided in every single maths lesson. They are used to challenge and extend children’s thinking about the particular topic they have been learning about. These reasoning and problem solving questions allow our children to develop a deeper understand of mathematical concepts, and provides all children with challenge within their maths lessons.

Times Tables

As a school, we noticed that times tables were an area of maths that we wanted to improve across all year groups. If children are able to rapidly recall their times table facts, it will improve their ability to solve problems in other areas of maths, such as fractions, decimals and percentages, area and volume, ratio and mental arithmetic to name a few! We therefore continued with our ‘Golden 100’ this year, which tests children’s ability to answer 100 random times tables questions up to 12 x 12 in a specified time limit (depending on their age). Many children have now passed their Golden 100 and wear their badges with pride every day! We have now introduced Times Tables Rock Stars, which is a fun and engaging resource which children will be using regularly to practise their times tables. We hope that many more children will achieve their Golden 100 or Golden Division badges by the end of the year!

If you have any questions about how maths is taught at Icen Academy, please speak to your class teacher or the school’s Maths Lead (Mr. Berry).