Pace and progression in *Inspire Maths 2: Fractions*

Fractions are introduced in Unit 12 of *Inspire Maths 2B*, and build a strong visual image of equal parts and understanding of fractions of shapes. The medium-term planning suggests that you spend a minimum of three weeks teaching this unit.

**Previous learning**

Previous learning of division in Unit 5 was sharing (finding the number of items in each group) and grouping (making equal groups) structures. In Units 5 and 7, division was taught as the distribution of a set of items into equal groups by relating multiplication facts. Area models were used to represent division as the inverse of multiplication.

Before starting Unit 12, the Unit Starter on *Inspire Maths Online* gives practical examples of using fractions to divide cakes, sandwiches and pizzas, emphasising equal parts to be shared, referring to an area model. The word ‘divide’ is used frequently, connecting the concept of fractions to division.
New learning

Unit 12 follows a logical step-by-step approach, moving back and forth between procedural and conceptual representations of fractions, steadily building understanding that fractions make up equal parts of a whole, learning how to name and write these equal parts, how to order and compare fractions, and how to add and subtract ‘like’ fractions.

The first sequence of lessons introduces the concept of fractions and provides a vocabulary to use when working with them:

- Understanding ‘equal’ and ‘unequal’ parts by folding paper shapes and identifying the number of equal parts (linking to a ‘part-whole’ concept)
- Emphasising the number of ‘equal parts’ and naming it as the denominator in a written fraction
- Saying and writing fractions
- Identifying the number of equal parts in a divided shape, and folding a shape into a specified number of equal parts. Note that a variety of shapes and sizes are used to represent fractions so that children are exposed to different aspects of this concept. 1
- Shading fractions and naming the shaded and unshaded fractions
- Reading fractions
- Drawing shapes divided into equal parts and labelling fractions
- Games, activities and practice to consolidate this learning and embed skills and understanding. 2