Consecutive Numbers

Consecutive numbers are whole numbers that are next to each other, e.g. 6 and 7.

In each question, explain your answers as fully as possible, trying to show what patterns you have noticed and give reasons for the patterns.

Addition

Pick 2 consecutive numbers and add them together. Repeat with other pairs of consecutive numbers. Include your jottings in the box below.

What do you notice?

What do you notice about 3 consecutive numbers?

Consecutive Numbers

Subtraction

Find the difference between 2 consecutive numbers. Find the difference between other consecutive numbers. Include your jottings in the box below.

Explain your findings.

Consecutive Numbers

Multiplication

Take pairs of consecutive numbers and multiply them together. Include your jottings in the box below.

What do you notice about the answers?

What do you notice about 3 consecutive numbers?

Answers

Addition

- Adding 2 consecutive numbers will always give an odd number.
- Adding 3 consecutive numbers gives odd numbers where there are 2 even and 1 odd, and even numbers when there are 2 odd numbers.
- The answer will be odd when there is an odd number of odd numbers.

Subtraction

The difference between consecutive numbers will always be 1.

Multiplication

Multiplying any number of consecutive numbers will always give an even number answer because an odd number can only be the answer when all the multipliers are odd, and this can never happen with consecutive numbers – there will always be at least one even number.