



Anston Park Junior School,
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Head Teacher: Mrs A E Bartholomew

'Where every child's potential counts'

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6th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are currently reviewing the way in which we teach times tables across school to ensure that all children master the key objectives set by the government by the end of their time in our school. The new curriculum sets out that every child in each year group should know the following multiplication/related facts in the following year groups:

KS1	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables,
Y3	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables
Y4	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12
Y5	To understand the terms factor, multiple and prime, square and cube numbers.
Y6	Pupils continue to use all the multiplication tables to calculate mathematical statements in order to maintain their fluency.

Many children find the above challenging and find it really difficult to recall them rapidly and the associated division facts. As a school we feel that knowing your times tables fluently, will help children unlock many other areas of maths and enable them to solve more challenging problem solving activities as they can focus on the harder maths instead of having to focus first on calculating their times tables. We believe that all children have the ability to master them but know the only way to do this is to immerse them in the facts. This is particularly important for the current year 3 who will be the first cohort to sit the new times tables test in 2019 at the end of year 4 and for the current year 6 who are tested through their arithmetic papers in their SATs.

The new times table test that will be set by the government in 2019 will be an online test which moves through all times tables up to 12 by 12 and children will be expected to rapidly recall the facts in order to succeed. In order to make learning times tables fun and to prepare children for the new test, we have again signed up for Times Table Rockstars which is an online programme for children to compete against other children in their school, other children across the country or simply to rehearse their tables and compete against themselves. In school we will be changing the way in which we test tables and focusing on a table a week or a fortnight depending on which year group to ensure children are fluent in all related facts to ensure that children have truly mastered the tables which will be done in a fun Rockstars way.

We know that as you are supportive parents you will want to help your child by encouraging them to recall the table they are studying or to play Times Table Rockstars. This will be a great help and ensure your child meets the challenging targets set by the government. Children can rehearse their particular times table by playing on the garage section or can compete for the top of the leader board by playing on studio but this tests up to 12 by 12. We do celebrate the children who are the Rockstars champion per year group every week in Special Mentions. All children received their usernames and passwords in September but many are saying in a recent pupil interview that they haven't got time to play at home. It is a fabulous programme that enables them to earn coins to build an avatar so once they are hooked they really enjoy playing.

I look forward to seeing your child on the leader board in the near future.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Corbiere
(Maths Subject Leader)

