

TIMES TABLES CHALLENGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware there have been changes since September 2014 to the National Curriculum. The new National Curriculum from 2014 states in regards to maths:

- By the end of year 4, pupils should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12
- There will no longer be a separate calculator paper in Key Stage 2 SATs so mental calculations are gaining even greater prominence in primary schools.
- By 2019 there will be a standardised timed multiplication test for all year 6 children.

These changes mean it is important for the children to learn their times tables facts and to be able to recall them quickly and accurately. To support their learning of times tables we are pleased to inform you, we will be introducing the Times Table Challenge in school for year 1-6 and this will give children a distinct advantage in their end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests.

Every child will be assessed by their class teacher and placed on a Times Table Challenge which is appropriate to their ability. There are six awards to complete:



The children will take practice booklets home and will complete it as part of their maths home learning. To progress onto the next award, your child needs to complete a timed test which will be given once a week and achieve full marks three times. The reason for the limited time is to ensure children are doing a mental calculation rather than working it out with support. They will need to use their 'inverse' knowledge of division.

In the past different years within our school have different ways of running and teaching multiplication and division; however to have a whole school challenge ensures continuity across the whole of KS1 and KS2.

We would like all children to succeed at their Times Table Challenge! We will continue to work within school to learn their times tables but we would also like children to be encouraged to practise them at home. To help them practice, you'll find the full set of Times Table Challenges in the booklets given.

Once your child becomes a 'master' they will join our masters hall of fame board and be able to support others in their quest as 'experts'.

Thank you ever so much for your support.

Mrs Blundell (Mathematics coordinator)