

Knowledge of the times tables is a vital part of every child's education and one which should be undertaken both at school and at home. Learning the times tables off by heart is essential for the transition to upper Key Stage 2 where division, fractions, decimals, percentages and algebra are secured. Children who know their times tables facts will be able to answer questions more quickly and be able to focus on using other mathematical strategies in more complex problems rather than being slowed down by the multiplication. Knowing times tables can also increase confidence levels as this particular part of the question becomes easy. In 2020 the Government introduced a statutory Multiplication Test for all pupils in Year 4.

Learning the times tables requires lots of practise both in school and at home. Termly baseline assessments allow class teachers to identify the times table that each child needs to work on. At the end of the week a set of verbal questions will be read out to the children, and only when the questions can be answered instantly, will they be able to move on to another times table. As the children progress through their times tables and reach each stage, certificates will be awarded to acknowledge and reward their achievements.

Stages for knowing the times tables are:

Stage One	2, 5 and 10 times tables	(Expectation by the end of Year 2)
Stage Two	4, 8, 3 and 6 times tables	(Expectation by end of Year 3)
Stage Three	6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables	(Expectation by end of Year 4)

Strategies to help your child at home:

Random Number Square – multiply each number on the grid by the focus times table as quickly as possible

Rote learning by chanting

Listening and singing along to CDs of tables songs (Percy Parker can be downloaded from iTunes and comes highly recommended by staff with primary school age children)

Multiplication bingo (download from www.primaryresources.com)

Imaginative games/quizzes

Writing the tables down, repeated times

Useful Websites:

www.transum.org/tables/

www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

Random Number Square		1
5	8	2
11	3	10
6	0	4
7	9	12