



Oakmeadow CE Primary School

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14th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Oakmeadow Maths Challenge Years 2 - 6.

To run alongside the Reading Challenge, we have devised a new maths challenge this year. The aim of this challenge is to support children with their fluency in times tables. As you may already be aware, the Government introduced a new multiplication check at the end of year 4, which will become statutory in 2019. Last year, Oakmeadow were fortunate enough to be part of the trial for the new online multiplication check. This opportunity has given us an understanding of the expectations within the test and how it will be administered online. Children will need instant recall of all the times tables up to 12. The test allowed the children three seconds to answer each question, which means that these need to be known facts in order to be able to input the answer before the test moves on to the next question.

The National Curriculum requires children to begin to learn about multiplication in year 1, mostly as doubling and counting in 2's. During year 2, they are required to develop instant recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2x table, 10x table, 5x table and 3x table. In year 3, children will continue to build upon this understanding and then learn to develop instant recall of multiplication and division facts for the 3x table, 4x table; and 8x table. Then in year 4, they learn the 6x table, 9x table, 11x table, 12x table and the 7x table. Therefore by the end of year 4 they need to know all the times tables.

Over this year, Year 3 and 4 teachers will be working with their classes to develop fluency in tables facts and teach the children efficient ICT strategies to ensure they can complete the test online.

To support children with the development of times tables knowledge, the school has invested in an online APP called Times Tables Rock Stars, which the children will be able to access from home using a computer, tablet/ipad or mobile phone. They will have their own username and password, which will be sent home. In addition to this, we have bought times tables practice books, which will be used as a learning log. Children will need to practice the times tables they are working on, at home daily and parents will be able to put a signature in the learning log. As with the reading challenge, after four weeks of practice at home, they will have completed part of the challenge and they should hand their practice books to their teacher who will

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sign it off. Children will receive a bookmark for reaching the halfway point and their choice of a mathematical puzzle at the end of the year if they complete the challenge!

As a parent your support in helping the children with their practice of the times tables is greatly appreciated. If children become fluent with their tables' facts, it frees up their working memory, which means they are able to access higher-level questions. Children in years 5 and 6 need to continue to develop and maintain instant recall of times tables facts as this allows them to access the curriculum effectively.

The children will have the challenge explained to them so that we hope they will be clear of their tasks and expectations - we will provide them with ideas and strategies for practising their times tables quickly and efficiently.

If you want any advice on how to support your child/ren with their times tables, please ask their class teacher or Miss Taylor.

Thank you for your continued support at home,

Miss Taylor
Math Coordinator

