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14th November 2017

Dear Parents

Times Table Challenge

The National Curriculum states in regards to maths:

- By the end of Year 2, pupils should be able to count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward and backward.
- By the end of Year 2, pupils should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers
- By the end of Year 4, pupils should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12x12
- 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.

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 years 2 - 6 and will give children a distinct advantage in their end of Key Stage 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 four awards to complete:

- Bronze - 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x
- Silver - 4x, 8x, 6x and 9x
- Gold - 7x, 11x and 12x
- Elite stages

The children will bring a booklet home and should complete it as part of their maths home learning. To progress onto the next award, your child needs to complete a timed five or ten minute (depending on their stage) test which will be given once a week during mathematics and achieve full marks. The reason for the limited time is to ensure children are doing a mental calculation rather than working it out with support. Once an award has been completed, your child will then be given the opportunity to master their times table knowledge by attempting the ÷ awards. Here children will look at using their 'inverse' knowledge of division. It is also important that children understand the relationship between multiplication and division and, by knowing their times table facts they can use them to help solve division sums and become a 'Multiplication Master'.

Having a whole school challenge ensures continuity across all year groups. We would like all children to succeed at their Times Table Challenge! Your child 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 practise, you'll find the full set of Times Table Challenges on our website (to be found in the School Life tab, second heading The Curriculum and at the very bottom of the page). Each booklet will contain guidance and practice resources to aid and support your child's learning.

Year 5 have already started their challenge but Years 3, 4 and 6 will be bringing their challenge home tomorrow for the test the following Wednesday. Tests will take place each Wednesday and Year 2 will start after Christmas.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Foster'.

Mrs Sarah Foster
Maths Leader