



Gillibrand Primary School

Summer Holiday Times Table Challenge



Dear Parents,

During the week commencing 28th September 2015 we will be holding a "Times Table Challenge Week" in school for children in Year 2/3/4/5/and 6. Your challenge over the summer is to practise your tables so that you can enter the times table challenge. There will be a separate competition for the year 1 children.

The aim of this is to encourage the children to learn their table facts whilst having fun at the same time. During the week your child will have the opportunity to take part in various activities including quizzes and competitions.

The quizzes will be split into stages (see stages below) and certificates will be given out to children who accurately complete each stage.

Stage 1 = Knows 2 x table

Stage 2 = Knows 5 and 10 times tables.

Stage 3 = Knows 3 and 4 times tables.

Stage 4 = Knows 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 times tables.

Stage 5 = Knows all table facts (Up to 12 X 12)

Stage 6 = Knows all table facts (Up to 12 x 12) and the associated division questions.

There will be an 'It's a Knockout' style tables competition with the aim of finding Gillibrand's overall Tables Champion 2015!

Also there will be an individual competition during this week where children will be given the opportunity to design an imaginative way to help other children learn their tables. This could be a song/rap, game, dance, poster etc. Each class will have a mini competition and choose their favourite idea.

Why does my child need to memorise the times tables?

Just like learning to walk before you can run, learning the times tables are the building blocks for other maths topics taught in school. Higher learning such as division, long multiplication, fractions and later algebra all need table's knowledge. Children who do not learn the times tables will find these levels of maths much more difficult than they need to be. There is no time to pull out a calculator or to take 20 seconds to work out a maths strategy before coming up with the answer. Children who have not mastered their tables will very often fall behind in maths (and other subjects that use maths). **The national expectation (from September 2014) is that by the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work.**

What is more important, understanding or memorising facts and how can parents help?

It's not one or the other, it's both. A child must understand and memorise the facts. Early on, a child needs to understand what multiplication is - the grouping of sets, repeated addition, a faster way of adding. They need time to discover the patterns when counting in various multiples. This is the time that they can discover multiplication strategies. However, there eventually comes a time when we need to highlight the importance of **rapid recall**.

Remember to focus your limited time on the facts that need to be learnt. By removing the facts they already know and by learning the reciprocal facts together (i.e., 6x7 and 7x6), there are often surprisingly few left to memorise. Also it is important to review all facts occasionally to make sure they have been retained in long-term memory. Music, stories and visual associations can help with retention.

Top Tips

1. Make sure there is understanding.
2. Demonstrate what rapid recall is and explain why it is important.
3. Be interested in maths yourself.
4. Find out which facts they already know and focus primarily on the facts they need to learn.
5. Involve your child in the goal setting process e.g. aim to learn your 3 times tables.
6. Use a chart to monitor progress and provide encouragement along the way.
7. Spend quality time together practising and most importantly try to have fun!

Useful Websites

Below is a list of useful websites that you may want to explore with your child.

General sites that then give you access to a range of online games and challenges:

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<http://topicbox.net/mathematics/multiplication/1959/>

My personal favourites are when children learn to sing songs and learn their multiplication facts! Try these

3 x tables- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzVyBQ5uTbo>

4 x tables- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnbojYFP3qM>

These sites allow you to work on specific tables =

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

http://www.mathplayground.com/balloon_invaders.html

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/mentalmaths/tabletrees.html>

Have a great summer holiday- practise your multiplication facts as much as you can!

I look forward to seeing you in the new term and announcing our 2015 Tables Champion!

Mrs A Clayton

Deputy Headteacher/Maths Subject Leader