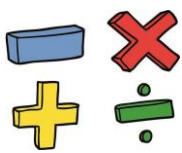


Welcome to our Maths newsletter



Spring term 2023

Welcome to our second Maths newsletter. In this newsletter we are going to look at ways that we can support our children to learn and understand their times tables.

Many of us will remember (with dread) having to recite the times tables and the fear we felt about making a mistake. Thankfully, it's not quite like that anymore, but our Year 4 children have to sit the MTC check in June, where they are expected to be able to answer 25 times tables questions - and they only have 6 seconds to answer each one! That's quite a challenge.

Learning times tables is really important because it helps the children when they are learning about fractions, completing multiplication and division calculations, and finding the area of shapes.

Just like learning to read; times tables are learnt best when practised (little and often) at home.

Ways to practise times tables at home:

- Start by making arrays using small objects you have at home e.g. buttons, coins, lego blocks, toy cars, etc.

An array is a picture of a times table.

E.g.



Can the children see the equal groups in the array?

Can they see that there are
 $4 \text{ trucks} + 4 \text{ trucks} + 4 \text{ trucks}$?

What about $3 \text{ trucks} + 3 \text{ trucks} + 3 \text{ trucks} + 3 \text{ trucks}$?

How many trucks are there altogether?

This array shows 2 groups of 5 counters or 5 groups of 2 counters.



How many counters altogether?

We can write $2 \times 5 = 10$ or $5 \times 2 = 10$

Ask the children to make or draw an array for different times tables calculations.

- Practise counting forwards and backwards in multiples of different numbers.

In KS1, we practise counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s.

In KS2, this moves on to counting in 4s, 6s, 8s, 9s, 11s and 12s.

- Saying the times tables out loud can really help to embed the facts in the children's memory. Walking up and down stairs chanting... $0 \times 2 = 0$ $1 \times 2 = 2$ $2 \times 2 = 4$ $3 \times 2 = 6$ $4 \times 2 = 8$...

We need the children to recall the facts easily from their memory - without having to rely on counting on their fingers.

They just need to know it!

Here is the website where you can see what the MTC test is like. Search for Maths Frame Multiplication Tables Check or follow this link:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

I have added some useful links to the Maths page on the school website which you may find useful for times tables learning, as well as supporting your children in different areas of their Maths.

Here is the website link for TTRockstars - <https://playtrockstars.com/>

Are you smarter than a Sherdley 10 year old?

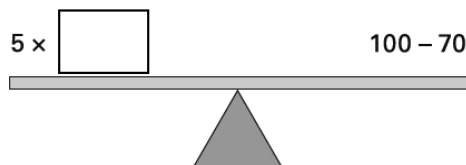
These are questions from previous SATs papers that involve knowing your times tables.

Write a number in each box to make this correct.

$$\square \times \square = 20$$

Each side of the number balance has the same answer.

Write in the missing number.



Here are some numbers.

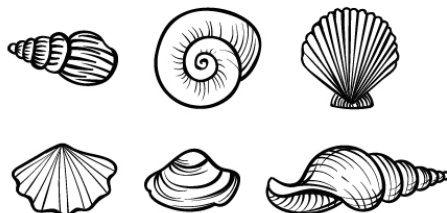
- 1 2 3 4 5

Write one of the numbers in each box to make these correct.

$$5 \times 6 = 10 \times \square$$

$$5 \times 6 < 10 \times \square$$

Kira, Rashid and Demi have collected 6 seashells each.



How many seashells do they have **altogether**?

seashells

And finally, look at some of the amazing Maths going on in KS1...

