

Dear parents and carers,

This year, St Mary and St John will take part in a whole school times table challenge which will fall in line with the National Curriculum expectations which states that 'By the end of Year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 times table, and show precision and fluency in their work'. As well as being crucial for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and confidently, and is fundamental for more complex mathematics in school.

With the addition of the new Year 4 **statutory** Multiplication Tables Check in June 2020, it is **essential** that all children have rapid recall of their times table facts. This is a digital assessment completed under time conditions (6 seconds per question).

The times table challenge is a fun incentive to boost the profile of times tables for all children from Year 1 to Year 6. It will take place once a week, in class, under flexible time conditions depending on the year group or children. The children will be able to carry out the challenge at a level that is appropriate to their ability, and will be given the opportunity to beat their **personal best** each week. In order to make the challenge rewarding and enjoyable, teachers will also take part and a class trophy will be given to the class that has the most children completing the challenge that week. The challenge will begin with children in Years 2-6, with Year 1's potentially taking part in the Summer Term.

As a school we believe that this will give the children an incentive to learn their times tables, and have a significant influence on the overall standard of maths learning within the school. For any further guidance on how you can support your child with learning their time tables at home, below are a list of resources that may be of use. Furthermore, there will be a workshop for parents and carers in the Spring Term which will provide guidance and support with the learning of times tables at home.

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself.

Many thanks,

Emma Crocombe (Maths Lead)

Resources to support (offline)

- Times table books (Kate Petty "The Terrific Times Tables book" is good!)
- Times table posters
- Times table songs (Your child may have learnt some in school, and there are plenty of CDs and downloads available too)
- Board games

Resources to support (online)

Websites

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/multiplication-and-division> - 'hit the button' can be found here which the children love! Lots of the games including 'hit the button' are also
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/7/multiplication-and-division> - scroll down for games.

Apps

All the following are free!

- **Mathninja** – up to 9 times table. You collect playing cards by answering as many questions correct as you can. You can look at your progress too. Can buy the full version at £2.99.
- **Number trolls multiplication** – You have to slide the answer to the correct place to save the babies from the trolls. Harder when it is a 2digit answer.
- **Multiplication genius** – you have 20 seconds to answer each question. Then it moves on to the next question.
- **Marble multiply** – ok when you get the hang of moving the marble.