

Dear Year 4 Parents and Guardians,

In the National Curriculum, children are required to know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. They will sit an online Multiplication Tables Check in June 2023 (more information will be provided at a later point in time).

Traditionally, times tables were learned in order; $1 \times 3 = 3$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, $3 \times 3 = 9$ etc. However, this is not useful for the real life application or for completing written multiplication or division problems. Therefore, children need to develop a quick recall of multiplication and then the inverse division fact. For example, the multiplication and division facts for 3, 4 and 12 are:

$$3 \times 4 = 12 \quad 4 \times 3 = 12 \quad 12 \div 3 = 4 \quad 12 \div 4 = 3$$

A child learning the 3 or 4 times tables will need to know all 4 facts.

Over the year, in Penguins class, we will track children's knowledge and developing progress in knowing multiplication facts and then division facts by undertaking regular times tables challenges.

How does it work?

Every week, children will be tested on a certain times table relating to a coloured award. For each award there will be tests on an individual times table, before a final test incorporating mixed facts of all learned to that point.

Eg: Bronze award consists of three tests.

Bronze 1: 10x Table, Bronze 2: 5x table, Bronze Final: mixed 10x & 5x tables.

Each test will consist of 40 questions to be completed in 4 minutes. Below shows how the awards are related times tables. On completion of the final test for each award (in bold), children move onto the next award and we celebrate that achievement in class.

Children will be able to progress at their own pace; the focus table for the week will be shared with parents via teachers2parents.

Award	Tables	Tests (in order) - multiplication facts only:	Total Tests
Bronze	10, 5	10x, 5x Final: 5x & 10x	3
Silver	2, 4, 8	2x, 4x, 8x, Final: 5,10,2,4,8 x	4
Gold	3, 6, 9	3x, 6x, 9x Final: 5,10,2,4,8,3,6,9	4
Diamond	7, 11, 12	7x 11x, 12x, Final: All tables 1-12x	3
Challenge		Multiplication and division facts following the above order	

What do children need to do?

- **Practise** the multiplication facts in preparation for their weekly test.
- Use flashcards, online games, repetition and other strategies. There will be some opportunities to practise in school as well as at home.
- Children can practise at the following website: www.timestables.me.uk and can print off practice tests here: <http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm> .

- Use 'Times Tables Rock Stars' or 'hit the button' <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> or maths frame MTC check <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

What can parents do to help?

- Practice with children, encouraging them to give quick responses.
- Celebrate when children complete awards and come home with a certificate.

How is progress tracked?

- Children have an individual Tracker folder in class
- Teachers will record on a class tracker where individuals are working and plot their progress over time
- Children who are struggling to learn their times tables will get additional help at school as well.

Why has my child started on a different level than when they ended in Year 3?

Although the year 3 class follow a similar structure, the times table requirements are different. In addition, children have had six weeks off and some will struggle to recall facts at the same speed they could in the summer term of year 3. In year 4, all children will therefore start with the Bronze Y4 challenge. Children with secure table knowledge will quickly progress through the tables, benefitting from additional practise.

This tracker will be starting soon so please discuss this with your child and find out which award and test they are working on each week.

Many thanks for your support with this,
Mrs Gardiner