

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.

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 Sycamore 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 parent 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> .

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 where they can keep each test and a cover sheet (an example of this below) to plot their own progress.
- Teachers will record on a class tracker where individuals are working.
- Children who are struggling to learn their times tables will get help at school as well.

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

LEVEL 1 – MULTIPLICATION FACTS ONLY					
Bronze	10	5		5 and 10	
	Started:			Completed:	
Silver	2	4	8	2, 4, 8, 5 and 10	
	Started:			Completed:	
Gold	3	6	9	3, 6, 9, 2, 4, 8, 5 and 10	
	Started:			Completed:	
Diamond	7	11	12	Final a	
				Final b	
				Final c	
	Started:			Completed:	