

October 2015

Dear Year 2 Parents/Guardians,

## **Some maths help at home - Learning the multiplication tables.**

An absolutely fundamental aspect of maths is learning the 1 to 10 times tables.

By the end of Year 2 children most children should have a strong knowledge of the 2, 5, and 10 times tables, with some children able to recall quickly their 3 and 4 times table facts.

Mastering the times tables allows a child to access division, fractions and other areas of maths much more easily and quickly.

It also allows the child to start to enjoy maths without having to constantly and frustratingly stop solving an interesting challenge in order to laboriously work out a multiplication or division fact.

There are some tricks that can help a child work out some times tables relationships, and we have, or will be, teaching your children these tricks. However, there is no substitute for repetitively familiarising yourself with these number facts and recalling them instantly from memory.

We do not believe in teaching children tricks and formula without them understanding what is going on with the numbers. However, such is the importance of mastering quick recall of times tables facts that I do not mind children simply rote learning this aspect of maths if that is the easiest thing to do.

We do not want the children to spend a long time each day doing this, as this might turn them against maths. So my suggestion is that you encourage your child to spend **no more than 10** minutes three times a week, "playing" with times tables problems.

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

and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/multiplication/play/popup.shtml>

[http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/289/KS2\\_Maths\\_Invaders](http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/289/KS2_Maths_Invaders)