

# Times Table Challenge

Dear Parents,

We are introducing a new Mathematics challenge aimed at developing quicker recall of the multiplication facts (times tables) and preparing the way for next year.

The new National Curriculum from 2014 states that: 'By the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table.'

From May 2014 there will no longer be a separate calculator paper in Key Stage 2 SATs so mental calculations are gaining even greater prominence in primary schools. Therefore to do even better in their SATs tests in Year 6, learning tables' facts plus recalling quickly and accurately will give these children a distinct advantage.

Times Table Challenge is going to be run in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Year 2 will begin after half term.) The children will be told by their class teachers which day of the week they will have a go at the challenge. The idea is that all children begin on their 2x, 5x and 10x table sheet and work their way through the other sheets (see below) when they have met the criteria (also see below).

Children will be awarded with a Praise Postcard which they can choose when they successfully move to the next level.

In the past different years within our school have different ways of running a similar challenge, however to have a whole school challenge we hope to see our children at Lindfield recalling their times tables a lot quicker and particularly earlier on in Key Stage 2.

To help with the children's learning of their multiplication facts there will be practise sheets on our website: Parent's Zone: Mathematics. <http://www.lindfield.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Times+Table+Challenge&pid=124> These can be printed at home. There are other ways in which children can become quicker at recalling their times tables too: listening to CDs, playing games, quick fire questions from adults at home, website games etc...

We would like all children to succeed at their Times Table Challenge and we will continue to work on learning their times tables within school but we would also like children to be encouraged to practise them at home (particularly the times tables of which they are completing the challenge at school.)

### **The Order of Times Table Challenge Sheets:**

2x 5x 10x Multiplication = 20 questions

2 x 5x 10x Division = 20 questions

3x 4x 6x Multiplication = 40 questions

3x 4x 6x Division = 40 questions

7x 8x 9x Multiplication = 50 questions

7x 8x 9x Division = 50 questions

8x 11x 12x Multiplication = 70 questions

8x 11x 12x Division = 70 questions

Mixed Times Tables Multiplication = 80 questions

Mixed Times Tables Division = 80 questions

### **To gain their Praise Postcard, children must achieve the following:**

- 1) Correctly answer all questions or up to 2 wrong,  
e.g. If answering 2x 5x 10x, they must get 18, 19 or 20 correct.
- 2) Answer the questions correctly within 2 minutes.

### **Please note:**

- The time of 2 minutes stays the same even though the number of questions increases, therefore creating a challenge.
- Even though the 'achievement' time is 2 minutes, all children will be allowed 4 minutes to answer as many questions as they can.
- Children will be given their own record sheet to complete so they can see either their time or score or both improve week on week.
- This is a challenge and therefore may take children a couple of years to achieve all 10 certificates. Please do not be concerned that your child has been on the same sheet for a while, we are looking at this as a challenge for children, not something that is easy.
- As children will be choosing their own Praise Postcard, children in other classes will not be aware of the times table that each child will be working on.

We look forward to seeing lots of children achieve their certificates over the coming year.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Helen Francis

Maths and Creative Development Leader