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Dear Parents,

### **Times Table KS2 Family Competition 2016**

During the week beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 we will be holding a **'Times Table Family Competition.'** This competition aims to encourage the children to learn their times table facts which help children in so many areas of mathematics. Class Family champions will compete against their rivals, in a special assembly, to challenge for the title of **'Family Times Tables Champions'**

#### **Why does my child need to memorize the times tables?**

Times tables are the building blocks for other maths topics taught in school. Higher learning such as division, long multiplication, fractions and later algebra all need table's knowledge and recall. Children who do not learn the times tables will find maths much more difficult than it needs to be. Children who have not mastered their tables will very often fall behind in maths (and other subjects that use maths).

**From June 2017 every child in year 6 will be tested on their times tables in an online test. The national expectation is that by the end of year 4, pupils should have memorized their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work.**

#### **How will the competition work?**

Over the course of the next few weeks the teacher will be regularly setting challenges, questions and mini –competitions around times tables in order that the class family champions can be selected. The children in the following year groups will be tested on their recall and knowledge of the following tables:

- Year 3 – the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 x tables
- Year 4 – All x tables up to 12 x 12
- Year 5 – All x tables up to 12 x 12
- Year 6 - All x tables up to 12 x 12

#### **What is more important, understanding or memorizing facts and how can parents help?**

It's not one or the other, it's both. A child must understand and memorize the facts. Early on, a child needs to understand what multiplication is - the grouping of sets, repeated addition, and a faster way of adding. They need time to discover the patterns when counting in various multiples. This is the time that they can discover multiplication strategies. Eventually comes a time when we need to highlight the importance of rapid recall.



It is important to review all facts occasionally to make sure they have been retained in long-term memory. Music, stories and visual associations can help with retention.

### **Useful Websites and Resources**

- A general site that then gives you access to a range of online games and challenges = <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>
- My personal favourite = [http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/grand\\_prix/grand\\_prix.html](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/grand_prix/grand_prix.html)
- These sites allow you to work on specific tables =  
[http://www.mathplayground.com/balloon\\_invaders.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/balloon_invaders.html)  
<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/mentalmaths/tabletrees.html>

There is further information and guidance around learning x tables on the school website (in particular the songs the school uses to help the children retain the information) under the curriculum tab in the maths resources section.

I hope you find this information useful and I look forward to announcing our 2016 Tables Champions!!!!

Thank you for your support.

Mr Garlick  
**DHT and Maths co-ordinator**