

23 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The children in school have been working hard to learn their times tables facts.

The National Curriculum requires all children to know the tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Once they have learned the facts, looked for patterns and made links between the tables, it is important for children (right up to the end of Year 6 and beyond) to practise quick recall of these facts. We aim for them to become confident and fluent in recalling any times tables fact so that they are not hindered by slow recall when working on solving more complex problems.

We have subscribed to a website called Times Tables Rock Stars to help the children to practise this quick recall, whilst having some fun with collecting items for their Rock Avatar! The website uses a theme of rock music and the idea is that each class in school is called a 'band' with the class teacher as the 'band manager'. The children all choose a 'rock name' and design their own character. Each week, the band manager decides which times table to focus on and sets the questions accordingly. The aim is to answer as many questions as they can as quickly as possible to set their 'rock speed', and to improve this speed with practice. Each child can look at a grid of tables facts that are colour coded to show them which ones they are slower at answering or may be struggling with. This helps them (and you) to know which ones to focus on and practise.

Your child's log in details are attached. They will have logged in at school and been shown how to use the website. For this to have maximum impact, we would like them to practise at home as often as possible. They can use the website **ttrockstars.com** or download the TT Rock Stars app on a tablet or phone.

There are four main areas to choose from to start practising:

**Garage** – this is where the children practise answering questions as quickly as they can. We recommend that this is the area that the children focus on as it will follow a programme set out by their teacher.

**Studio** – this is where the children's 'rock speed' is calculated (an average speed over ten games). The questions can be anything from 1x1 to 12x12. We recommend that children **only use this section once they have learnt all of the times tables** (Year 4 Summer term onwards).

**Arena** – this area is for the children to compete against their band mates. This will be used in school.

**Festival** – in this area, the questions can be anything from 1x1 to 12x12 and is for competing against players from all over the World!

As band managers, we are excited about seeing the children's quick recall and confidence with their times tables improve. We look forward to celebrating when children become 'Rock Stars' (answering in less than 3 seconds), 'Rock Legends' (under 2 seconds) or even 'Rock Heroes' (under 1 second)! If you have any questions or you have any trouble with logging on, please ask your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Morris (Rockname: Libby Lacey)