



LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher - Mrs Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor

High Street
Doddington
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0TF

Tel: 01354 740405
Fax: 01354 741514
Email: office@lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk

4th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Some of you have asked for guidance on how to best support your children in learning the multiplication tables in preparation for the weekly tests.

Each term, children from Year 2 upwards are tested on their knowledge of multiplication facts. This information is then used to establish which multiplication facts the children need to start learning first.

By the end of Year 4, in line with Government guidelines, we are aiming for children to know all multiplication facts up to 12×12 . At school, all children will be taught multiplication facts three times per week and they will have opportunities to test themselves using programs such as Times Table Rockstars. In order to help children to retain their knowledge, previously learnt multiplication facts will be frequently revisited.

Our system of weekly testing:

Week 1: children will complete their multiplication facts in order, not at speed. If they score full marks, they will move onto Week 2; if not, they will repeat the Week 1 task.

Week 2: children will repeat the same multiplication facts but in a mixed order.

Week 3: children will repeat the same multiplication facts in a mixed order but at speed.

Week 4: children will be tested on a new set of multiplication facts, in order, but will also have some recall questions from the previous multiplication facts.

It is normal for children to take a long time to learn all multiplication facts and so we start to learn them in a focussed way from Year 2 upwards. Children frequently 'forget' previously learnt facts when they start to learn a new multiplication table. It is therefore incredibly important to keep re-visiting previously learned multiplication facts so that they have instant recall of the answers.

At the end of Year 4, all children will be tested on their knowledge of multiplication facts in a new statutory test. Following this, the retention of multiplication facts continues to be of paramount



importance for pupils in order to further improve their Maths fluency in primary school and to help prepare them for Maths in secondary school.

In terms of supporting children at home, it is important that children try to spend a few minutes each day learning and practising the multiplication facts.

A suggestion on how to do this is as follows:-

- Start by chanting in multiples (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8...)
- Then move onto chanting facts in order in full (e.g. 1×2 is 2, 2×2 is 4, etc)
- Try to learn the first 6 multiples in a mixed order ($2 \times 2 = 4$, $6 \times 2 = 12$, etc) and continue to do this until they can remember all facts.

There are a range of apps (such as Times Tables Rockstars, PiXL, Hit the Button) to help children test their own knowledge, in addition to other websites/apps that may help children to learn the facts such as Rolling Numbers, MathsRockx and Percy Parker.

We have also included a useful document from the Cambridgeshire Maths Advisory Team.

We hope you find this information useful. If you have any further questions, please contact me or your child's teacher via the School Office.

Yours sincerely

J McBeath

Mrs Jackie McBeath

Maths Subject Lead and Year 4 Classteacher

