



Berry Hill Primary & Nursery School
Black Scotch Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4JW

Head Teacher: Mr B Trenowden
Telephone: 01623 478477
Email: office@berryhill.notts.sch.uk

6th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Most of the key learning of multiplication and division facts happens across Year 2, Year 3, and Year 4. Children who know their multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 (with a good amount of understanding as well as recall) cope better with the demands of the maths curriculum in many areas, such as formal written multiplication and division, equivalent fractions, percentages and ratio and proportion.

A large proportion of the mathematics curriculum in Upper Key Stage 2 is built upon a good understanding of multiplication and division and recall of multiplication and division facts. Where a child has not yet remembered the necessary facts or understood their connections to each other enough, they often end up using what becomes an inefficient 'counting up from 0' strategy to figure them out. Not having facts at fingertips or fast strategies to get them will slow down the bigger calculations they are trying to solve and place additional pressure on working memory when problem solving (as they are adding in additional steps to work out multiplication facts rather than recalling them).

The National Curriculum, from Year 2 onwards, makes specific reference to the recall of multiplication and division facts. Although it is acknowledged that some pupils find learning these facts harder than others and may not be a smooth path, the general expectations are:

- **Year 2** – Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables e.g. $2 \times 5 = 10$ or $10 \div 5 = 2$
- **Year 3** – Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables e.g. $3 \times 4 = 12$ or $12 \div 4 = 3$
- **Year 4** – Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12

As a school, we subscribe to Times Tables Rock Stars as a tool for supporting your child with multiplication and division facts recall. This is a resource that can also be used at home. Your child will shortly be coming home with a login for this and we would appreciate your help with supporting your child to use this at home to support their recall of these facts. A parent guide produced by Times Tables Rockstars has been attached to this letter,

Remember:

- In Year 2, your child will be learning the 2, 5 and 10 times table.
- In Year 3, your child will be revisiting the 2, 5 and 10 times table to ensure these are embedded and will learn the 3, 4 and 8 times table.
- In Year 4, your child will be revisiting the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times table to ensure these are embedded and will learn the 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times table.
- In Years 5 and 6, it is important that your child can recall all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. Your child should continue to practise recalling these facts to develop fluency in maths.

A 'little and often' approach is recommended- 3 minutes practise a day, 4 or 5 times a week is a good target to set.

Your child's class teacher will be monitoring which times tables your child can recall fluently and which times tables need more practise time and will keep you updated throughout the year on their progress.

Children in Year 4 will also complete a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) within a 3-week period from Monday 5th June 2023. This is statutory for Primary Schools and its purpose is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables up to 12 x 12 fluently. Further information about this will follow, however, to give you a feel for what your child can expect, the Soundcheck mode on Times Tables Rockstars replicates this by asking 25 multiplication tables (up to 12 x 12) allowing 6 seconds for each question. If your child is in Year 4, we strongly recommend that your child practises completing a Soundcheck at least once a week to prepare them for this.

We appreciate your support with helping your child to learn their times tables at home.

Kind regards,

Miss McIntyre (Maths Lead)