



Falcon Junior School

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Dear Parents,

Times Tables Rock Stars

Happy New Year to you all! Last term, your child made good progress in our maths' set: we spent a lot of time revising the basics and making sure that everyone was able to use formal methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Most are really starting to get to grips with using these methods accurately and efficiently. We have also spent a considerable amount of time securing the children's understanding of fractions and making sure that the children are confident in using them in a range of calculations – some children are still struggling a little and we will be providing extra support in this area.

In the SATs practise tests before Christmas, many children impressed us with the progress that they had made. There is however, for almost all children, one area that is consistently holding them back: times tables! Almost 50% of the questions required fluency in times tables: the need to be able to recall facts up to 12 x 12 quickly and accurately. Many children are still counting in order to find a solution (8,16,24,32 etc) and this is costing them in terms of time and accuracy. Fractions calculations in particular, often require speedy recall of multiplication facts. Fluent times table knowledge would also 'free up brain space' in order to answer some of the more complicated questions.

Of course, maths is about so much more than just tests, but quick tables recall is important in so much of our everyday life and if learnt now, provides a great foundation on which to build in High School.

We do, of course, teach the tables and how to use them in class, but in terms of actually learning them . . . well that really is down to them! From this week, Times Tables Rock Stars, the online game that every child has a password to access, will be set up so that your child can practise answering a range of questions on one particular table. As teachers, we can log on to see how they are doing. Please continue to help and encourage in any way that you can. Starting this Sunday . . . with the 9x table!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Harrod/Mrs Hunter
Doves Class Teachers