



22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

TT Rock Stars - Year 2, 3 and 4

It is a National Curriculum expectation that all children should be confident in the recall of multiplication and division facts (12 x 12) by the end of year 4. This quick recall is extremely useful for completing calculations quickly during maths lessons. This skill also develops confidence in the pupils and is useful for solving problems involving factors, multiples and prime numbers.

With this in mind, we are continuing to subscribe 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 (class teacher) decides which times table to focus on and sets questions which are appropriate for each child in their class.

The aim is to answer as many questions as quickly as possible to set their 'rock speed' and to improve this speed with practice. As the children become quicker at answering their times tables, they move through different levels of rock star:

- 'breakthrough artist' (answering in less than 6 seconds)
- 'support act' (under 5 seconds)
- 'headliner' (under 4 seconds)
- 'rock stars' (under 3 seconds)
- 'rock legends' (under 2 seconds)
- 'rock heroes' (under 1 second).

There are four main areas to choose from on the website:

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.

Arena – this area is for the children to compete against their band mates.

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

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As band managers, we are excited to see an improvement in the children's quick recall and confidence with their times tables. They can also access this at home by going to the website or downloading the app.

Although the pupils already have their logins, we will be doing an official launch the first week back, after half term and we are very much looking forward to giving the pupils a chance to take part in some class, year group and across classes competitions.

If you have any questions or you have any trouble with logging on, please speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dm', written in a cursive style.

Donna Swann

Deputy Headteacher