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Dear Families,

Introduction to Multiplication tables check

The government require all year 4 pupils to complete compulsory multiplication tables check (MTC) which, next year, will take place between Monday 5 June and Friday 16 June 2023.   The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. Results are shared and help us to inform our teaching and provide support for pupils.

Our approach

At Christ Church we want to help pupils achieve success in maths. Whilst we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships that are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables.
For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental – they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top, and we have redesigned our teaching and learning policy to support this for all year groups.

Times tables teaching and learning policy

At the start of each arithmetic lesson, we introduce an activity that focuses on times tables. By adopting a multisensory approach, we can use different strategies that help children's understanding.

Tracking is an important part of the process and each week children will have a times table challenge (mini test) that they will complete. This will also include related division facts.
The times tables are split into four sets:
Set 1: 10, 5, 2➔ Mixed
Set 2: 3, 4, 8➔ Mixed
Set 3: 6, 9, 7➔ Mixed
Set 4: 11, 12➔ The ultimate times table challenge!
Pupils will only progress once they have demonstrated that they have a secure knowledge of each table within a set and by passing a mixed timetable test at the end.
Once all times tables have been learnt pupils will be able to undertake the ultimate times table challenge and time themselves each week to try and beat their score.

How can you support your child at home?

Encourage children to play Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) as often as possible. Small 5-minute daily sessions will help children to learn times tables more quickly than one long session a week. The 'soundcheck' is very similar to the multiplication check (this can only be completed once a month.)

Half termly homework will include reference to the times tables that each pupil needs to learn. Information will also be provided e.g., websites, videos etc. that provide support.
Any times table practise that can be done at home will really support your child to become proficient in their times tables and help them with their everyday maths learning. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you are unsure about anything or require further guidance – we are here to help!

Should you have any questions, please get in touch. Thank you for your continued support.

Lucy McWilliams

WOLVERHAMPTON EDUCATION COMMITTEE