

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week your child has identified which Times Tables they are able to recall quickly and with confidence. A copy has been stuck in their homework books so they can share this at home. We would like to change the way the children learn times tables so that more children have strategies that help them to achieve success.

Instead of predominantly learning a whole Times Table by rote, we would like children to pick a multiplication fact and learn that **one fact** for the whole week. Your child will have chosen their fact for this week and it is displayed in your child's classroom so that children and adults can keep asking and reminding them.

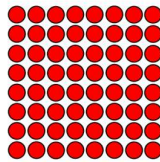
Alongside this strategy, your child will have identified a visual representation that they think will help them learn their chosen fact. Please ask you child to show you. Although some children are able to memorize times tables, it is proven that children who understand what the number looks like and how it can be represented actually have a better, deeper understanding of their number facts and are able to apply this knowledge to other problems more confidently.

It is also important to understand that children need to know the fact in lots of different contexts.

Such as: **8 x 8 = 64**

**Here are just some examples of the breadth of contexts the children are expected to recognise their times tables fact in.**

- Seeing this practically, perhaps with cooking or shopping – multipacks of food etc.
- Making a pictorial array of the number



- $80 \times 8 = 640$
- $8^2$  (Year 4 children) why it a squared number?
- What does it look like using Numicon?
- Can they find a new way of representing their fact?
- The division facts - 64 divided by 8 equals 8
- Noticing patterns in the times tables i.e. do the units make a pattern  
8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96 and beyond

Please support your child in learning their Times Table fact of the week. As your child succeeds in learning the facts they will be initialled by a teacher so that you can track progress. By learning one fact at a time, I expect that your child will feel this is more achievable and not relying on memorisation alone will be a huge relief to many children. The current expectation is that children working at National expectations will know all the Times Tables facts up to  $12 \times 12$ , to this level of understanding, by the end of Year 4.

Thank you for your support in this essential aspect of your child's learning.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Williams