



KS2 Important information -please read

Monday 11th September

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are most likely aware, last year we signed up to TT Rock Stars. This platform allows the children to practise their tables through playing games and earning rewards. This year we plan to maximise the use of the platform and so with this there are going to be some changes to the teaching of times tables and how we use TT Rock Stars.

Teaching times tables at Westcliffe Primary School

As part of the children's maths lessons they will be taught times tables and multiplication strategies. What times tables mean and how we can apply them to problem solving. This will happen during different weeks of the term and is revisited every term. This teaching occurs during the maths lessons.

Recall of times tables

As part of the changes to the school day there is now an allotted time for daily times tables practice. 10 minutes per day. So, what will this look like?

4 days a week

Recall practice will happen 4 days a week - the children will carry out recall activities, chanting, number stick rhymes and timed 'recalls' of the tables they are learning that half term.

1 day a week

One day a week the children will carry out a timed recall activity on TT Rock Stars - Garage Mode. (This day depends on your child's class – see the class teacher/website to find out which day.)

The 'TT Rock Stars timed recall' activity will replace 99 club. 99 club is no longer going to be carried out as part of our times tables testing. Children will carry out a timed recall through Garage Mode on the times tables they have been set by the class teacher – this is based on age/ability and the current time tables they are learning this half term. The children/teacher will record the number of questions they have answered correctly and the speed at which they have answered them - from this the children are able to receive an extra 'credit' if either of these score improves. The children are **not** penalised for their score or their speed staying the same or decreasing. However, in order for the children's times tables to count towards their Pupil of the Week eligibility, they must practise at home.

What are we asking from you and your child?

We are asking you to ensure your child practises at home. This can be done via TT Rock Stars. The children can play on any mode to practise, however Garage Mode is personalised to your child- this will have their tables set by the class teacher. We are asking the children practise for at least 15 minutes a week. This could be broken down, for example, into 3 minutes a day or 3 days of 5 minutes a day – whatever the combination - it needs to be at least 15 minutes a week. The teacher is able to see each child's TT Rock Stars details and how long they have been on the platform each day. The teacher will look at the last 7 days from the day they have their 'TT Rock Stars timed recall' activity. For example if your child's day is Tuesday – they will look from the previous Tuesday until Monday and count the time. If your child has practised for 15 minutes they will receive a credit and this will count towards their eligibility. If they do not practise then they will not be eligible for Pupil of the Week.

If you do not have a phone or tablet and your child is not able to access TT Rock Stars then paper copies are available. If your child practises on paper, they need to complete 3 x paper copies. 5 minutes per sheet. The children

need to give these to their class teacher before or during morning registration of the day their 'TT Rock Stars timed recall' activity is carried out. Paper copies are available from your child's classroom.

In school

Paper copies are available for your child to practise their tables in the Heart of School during break and lunch times, as are Ipads and netbooks in order for your child to practise on TT Rock Stars. So if your child is unable to do this at home – there are lots of opportunities for your child to do it in school – your child will need to remember to take themselves to the Heart of School at break times.

As this is all new we are allowing a few weeks for this to be up and running. We would like the children to take this on and start practising and using TT Rock Stars as soon as possible but we will not start recording the times tables practise in line with the Pupil of the Week criteria until the week commencing 2/10/23. From this date the children's accounts will be reset – this is then a fresh start as TT Rock Stars analyses the tables the children know and enables them to practise the ones they do not more often. This makes the questions tailored to their needs – so it is of huge importance parents, carers, siblings or other children to do not 'play' on their account as this affects the questions asked, scores and times. For example, it will move them on to a times table before they are ready.

How do I get TT Rock Stars?

TT Rock Stars can be accessed via searching in your internet search bar for TT Rock Stars and then logging in using your child's log in details. Or you can download the app. You can use the TT Rock Stars app on your mobile, tablet or laptop. It's a free download and available from the Amazon, Android and Apple apps stores by searching for "Times Tables Rockstars". The children log in with their username and pin. These will be sent home, if not already, in the next week. If you have any difficulties logging in, please ask your child's teacher or contact school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss M Troop
Westcliffe Primary School