



Learning times tables is really important – not only are there high expectations for all year groups for learning multiplication and division facts but they are also the building blocks of maths.

National Curriculum Expectations:	
Year 1	Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles of all numbers to 10 and corresponding halves
Year 2	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10 multiplication tables – including recognising odd and even numbers
Year 3	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.
Year 4	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12
Year 5	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12
Year 6	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12

Exploring facts and patterns

Exploring facts and patterns is a great way to learn times tables. Below is a table which shows some of the patterns which you could highlight to your child when they are learning their timetables. There are plenty of other tips and tricks out there!

Times table	Facts and patterns
2's	Every number in the 2 times table is an even number – even numbers always end in 0,2,4,6 or 8
3's	The sum of the digits is always divisible by 3
4's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every number which is a multiple of 4 is an even number, and so will always end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 • If a number is even and the last 2 digits are a multiple of 4 then the number is a multiple of 4 (e.g. 245324 is a multiple of 4 because 24 is!) • Children can also use their knowledge of their 2 times tables, if they know that 2x3 is 6 then they can double their answer for 4x3
5's	Multiples of 5 end in 0 or 5
6's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiples of 6 are all even numbers • If a number is even and the sum of the digits is divisible by 3 then the number is a multiple of 3 (e.g. 258 is a multiple of 6 because 2+5+8=15 which is divisible by 3!)
7's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a tricky times table and there is no obvious pattern to follow. • Multiples of 7 have a pattern of 7,4,1,8,5,2,9,6,3,0 in the ones place and every single digit is represented once.
8's	Multiples of 8 have a pattern of 8,6,4,2,0 in the ones place - the ones column decreases by 2 each time
9's	The sum of the digits is divisible by 9
10's	Multiples of 10 always end in a 0
11's	Up to 9x11 the ones digit and tens digit are the same
12's	If a number is divisible by 3 and 4 then it also divisible by 12

Children completing an empty **multiplication grid** is a useful exercise as it can show children that multiplication is commutative – this means they can reverse the order of a multiplication question which can make it easier for them. Children may struggle to fill in the 7's row however they will be able to see that they can complete a number of squares within the 7's by knowing other times tables.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												

$7 \times 2 = 14$ and $2 \times 7 = 14$

You can find multiplication grids by searching online or you can ask your child's teacher for some.

Counting Stick

The counting stick is a great way to learn times table, as well as increasing pace of known times tables. All you need is a long stick and some post-its! There are no set rules for the counting stick it is just important to repeat the multiples lots and to highlight patterns.

There is a video of Otford Class doing the counting stick on our website.

Competition – TTRS

Competition is a great way to encourage children to practise their times tables and to improve their speed and accuracy! As a school, we subscribe to Times Tables Rock Stars allowing children to practise their times tables while earning coins which they can spend on their avatar!

Teachers limit the times tables children have access to, allowing them to build confidence in known times tables while practising a target times table.

'Rock Battles' take place throughout during the year, allowing children to compete against other children in their class, year group or across school.

Games

There are lots of games which can be played to learn and practise times tables.

Times tables Tennis

Choose a times table to focus on. Take it in turns to say the next number in the times table sequence. You could pretend to serve and pass a tennis ball between you or use a real one.

Times Table Corners

Label different areas/corners of your garden with 2, 5 and 10. Shout out a number. If the number is a multiple of 2, 5 or 10, your child must go to the matching area.

One!

Best played with more than one player. First player rolls 2 dice and multiplies the numbers. Keep rolling and totalling your score. You can stop whenever you want to BUT if you roll a 1 before you stop, you will lose your total score! Can set a target e.g. first person to score over 100 wins.

Multiplication War

Remove the Jacks, Kings and Queens from a regular deck of cards and shuffle the pack. Deal cards equally between 2 players. Players place cards face down in a pile in front of them. At the count of three, both players flip over their first card. The first person to say the product of the 2 cards receives both cards and puts them in a separate pile. If both players say the answer at the same time, the cards are put in the middle of the table. The next player to win the "flip" gets the cards in the middle of the table in addition to the cards just played. The winner is the person with the most cards at the end of play. Add challenge by keeping the Jack in as an 11 and the Queen in as a 12.

Songs

Songs are a great way to learn times tables. Just type Times Tables songs into YouTube and a whole collection will appear.

