The Ormesby Village Schools - A Guide to Learning Times Tables

We use our times tables regularly in everyday life and it makes life much simpler and less stressful when you can quickly recall facts rather than having to mentally work them out every time. The National Curriculum states that **children should know tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4** and the year 3 curriculum says that children should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. This builds on the fact that, by the end of Year 2, children should be secure with 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

If a child automatically knows the answer to a times table, then other facts can also be derived (eg 3 x 4 = 12 so 30 x 4 = 120; 30 x 40 = 1200; 0.4 x 3 = 1.2 etc) and a more difficult calculation can be less challenging.

As a general rule, the following programme of learning times tables should apply to most children:

FS/Y1: practise counting in steps of 1, 2, 5 and 10.

Year 2: 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables (lots of images such as arrays to explore commutativity of multiplication eg that 3 x 5 and 5 x 3 give the same answer of 15)

Year 3: 3x, 6x, 12x, 4x and 8x tables (showing children how these times tables are related and how one can be used to derive the other)

Year 4: 7x, 9x and 11x tables
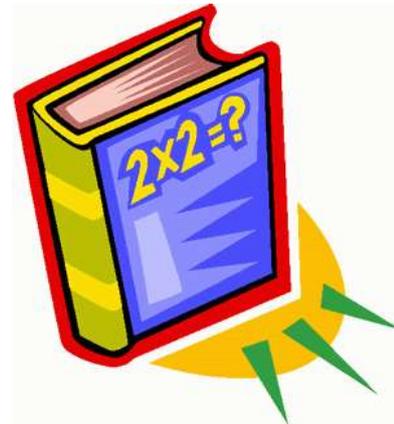
Top Tips for Learning Times Tables

Chant the tables in the 'old fashioned' way- use a prompt to help keep track of where you are in the sequence.

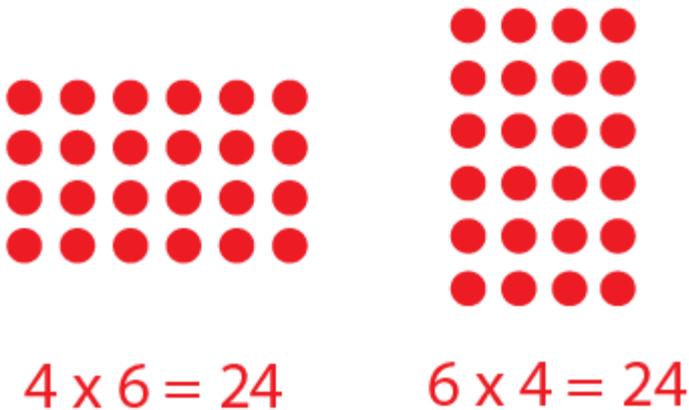**Practise** writing the answers in a pre-prepared grid where the tables are out of chronological order.

Give the answer, say 24, what could the multiplication be (eg. 2 x 12 or 6 x 4 or 3 x 8)

Ask **division** related questions eg. how many 4's in 28?

Learn a little at a time- try adding one or two new facts each day over the course of a week.

Revise times tables that have already been mastered as it's easy to forget when you move on to learn a new one.

Demonstrate using apparatus found at home eg. sweets, buttons so children can see that 4 rows of 6 buttons is the same as 6 rows of 4.

$$4 \times 6 = 24 \qquad 6 \times 4 = 24$$

Try the following websites which have fun games to help with learning times tables:

http://www.maths-games.org/times-tables-games.html

http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/

http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/multiplication-and-division

http://mathszone.co.uk/category/number-facts-x%C3%B7/

Using Fingers to Recall the Nine Times Table Facts

1. Lay both hands flat, palms down.
2. Number fingers from left to right, 1-10.
3. If you are wanting 8 x 9 for example, curl over finger number 8.
4. To the left of this finger, there are 7 fingers (7 tens).
5. To the right of this finger, there are 2 fingers (2 ones)
6. So 8 x 9 = 72 (7 tens added to 2 ones).

8 x 9 = 72
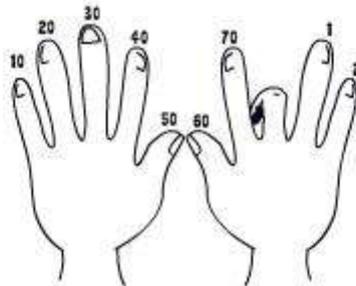
- Each finger to the left of the curled finger represents 10.
  - Say 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70
- Each finger to the right of the curled finger represents one.
  - Count 1, **2.** (Or 71, **72**)
- **8 x 9 = 72**