



# Knights of the Times Table

## Procedure

Updated 2024-25

### Rationale

The importance of learning the times tables off by heart cannot be understated and the Stivichall 'Knights of the Times Table' has been developed to help children learn and give them the opportunity to practise them. National Curriculum expectations are that ALL children will know their times tables facts by the end of Year 4 and be fluent and confident in using and applying all of them throughout Years 5 and 6. The statutory national online tables check will be taken by all children at the beginning of the summer term in Year 4 from 2020 and parents of Year 4 children will receive more information about this.

The quick recall of times tables facts through knowing tables OFF BY HEART ...

- Gives confidence and develops self-esteem
- Enables a 'can do' attitude in approaching more challenging maths
- Is the building blocks for all multiplication, division, fraction, ratio and percentage work
- Is a life skill that adults use every day
- Can be satisfying, enjoyable and fun!

### Procedure

Children will be taught the times tables appropriate to their year group during mental and oral warmups in class (off by heart knowledge of previous tables will be continuously checked as part of quality first teaching and interventions put in place for children who have gaps - this intervention could take the form of short, sharp adult led, focused work at home and/or at school).

When learning the tables, the chant will take the form:

"1 times 3 is 3

2 times 3 is 6

3 times 3 is 9

4 times 3 is 12" etc.

Once the 3 times table is learnt, the language to practise and to test knowledge is varied. Children will be asked questions such as:

*What is 4 multiplied by 3? How many threes make 6? What are 5 lots of 3? What is 12 divided by 3? How many threes in 21? Something times 3 is 18 - what is it? What is equal to 6 times 3? Etc.*

Once per fortnight, each class will have a times tables 'Badge Test' during maths lesson time. Children have to complete the questions aimed at their current times table, as well as questions from the range of times tables covered previously in a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute period depending on the test. All questions must be answered correctly within this time limit to achieve their badge. With the times tables badge test, (not including the number bonds test or x10 tables) if a child gets one or two incorrect for 2 consecutive weeks, the teacher will then conduct an oral 'quiz' to see if the pupil has learnt their tables sufficiently. The badge can then be awarded. Badges will be awarded in class and can be worn on school uniform or on coats/bags. The bronze, silver, gold and platinum tests require full marks before moving on to the next level.

Following advice from in-school and external agency Special Education Needs staff, new tests were introduced in 2017. These make allowance for children who are on the SEN register, or who have support from our dyslexia specialist. These tests are designed to offer appropriate challenge, high standards and yet support and motivate all learners.

Teachers and support staff from around the school may ask times tables questions based on the times tables badge worn by any child in any year group - this should be fun and a chance to enjoy a challenge and show off speed of recall! If a child can't answer the question, they'll be expected to brush up on their skills.

Class teachers keep a record sheet of which tables each child in their class has achieved. Rather than a rush to learn all the tables quickly without committing them to memory, the emphasis is knowing each one off by heart, inside out and upside down.

When a child has learnt the times tables for their year group off by heart and inside out and thus earned those badges, they can be moved on to the next level. Since this will require a fast and accurate recall of all tables learnt previously, it is extremely important to continue to practise and recite those times tables too.

When a child has completed ALL times tables and has proven that they are a times tables champion, through completing the final badge test on 3 separate occasions (therefore over a period of a month) they will be awarded a gold 'Stivichall Times Table Champion' medal in one of the celebration assemblies during that week or the next. We hope that children will wear this with pride and look forward to answering lots of challenging questions as they walk around school. After achieving their medal, 'Knights Champion' tests get increasingly challenging through Bronze, Silver and Gold - these are intentionally 'tough' and are even a challenge for teachers to complete! Children attaining these receive the pride and 'kudos' from being a champion (there are no further medals or badges, although there is a new file added on SharePoint that also provide you with additional challenges for these children).

Please note the importance of checking and practising the facts from previous years, as well as the tables to be learnt in that year group:

Year Group	Teaching and Learning	Focus for checking and practice
Reception	Counting in 10, 5 and 2s	Counting in 1s
Year 1	Number Bonds to 10 and 20 10 times tables	Counting in 10, 5 and 2s
Year 2	2 and 5	Number Bonds to 10 & 20 10 times tables
Year 3	3, 6 and 4	10, 2 and 5
Year 4	8, 7, 9, 11 and 12	3, 6 and 4
Year 5	All times tables to 12 x 12 checked, practised thoroughly and applied, including combining with place value knowledge (e.g. $5600 = 70 \times 80$ )	
Year 6	All times tables to 12 x 12 checked, practised thoroughly and applied to an increasingly wide array of contexts supporting depth of knowledge and speed of recall (e.g. $1/7$ of 560 = 80, Area of a rectangle $0.7 \times 8.0\text{m} = 5.6\text{m}^2$ ).	