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Tackling Tables

Dear parent/carers

Importance of Times Tables knowledge

Learning times tables is important for children's progress in maths. If children can recall the times tables facts fluently (without having to count on fingers or work it out), it frees up their brain to focus on new content such as the process for written multiplication, calculating area or finding equivalent fractions. The importance of times tables knowledge is recognised in the national curriculum and year 4 children take an online 'multiplication tables check' each summer term.

Teaching at The Belfry

At Worstead, we teach tables in the following order:

Year 2 – 2x, 5x, 10x

Year 3 – 3x, 4x, 6x, 8x

Year 4 – the rest!

In addition to work in maths lessons, children have a daily fluency session in which they look at the composition of number (e.g. 7 can be made from 0 & 7, 1 & 6, 2 & 5, 3 & 4, and vice versa) and, in key stage 2 in particular, times tables. The children might sing a times table to the tune of a pop song or practice their knowledge against the clock. However, much of the teaching will be through the use of a counting stick. This allows connections to be made between multiples (e.g. 4x is double 2x, or 9x is 1x less than 10x) as well as exploring the inverse of multiplication – the division facts. If you're interested, the pattern we tend to follow is along the lines used in this video: [17 Times Tables in 10 minutes - Jill Mansergh](#)

Tackling Tables

Tackling Tables is a resource I'd like to introduce to you. More information and an explanatory video can be found here [Home | Tackling Tables](#), but I'll summarise below as well. Pupils login here, too.

The resources are split into three coloured phases, broadly in line with our sequence of teaching above. The children start on blue and progress to green and then red. Because tables are commutative (the numbers can be swapped – 3 x 5 is equal to 5 x 3), the majority of the content is in the blue phase.



As children progress from one phase to the next, the number of tables they have to learn reduces!

1x1=1	1x2=2	1x3=3	1x4=4	1x5=5	1x6=6	1x7=7	1x8=8	1x9=9	1x10=10	1x11=11	1x12=12
2x1=2	2x2=4	2x3=6	2x4=8	2x5=10	2x6=12	2x7=14	2x8=16	2x9=18	2x10=20	2x11=22	2x12=24
3x1=3	3x2=6	3x3=9	3x4=12	3x5=15	3x6=18	3x7=21	3x8=24	3x9=27	3x10=30	3x11=33	3x12=36
4x1=4	4x2=8	4x3=12	4x4=16	4x5=20	4x6=24	4x7=28	4x8=32	4x9=36	4x10=40	4x11=44	4x12=48
5x1=5	5x2=10	5x3=15	5x4=20	5x5=25	5x6=30	5x7=35	5x8=40	5x9=45	5x10=50	5x11=55	5x12=60
6x1=6	6x2=12	6x3=18	6x4=24	6x5=30	6x6=36	6x7=42	6x8=48	6x9=54	6x10=60	6x11=66	6x12=72
7x1=7	7x2=14	7x3=21	7x4=28	7x5=35	7x6=42	7x7=49	7x8=56	7x9=63	7x10=70	7x11=77	7x12=84
8x1=8	8x2=16	8x3=24	8x4=32	8x5=40	8x6=48	8x7=56	8x8=64	8x9=72	8x10=80	8x11=88	8x12=96
9x1=9	9x2=18	9x3=27	9x4=36	9x5=45	9x6=54	9x7=63	9x8=72	9x9=81	9x10=90	9x11=99	9x12=108
10x1=10	10x2=20	10x3=30	10x4=40	10x5=50	10x6=60	10x7=70	10x8=80	10x9=90	10x10=100	10x11=110	10x12=120
11x1=11	11x2=22	11x3=33	11x4=44	11x5=55	11x6=66	11x7=77	11x8=88	11x9=99	11x10=110	11x11=121	11x12=132
12x1=12	12x2=24	12x3=36	12x4=48	12x5=60	12x6=72	12x7=84	12x8=96	12x9=108	12x10=120	12x11=132	12x12=144

Blue by end of year2; Green by end of year 3; Red by end of year 4

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The resources can be used online and offline:

Offline – children can play with the cards in pairs or small groups, 'collecting' the cards they get fluently, allowing for a greater focus on those they are less sure of.

Online – children can 'play' for 3 or 5 minutes at a time, either against the clock (5 or 6 seconds per question) or not. They can also 'test', where they are against the clock for total time but not per question. The testing helps teachers to monitor children's progress. All children from year 2 upwards have a login and they can access the website at home as well as at school.



Importantly, the resources can be used for multiplication as well as division, so the children can always make connections to deepen their mathematical understanding.

For simplicity, all children will start on the blue phase. If they score 100% in a test online, they receive a certificate and start to move up to the next colour phase. If they complete a colour phase, they receive a star pin badge of that colour which they can wear with pride on their school uniform.

There is a 'school day' filter (830am to 330pm Monday-Friday) set up on tests so teachers can see the results of tests taken outside of these times but they do not generate a certificate – we challenge the children to repeat their achievement in school to earn the certificate.

If a child earns a certificate for *all* the content on the Tackling Tables website, they earn a gold star. At times, more content is added to the website. When this happens, we do not take stars away, but it will mean that children might have to do a little more than their predecessors to earn a gold star.

The sequence should be followed in the order set out below:

Blue Phase	Green phase	Red phase
1. Stepping stones (multiplying and dividing for individual times tables)	6. Multiplication	10. Multiplication
2. Multiplication	7. Division	11. Division
3. Division	8. Mixed – green star earned	12. Mixed – red star earned
4. Mixed – blue star earned	9. 'Intelligent practice' tests	13. 'Intelligent practice' tests – gold star earned here
5. 'Intelligent practice' tests		

The 'intelligent practice' tests include some adding and subtracting but generally involve applying the tables knowledge learnt and practiced in the phase. For example, by looking at multiples (e.g. 3×30 rather than 3×3) or working with fractions. In the red phase especially, these can stretch our older children.

Where a child is working in line with age-related expectations, we will encourage them to continue with all tests on that colour phase before moving on. Where they might be a little behind age-related expectations, that might change. For example, if a child is working on the blue phase in year 3, we might encourage them to tackle the core tables learning from the green phase and earn their green star before going back to complete the 'intelligent practice' tests for the blue phase.

So What?

Your child will be bringing home a piece of paper with their login and, if you're looking for productive, purposeful and educational screen time for them, Tackling Tables can be an option. If you would like to practice with them at home using the cards, these can be purchased direct from Tackling Tables themselves, although we can give you a discount code.

More generally, if you would like to know how you can support your child(ren) with their times tables, or their maths knowledge generally, speak to their class teacher.