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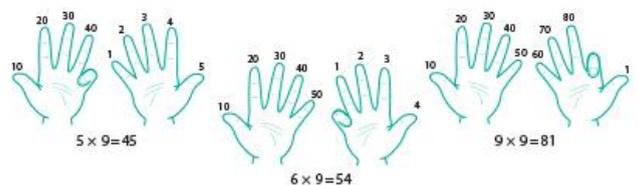
Monday 6th June 2022

Dear Shacklewell Families,

Multiplication Times tables: How can you support your child at home?

Times tables are learned most effectively when you can remember them fluently and have an understanding of how they work. We find that when it comes to instant recall, 'little and often' has the greatest impact. We practise our times tables regularly at school, but the more these are consolidated at home, the better. Children can practise instant recall using Times Table Rockstars but a variety of the approaches below will help them to master them:

1. **Daily practice on Times Tables Rockstars** - All children have an individual account on TTRockstars and are familiar with using it. Daily practice on the 'Soundcheck' mode is the most usual activity for a variety of questions, in the format of the MTC.
2. **Looking for patterns** - Such as in the 2-, 5- and 10- times tables.
3. **The rule of commutativity** - The numbers being multiplied can be written in any order. So if a child knows that $3 \times 6 = 18$, they also know that $6 \times 3 = 18$
4. **Oral activities** - Songs, rhymes, raps and stories are all useful tools to help children to memorise multiplication facts. You can find lots of these on YouTube. Simple chanting works well too!
5. **Practical activities** - Writing times tables out can help children to memorise key facts. Flashcards, posters and post-its stuck to frequently used places such as the fridge or the mirror can help remind children of facts that they are finding tricky to recall.
6. **Games** - 'Ping pong' is a great game that you can play anywhere where you take turns to say a times table in a sequence. Whoever hesitates loses a point!
7. **Tricks** - Perhaps the most well-known example is the trick for finding the answers in the 9 times table, up to 9×9 , whereby you use your fingers to demonstrate the changes in the tens and ones, as the illustration below demonstrates.



If you have any questions about the times tables or any other areas relating to Mathematics at Shacklewell, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Omisore.

Kind regards,

Rory McGrath
Headteacher