



# MEADGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Mr. J. J. Figg

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
February 2020

## TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

LAUNCH DAY!

WHOLE SCHOOL  
DRESS UP DAY

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

There's more to maths than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. In fact, maths is a huge subject. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental – they are key to understanding the maths that sits on top.

### What is TTRockstars?

Y1 – Y6 pupils at Meadgate will soon be using Times Tables Rock Stars: a fantastic online way to develop knowledge of times tables and division facts. This is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the times tables with an ultimate goal of becoming a Times Table Rock Star. To achieve this status, children need to answer any multiplication fact up to  $12 \times 12$  in less than 3 seconds! The more they play the more coins they earn and the more unique they can make their avatar. Details of the game modes are included overleaf. This program will help children develop their speed and confidence in recalling these facts.

### How to help

We advise that your child does a little bit of times table practice at least four times a week. In our experience, short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week. This is where you come in. For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them and getting excited about their rock score, practising times tables will not feel important to your child. Just remember that the quicker your child can answer times tables question, the higher their Rock Status.

### Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

You may have heard announcements that the Department for Education have introduced a compulsory Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4 starting in 2020. TT Rockstars will help children to build their confidence in answering these types of questions at speed. Here's what you need to know about the check:

1. It will most likely be carried out within a two-week window towards the end of the year.
2. The results of the check are not published publicly.
3. There's no pass or fail, but just a score out of 25 marks.
4. The results will help us to reflect on our provision and not to compare children.
5. The checks consist of 25 straightforward multiplication calculations and they will go up to  $12 \times 12$ .
6. This is an electronic check that will be carried out on a school laptop.
7. Children have 6 seconds to calculate each answer, so the check will last no more than 2 ½ minutes.

These checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts. That doesn't mean we'll forget all about the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication. We're going to be learning those too, partly because they go hand in hand with excellent recall.



## **Launch Day - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

***On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, all children and staff are invited to dress up as a rock star for our launch day. Please remember that although they are rock stars for a day, clothes must still be appropriate.***

Children in Y1 – Y6 will receive their log in details on the launch day. They will get the opportunity to explore the program, choose a rock star name, create an avatar and begin rocking out at their times tables. All year groups will have multiplication games and activities happening in class too. We hope this day will be a fun and exciting start to our children's TT Rock Stars careers!

If you have a question or want to offer your thoughts on any of the above, please bring them to your child's teacher.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Gatward  
Maths Subject Leader

### **Single Player**

**Garage** – this will include multiplication and division questions. As pupils answer questions, TT Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

**Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from 1×1 up to 12×12. TT Rock Stars calculates the mean response time from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates that time into a Rock Status. Players earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

≤ 1 sec/qu = **Rock Hero**  
≤ 2 secs/qu = **Rock Legend**  
≤ 3 secs/qu = **Rock Star**  
≤ 4 secs = **Headliner**  
≤ 5 secs/qu = **Support Act**  
≤ 6 secs/qu = **Breakthrough Artist**

≤ 7 secs/qu = **Unsigned Act**  
≤ 8 secs/qu = **Gigger**  
≤ 9 secs/qu = **Busker**  
≤ 10 secs/qu = **Garage Rocker**  
> 10 secs/qu = **Wannabe**

**If you don't play in the Studio you don't get a Rock Status.**

**Soundcheck** – Players get 20 questions with a 5-second time limit in Soundcheck. The questions are multiplication only and evenly weighted in terms of difficulty each time you play. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

### **Multiplayer**

**Rock Arena** - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together). A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

**Rock Festival** - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from 1×1 to 12×12. Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.