

Teaching Times Tables at Friezland



What does the National Curriculum say?

The National Curriculum for Mathematics aims to ensure that all pupils:

become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics, including through varied and frequent practice..., so that pupils develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately.

What is expected of pupils in each Key Stage?

- By the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2), children are expected to count in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s and count on and back in 3s.
- Year 3 (Lower Key Stage 2) pupils should recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables and count on and back in 50s and 100s.
- By the end of Year 4 (Lower Key Stage 2) pupils are expected to count in multiples of 6, 7 and 9. They should also be able to count on and back in 25s and 1,000s.

Pupils in Year 4 will sit a government statutory multiplication tables check in the Summer Term. The multiplication tables check is designed to help ensure children in primary school know their times tables up to x12 by heart. Pupils are asked to answer 25 online questions. They are given six seconds per question. There are opportunities for children to practise the test prior to the real one.

Link to government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-administration-guidance>

- By the time pupils move into Year 5 (Upper Key Stage 2), they should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 times table and show precision and fluency in their work.

Why is it important that pupils learn their times tables?

Learning times tables is essential for helping with mental arithmetic

- Memorising tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. It can also help to develop the ability to internally add, subtract and divide!

Tables can help you understand other mathematical concepts

- Knowing their times tables can also help your child more readily grasp other important aspects of maths, such as fractions, division and percentages.

Knowing your times tables increases confidence!

- Perhaps most importantly, memorising their tables will give pupils confidence in their own skills – there's nothing more 'grown up' than not having to use your fingers to work out an answer! This confidence will help them in SATs or other assessments, and ultimately, ease their move into secondary education.

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What does it look like in the classroom?

Teachers work extremely hard to deliver lessons that include learning in lots of different ways and strive to create games and strategies to build children's confidence in learning times tables in a way that is appropriate for the pupils within their classes. These could include:

- using counters, pictures, arrays in order to understand the concrete meaning behind the abstract 'x' symbol.
- Using varied vocabulary with pupils eg, lots of /groups of/ multiply/ times etc
- Playing games like Fizz Buzz, Bingo etc.
- Listening to and singing times tables songs throughout the day. It could be during maths lessons or at other times eg, whilst tidying up or getting changed for PE.
- Using doubling for the 2 times table to get the 4's and doubling the 4's to get the 8 times table and halving the 10 times table to get the 5 times table.
- Applying the commutative law for working out a times table eg, ($2 \times 7 = 14$) so therefore ($7 \times 2 = 14$).
- Learning the trick on your fingers for the 9 times table!
- Using Times Table Rockstars and other games on the iPads to answer quick fire questions, making it more engaging and interactive.
- Using the downloadable timed activities from Times Table Rockstars to provide pupils with a timed challenge.

How can you help at home?

Websites and activities:

Times Table Rockstars – www.trockstars.com (children have logins for this site)

Mathletics - <https://login.mathletics.com/> (children have logins for this site)

Purple Mash – www.purplemash.com (children have logins for this site)

BBC Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Topmarks - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

ICT Games – www.ictgames.com

BBC Super Movers - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4>

Youtube – www.youtube.com search for specific times table songs (there are lots!)