



**12.9.2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Times Tables/KIRFs**

I am writing to you with information regarding how times-tables and other Key Instant Recall facts (KIRFs) will be learnt, tested and monitored at Barrow Hedges. Children will no longer be sitting 'Race Around the Clock' tests, and will instead have their knowledge of key facts tested in alternative ways, depending which year group they are in.

**Key Stage 1/Year 3 Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)**

KIRF stands for Key Instant Recall Facts: these are number facts such as number bonds and times tables facts which need constant practice and rehearsal – at home as well as school - in order for children to be able to recall them quickly, confidently and accurately. The KIRFs will help to develop children’s fluency in mathematics and are an excellent way of supporting your child in their mathematics learning at home. Regular practice of mental maths helps children to learn the number facts which are the essential building blocks of calculating. When children move onto written calculations, it is vital that addition and subtraction of small numbers is automatic and that times tables facts are embedded.

Each half term, your child will be focusing on a different 'KIRF' in school. These will be learnt and practised in class, during Maths lessons and in smaller, focused groups. All KIRFs can be found on the school website (Learning > Curriculum > Mathematics > Key Instant Recall Facts), and in your child’s Home School Diary, along with tips about how to effectively support your child in learning these facts. To help develop children’s fluency I would suggest you practise the relevant KIRF up to three times a week in short fire and fun ways which shouldn’t be too onerous on your child (or you!) Mental maths practice can be done anywhere : in the car, walking to school, etc. Regular practice - little and often – will help children to retain these facts and keep their skills sharp.

**How is progress checked?**

Your child will complete an assessment activity once a half-term, in order to assess the progress that they have made; this will be completed throughout the week outlined below, and the activity sent home with children.

Autumn 1	Week Beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Autumn 2	Week Beginning 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Spring 1	Week Beginning 29 <sup>th</sup> January

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Spring 2	Week Beginning 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Summer 1	Week Beginning 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer 2	Week Beginning 2 <sup>nd</sup> July

Once this has been completed, children will continue to consolidate their knowledge and recall of this KIRF for the remainder of the half-term, and teachers will give further support to smaller groups, where appropriate, as well as extending those who have shown accelerated progress.

## **Key Stage 2 Times Tables 'Mathletics' Tracker, Years 4-6**

In the new Primary National Curriculum, times tables up to 12 x 12 are something which children are required to know and understand by Year 4. To help with this, we are introducing a new 'Mathletics' system, from Year 4, with a Times Tables Tracker, so children and adults know where pupils are up to in their learning of times tables,

### **What is it?**

The Mathletics tracker is a way of tracking children's progress towards learning all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. This is an opportunity for children to learn the division facts which are the inverse of the times tables they have learned previously. Traditionally, times tables were learned in order;  $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$ . However, this is not useful for the real life application of those times tables or for completing written multiplication or division. Therefore, children will be tested in a random order of multiplication and division facts. Children will have 4 minutes to complete each test, before moving on. However, teachers may use their professional judgement and decide to move a child on if they have been completing the same test for a number of weeks, and it is clear they are still secure in these number facts.

***All children will start with the first test (Bronze), regardless of which stage of Race Around the Clock they had previously been on; this is to ensure all children remain fluent in recalling all times tables.***

### **How does it work?**

The tracker works via a set of awards which cover certain times tables (multiplication and division facts):

<b>Award</b>	<b>Tables</b>	<b>Tests (in order) - multiplication and division facts for:</b>	<b>Total Tests</b>
Bronze	10, 5	10 / 5 / <b><u>5,10</u></b>	3
Silver	2, 4, 8	2 / 4 / 8 / <b><u>5,10,2,4,8</u></b>	4
Gold	3, 6, 9	3 / 6 / 9 / <b><u>5,10,2,4,8,3,6,9</u></b>	4
Platinum	7	7 / <b><u>All tables 1-10</u></b>	2
Diamond	11, 12	11 / 12 / <b><u>All tables 1-12</u></b>	3

To ensure children are not simply memorising these facts in a certain order, we will not be sending home the actual test sheets that children will complete in class. However, children can practise at the following website: [www.timestables.me.uk](http://www.timestables.me.uk) and can print off practice tests here: <http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm>. If you have any problems with this way of practising, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

### **What is a multiplication and division fact?**

The multiplication and division facts for 3, 4 and 12 are:

$$3 \times 4 = 12 \quad 4 \times 3 = 12 \quad 12 \div 3 = 4 \quad 12 \div 4 = 3$$

A child learning the 3 or 4 times tables will need to know all 4 facts.

### **What do children need to do?**

- Practise the multiplication and division facts using flashcards, online games, repetition and other strategies. There will be some opportunities to practise in school as well as at home.
- Complete the tests in class.
- Inform the teacher when they have passed the test and are ready to move on.
- When children have completed 'diamond', they will continue to practise a mixed times-table grid each week during Mathletics time, in order to ensure their knowledge of the facts remains fluent.

### **What can parents do to help?**

- Help children to practise the multiplication and division facts, encouraging them to give quick responses.
- Celebrate when children complete awards and come home with a certificate.

### **How is progress tracked?**

- Children have an individual tracker in their home school diaries – please check this to ensure children are practising the correct times-tables at home.
- Teachers will record on a class tracker where individuals are working.
- Any children who are struggling to learn their times tables will get help at school as well.

### **How is success rewarded?**

- For each test and award there is a tick for completion.
- Children will receive a certificate when they complete the 'final' test for any award.

If you have any questions about Key Instant Recall Facts or KS2 Mathletics, feel free to talk to your child's class teacher, or myself!

Many thanks for your support with this,

Miss G Whittlesea  
Mathematics Leader