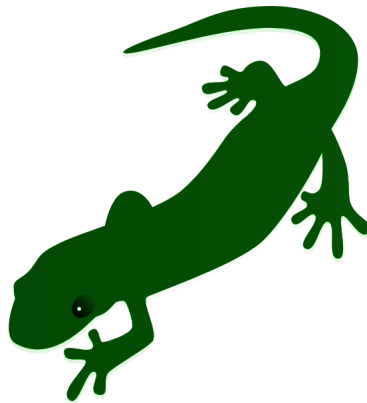




SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL
A School for Enthusiasts

The Salamander Times Tables Challenge



Procedure

Rationale

The importance of learning the times tables off by heart cannot be understated and the SRG 'Salamander Times Table Challenge' is here to help children learn and practise them. We are beginning the initiative in autumn 2023.

National Curriculum expectations are that ALL children will know their times tables facts by the end of Year 4 and be fluent and confident in using and applying all of them throughout Years 5 and 6. A new statutory national online tables check has been taken by all children at the beginning of the summer term in Year 4 from 2020 onwards - parents of Year 4 children receive more information about this.

The quick recall of times tables facts through knowing tables OFF BY HEART

- ★ Gives confidence and develops self-esteem
- ★ Enables a 'can do' attitude in approaching more challenging maths
- ★ Is the building blocks for all multiplication, division, fraction, ratio and percentage work
- ★ Is a life skill that many adults still use every day
- ★ Can be satisfying, enjoyable and fun!

Procedure

Children will be taught the times tables appropriate to their year group during mental and oral warm ups in class (off by heart knowledge of previous tables will be continuously checked as part of quality first teaching and interventions put in place for children who have gaps - this intervention could take the form of short, sharp adult led, focused work at home and/or at school).

When learning the tables, the chant will take the form:

"1 times 3 is 3

2 times 3 is 6

3 times 3 is 9

4 times 3 is 12" etc.

Once the 3 times tables is learnt, the language to practise and to test knowledge is varied.

Children will be asked questions such as:

What is 4 multiplied by 3?

How many threes make 6?

What are 5 lots of 3?

What is 12 divided by 3? How many threes in 21?

Something times 3 is 18 - what is it?

What is equal to 6 times 3? etc...

Once per fortnight, each class will have a times tables 'Badge Test' during maths lesson time.

Children have to complete the questions aimed at that times table and questions from the range of times tables covered previously in a 2 or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ minute period depending on the test.

All questions must be answered correctly within this time limit to achieve their badge.

Teachers will use their discretion in awarding a badge to a child who may be getting continuously high scores and in an oral 'quiz' shows that they have learnt their tables sufficiently (but for whatever reason are unable to score full marks). Badges will be awarded in class and can be worn on school uniform or on coats/bags. If a child has been working hard, through intervention, to fill a gap of times tables from earlier year groups, they may be given the test appropriate to that table and receive the corresponding badge.

Teachers and support staff from around the school may ask times tables questions based on the times tables badge worn by any child in any year group - this should be fun and a chance to enjoy a challenge and show off speed of recall! If a child can't answer the question, they'll be expected to brush up on their skills.

Class teachers keep a record sheet of which tables each child in their class has achieved. Rather than a rush to learn all the tables quickly without committing them to memory, the emphasis is knowing each one off by heart, inside out and upside down.

When a child has learnt the times tables for their year group 'off by heart and inside out'

and thus earned those badges, they can be moved on to the next level. Since this will require a fast and accurate recall of all tables learnt previously, it is extremely important to continue to practise and recite those times tables too.

When a child has completed ALL times tables and has proven that they are a times tables champion, through completing the final badge test on 3 separate occasions (therefore over a period of six weeks) they will be awarded a gold 'Salamander Times Table Champion' medal in one of the assemblies during that week or the next. We hope that children will wear this with pride and look forward to answering lots of challenging questions as they walk around school.

After achieving their medal, 'Salamander Champion' tests get increasingly challenging through Bronze, Silver and Gold - these are intentionally 'tough' and are even a challenge for teachers to complete! Children attaining these receive the pride and 'kudos' from being a champion (there are no further medals or badges).

Please note the importance of checking and practising the facts from previous years, as well as the tables to be learnt in that year group: