Dear Parents

**Why OUR homework is so important?**

Over the last two weeks we have looked at the importance of daily oral reading and sight words.

The last crucial aspect OUR homework is **multiplication tables.**

**Why is it so important for students to learn their multiplication tables?**

**Students need to know their multiplication tables REALLY, REALLY well before they leave primary school.** Not knowing your multiplication tables has a major impact on being able to complete long multiplication, long division and fractions in primary school. By high school not knowing your tables by memory, impacts on your ability to complete algebra, fractions and all manipulations and computations, Relying on a calculator for tables simply slows you down- and as the mathematics becomes more complicated, this has a serious effect on the number of questions you are able to answer in the same time as your classmates. **There is a huge correlation between knowing your multiplication tables and enjoying/ not enjoying Mathematics.**

**But don’t students learn their multiplication tables at school?**

At school students are taught to understand multiplication tables. e.g.Y1/Y2 **2 x 3 = 6 means 2 groups of 3 = 6 and that its buddy 3 x 2= 6 means 3 groups of 2 = 6**  and the converse for division. e.g**. 6 ÷ 3 = 2** means **how many groups of 3 can we make out of 6 things.**   Answer **2**

In the Years 2 to 5 there is also time to practise the tables each day, but not enough time for students to commit to memory as the Mathematics curriculum is much more than just number facts. By Year 6 all multiplication tables should be known, as the Year 6 curriculum is really starting to apply number facts rather than just learn them. In a class you will have the students who know their tables beginning to outperform the students who do not know their multiplication tables. Like oral reading and sight words, multiplication tables are a skill that needs to be practised on a 1:1 basis daily at home until all tables 1-12 are known back to front and inside out- where random tables can be asked e.g. 6 x 7 and answered without thought= 42.

**What can you do to help your child learn their tables?**

* Have fun!
* Find out what tables they already know
* Make sure they understand
* Demonstrate fast recall
* Be interested in and positive about Mathematics
* Use a chart
* Provide encouragement
* Make it practical
* Concentrate on only one multiplication table at a time- let your child choose which one.
* Learn the tables as per the syllabus for each year first:

 **Year 1 & 2**- **1x, 2x, 5x, 10x;**

 **Year 3 & 4**- as for Year 1 & 2 plus **3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x**

 **Year 5-** as for Year 1- Year 4 plus **11x, 12 x**

 **Year 6**- **all tables 1x- 12 x in random order**- speed and accuracy

**IMPORTANT: Multiplication tables are not taught in high school**- they are primary school work. High school Mathematics teachers will expect that you know all your tables, as high school mathematics is not about skills but about application of the skills learnt in primary school.

You can use a number of things to help your child learn the times tables such as games and music. There are many YouTube songs for singing along to multiplication tables with a wide genre of music available. There are different activities as well that can help your child memorize them. <http://www.coolmath4kids.com/times-tables/index.html>

This can also be a great time for bonding between you and your child as you help them learn these essential facts.

Kind Regards

Susie Boyle, Principal