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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is now several years since we introduced our Maths Challenges to encourage children to learn their number bonds and multiplication tables. We have recently reviewed the Challenges and have added a new level - Green. The Green Challenge will cover addition of 2 1-digit numbers and subtraction facts within 20. These are the key facts that children need at their fingertips when learning formal column methods of addition and subtraction from Year 3 upwards. For children in Year 1, the Green Challenge will follow on from the Yellow Challenge. In Years 2-6, the teacher will decide at which stage pupils will do the Green Challenge. This is because, although addition and subtraction facts are important, from Year 2 onwards pupils are expected to know certain times tables.

In case you are unfamiliar with our Maths Challenges, they are quizzes that are administered every Monday when we are in school. A Challenge lasts for 3 minutes. For Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Master and Champion levels this allows 6 seconds per question which is comparable to the time given in the Multiplication Tables Check Challenge in Year 4. Challenges for Red and Yellow levels should also last 3 minutes, even though there are fewer questions. Once a child has scored full marks in a Challenge for 3 consecutive weeks they earn the award for that level and move onto the next. Please note that children in Reception and Year 1 will begin to do the challenges as soon as their teacher feels that it is appropriate for them to do so. Children achieving each award will win a badge to display proudly on their uniform.

Children all have different learning journeys, and will progress through the Challenges at their own pace. Some children, however, will progress at a faster rate than others and find themselves learning facts for Challenges above their year group. These children will continue to practise the number bonds or times tables for their year group with the rest of the class in school, but learn the facts for the Challenge they are on as homework. There is no expectation that children should be ahead of their year group, but having instant recall of number facts makes it easier to acquire new mathematical skills as they progress through the school.

The table below shows what each level addresses. I have included sample quizzes from each level so that you can see the layout and expectation. You can generate times tables tests for different tables and with numbers of questions on this website:

<http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm>



Award	Content
Red	Counting and number recognition number bonds within 5 (addition & subtraction)
Yellow	Number bonds of 10 (addition & subtraction)
<b>Green</b>	<b>addition of 2 1-digit numbers; subtraction within 20</b>
Bronze	2x, 5x, 10x tables Multiplication only
Silver	2x, 3x, 4x 5x 6x, 8x tables Multiplication only
Gold	All tables to 12 x 12 Multiplication only
Master	All tables to 12 x 12 Multiplication and division
Champion	Some multiplication & division 0.7x, square roots, square numbers, 300x etc.

Children need instant recall of their number bonds and times tables. Memorising number facts makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. Knowing their number facts can also help your child more readily grasp other important aspects of maths, such as fractions, division and percentages. Perhaps most importantly, instant recall of these facts will give your child 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 every day in the classroom.

Learning number facts is a matter of practice. Little and often is best. 5 to 10 minutes once or twice a day will be far more effective than a longer weekly session.

### Useful games, Challenges and songs

There are a lot of apps that help memorising number facts. Most of them are paid for apps, but *10 Minutes a Day Times Tables* and *Times Tables Rock Stars* are free. *1-Minute Maths* is a brilliant free app from White Rose Maths that provides excellent practice of number bonds and 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

#### For Number Bonds

- Card games where you have to turn over two cards that equal the target number
- Flashcards where the numbers on the two sides equal the target number
- rolling 2 dice and adding the numbers
- White Rose Maths 1-Minute Maths app
- [Super Movers](#)
- [Bingo - Addition - 5-11 year olds](#)
- [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practice for 5-11 year olds](#)
- [Number Bond Machines](#)
- [Ten Frame Interactive Activity - NCTM](#)
- [Number Bonds 20](#)
- [Curious George . Museum of Tens](#)
- [I Can Recall All Number Bonds To 10. | Interactive Game | Lesson ID 031](#)



## For Tables

- Times tables Rockstars
- [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practice for 5-11 year olds](#)
- [Times Tables Rock Stars](#)
- [Times tables games - Learn them all here!](#)
- [Super Movers](#)
- [Marlon's Magical Maths Mission - Multiplication](#)
- [Times tables rally game](#)
- [Super Maths Bowling - Multiplication](#)
- [Bunny Battlefront - Times tables](#)
- [Archery Arithmetic - Multiplication](#)
- [Penalty Kicks - Free Multiplication Facts Practice](#)
- [Birds v Robots - Maths Battle](#)
- [Funk Mummy || Quick recall of addition, subtraction and multiplication facts || Mobile-friendly version](#)
- [Tommy's Trek - Times Tables](#)
- [Maths Fishing - Multiplication](#)
- <https://collins.co.uk/pages/primary-mathematics-times-tables-Test-simulator>
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Chec>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/number-facts/number-fact>

If you have any questions about the Challenges, please do not hesitate to ask me or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

***Linda Buchanan***

Linda Buchanan  
Maths Curriculum Lead

