



Mrs Lisa Telling
Executive Headteacher

Silchester Road,
Reading,
RG30 3EJ
Tel: 0118 937 5533
Fax: 0118 937 5535
Direct Tel: 75533
E-mail: admin@southcote.reading.sch.uk
www.southcoteprimary.co.uk

March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning Times tables Update

During the last parent viewing afternoon and the Maths Workshops, many of you have been asking about which times tables your children should be learning. We have recently reviewed and updated how we are now teaching and practising times tables at Southcote so that we have a consistent approach across the school. Therefore, we would like give you the following information and booklet, which we hope will clarify things for you.

- Although the expectations of the National Curriculum is that all children by the end of Year 4 should know all their times tables up to and including the twelve times tables, in recognition that the children are only one year into these increased expectations, we have left the eleven and twelve times tables to Year 5.
- Please note that although instant recall of times tables is not tested in Year 1, the children are expected to 'count' in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s and other number facts will be sent home to learn 'off by heart' e.g. number bonds or doubles.
- As many of you may have heard on the news in recent weeks, we are expecting next year's Year 6 children will have to take an online times tables test as part of their End of Key Stage Assessment. This test will measure speed and accuracy of both multiplication and division facts.
- The times tables at Southcote Primary School will be awarded as 'Bronze, Silver and Gold'. A booklet is attached, which explains the criteria needed to achieve each award as well as the expectations for each year group. The booklet also contains useful information, tips and website to help support learning these at home and making it fun!
- Some children have learnt their times tables beyond the ones they are now focussing on in class. This does not matter, however, in class they will be learning the times tables as detailed in the booklet. The learning and practise will focus on speed and accuracy as well as long-term retention of these facts. Also, in our experience, it is essential that children revisit the times tables they have already learnt to keep them 'at the end of their fingertips', so recall is rapid.



- Your child's teacher will be sending a times table homework sheet for each times table, as they are introduced. Unlike the spelling homework, there will not be a sheet every week, however, it is essential that regular times table practise is happening out of school (remember it is important that the children revisit the times tables that they have already achieved regularly).
- Your child will be tested weekly and given the opportunity to achieve their award. Once achieved, they will receive a certificate, which they will bring home.

We thank you for the continuing support in helping your child learn and revisit the times tables, it makes a huge difference to their mental fluency, particularly when tackling more difficult problems such as long multiplication, division, fractions etc.

If you require any further information, please speak to either of us or your child's class teacher.

Best wishes,

Miss M Clarke & Miss C Roberts
Maths Leaders

H/Mathematics: Times tables letter March 2016

