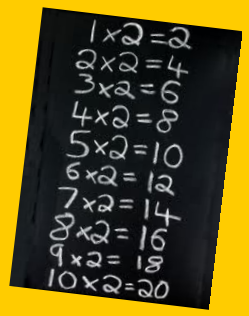
## Top tips for helping your child learn their times tables:

1) Learn a **little at a time**. If you start a new times table, don't try to master it in one evening. Start with the ones they know already from other tables then add more in when they are ready.

2) Try **different strategies**: all children learn in different ways, variety is the spice of life! Sing, recite, write them, use websites and play games!

3) **Constant revision of all of the tables** is important, as they are easy to forget when you move on to a new one.

4) **make it real** use pairs of socks, money, sweets, feet and hands! For example: "If you save 3p every day, how much would you have saved in a week?"




5) There is no

## Which tables should my child learn? (A rough guide)

As a general rule the following tables should apply to most children:

**Year 2:** 2, 5 and 10

**Year 3:** 3, 4, 8

**Year 4:** 6, 7, 9

**Year 5:** All tables to be known in order and recited at speed

**Year 6** Thorough knowledge of all tables expected, together with the ability to recall them instantly and recall related table facts.

## Our times table challenges at a glance!

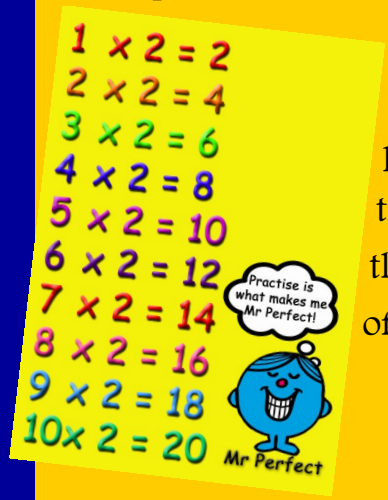
**Bronze** – 20 questions based on the 1, 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Children must get 18 to pass.

**Silver** – 25 questions based on above plus 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Children must get 23 to pass.

**Gold** – 25 questions based on above

# Sandcross Primary

It is important for children to know as many times table facts as possible off by heart, as they are applied in most areas of maths. There are many different ways of learning tables, but most important is to make it fun and practise little and often!




**A Parent's Guide to Times Tables**

## Tricks of the Trade!

**It's just a quick way of doing a LONG addition sum:**

It is very important that the children understand how the tables are compiled so that they can start to find their own tricks for speeding up:

1 x 5 = 5

(This means there is 1 'lot of' 5)

3 x 5 = 15

This means that there are 3 'lots of 5' i.e.

(5 + 5 + 5 = 15) etc.

This knowledge is especially helpful for the higher number tables. If a child, does not know what 7 x 7 is they do not have to start right at the very beginning of the 7 x table but can leap in half way:

5 x 7 = 7 x 5 =35

6 x 7 = 3 5 + 7 = 42

7 x 7 = 42 + 7 = 49

## Look for number patterns in the tables

**Ox:** Think of `empty pockets'. Ask your child how many pockets he or she has in the clothes they are wearing. If there are two pockets, all with nothing in them, then they have nothing. It doesn't matter how many pockets they have, if they are all empty, then there will be nothing.

2 x 0 = 0 etc.

**2x:** After 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, the pattern is repeated in the last digit: 12 14 16 18...

**3x:** The numbers follow the pattern of: Odd, Even, Odd, Even: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15...

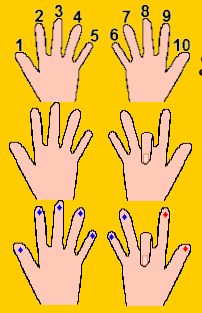
**4x:** Double the 2x table !

**5x:** Any odd number times 5, ends in a 5. Any even number times 5 ends in a O.

**6x:** Double the 3x table!

**8x:** Double the 4 x table!

**10x:** All numbers end in a zero! (Please note we are not `adding a zero'. What is actually happening is that the digits which are being multiplied move one column to the left, to make them ten times bigger they are




**Hold both your hands up with palms facing you. Number the fingers from left to right as one to ten. Now hold down the finger of the number you want to multiply by nine. In this example, we are going to multiply by eight, so the eighth finger is held down. The fingers to the left are the tens and the fingers to the right are units. In this example, there are seven fingers to the left (marked blue) and two to the right (marked red) which makes 72.**

## Use mnemonics to aid the memory

I ate and ate `till I was sick on the floor:

**8 times 8 is 64!**

Wakey, wakey, rise and shine:

**seven 7s are 49!**

Make up some of your own !

## Multiplication can be done backwards!

(It doesn't matter which way around the numbers go, so 3 x 4 is the same as 4 x 3).

## Odd and Even Numbers

The following rules always apply:

E x E = E E x O = E O x E = E

O x O = O

2 x 6 = 12 4 x 5 = 20 9 x 2 = 18

7 x 3 = 21

Therefore, the only time you get an odd answer is when two odd numbers are multiplied together. This helps identify any mistakes.

## Talk the tables:

- We find that old fashioned chanting works a treat. This is more effective than just counting up in steps. For example:

1 x 5 is 5, 2 x 5 is 10,...

is better than counting 5, 10,