Oaklands Junior School

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15th November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

As part of the continuing development of our maths curriculum and to further support the children in their understanding of maths, for the rest of the term we are going to move away from weekly times tables tests. Until the end of the Autumn term, we are going to alternate the tables tests with other activities to develop the children's fluency in the other 'Key pillars of learning in maths' (as detailed in our maths '3i's' document which can be found on our website <u>here</u>).

All of the pillars (shown overleaf) are essential for children to fully understand maths and then apply their knowledge and understanding when tackling problems.

More and more recently, we have noticed that the school community's understanding of being 'good at maths' has been linked to what level a child is on in their times tables. This is an important area of maths but there are others which we are keen to develop further, both in and out of school.

We still expect the children to be doing their allotted amount of weekly homework on Doodle Tables, but we hope that working on the other areas in school will develop their knowledge and understanding of other key areas of learning in maths.

If you wish to help your child develop their fluency in these key pillars, a great starting point is 'Hit the Button' which is a free app that has games related to place value and the number system, number facts and doubling / halving, as well as times tables.

At the start of the Spring term, date to be confirmed shortly, Miss Noad and I will be running a workshop on how to support your child in English and maths.

At the end of this term, we will review the move to fortnightly tests and then confirm after Christmas what will be happening going forward with regards to weekly / fortnightly tests. In the meantime, if you have any feedback on this initiative, please feel free to talk to me on the playground or send an email via the office.

Kind regards,

Mr Lee Maths Subject Leader











Key pillars of learning in maths

