

Oaklands Junior School

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31st January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from our recent homework survey and meetings with my 'Communication Group', I have spent some time researching resources to support you in helping your child to learn their times tables and complete their weekly tables homework.

This crucial skill is explicitly taught in Years 3 and 4, as part of our daily maths retrieval sessions, using chanting. Learning this essential knowledge will then enable the children to become more accurate and efficient in using the tables facts, and therefore reduce their cognitive load when tackling complex mathematical questions.

However, we need your help in helping your child to achieve this!

Last year, we stepped away from weekly tests to enable teachers to focus on teaching tables and fluency during the lessons that the children do not have a tables test. During these sessions, we focus on using and applying their tables knowledge (as it is essential that children continue to practice their tables all the way through their primary AND secondary education – you use it or lose it!).

With all of this in mind, I have created the attached list of different resources – both online and off-line and free and paid for. I hope it will be useful, and we would really appreciate your help in assisting your child/children in this vital aspect of their education.

Please let me know which resources you find most useful and/or if you have any other suggestions which I can add to our ['Helping your child at home'](#) area of our website.

As part of our efforts to raise attainment and engagement, going forward we are going to ask parents to record in their children's homework diary when their child practises their times tables. Please write 'Times tables' and the amount of time they have practised on that day. The expectation is that every child will practise for a total of 20 minutes or more per week.

Going forward, school staff will be reminding children that they need to do this and checking that this is written in their diaries. Please be aware that research shows that regular, smaller chunks of practice is the most effective way of learning times tables.

On a related note, we would be grateful if you could please add the following dates to your diary if you wish to attend. More details will follow shortly about both of these events:

- **'Helping your child in English and maths' presentation on Tuesday 18th March 2025:** Miss Noad and Mr Lee will give a short presentation giving you some ideas of how to support your child/children at home.
- **Curriculum Open Morning on Wednesday 12th March 2025:** Join us for all or part of a morning for a maths and English lesson to help support your child/children at home

Thank you in advance for all of your assistance. Your child's education is a partnership between school and home and any help you give at home will always have a positive impact on their progress.

Kind regards,

Mr Lee
Maths Subject Leader

Available Resources

Free

1. [The Ultimate Times Table Practice Sheet | Teaching Resources \(tes.com\)](https://www.tes.com/resources/ultimate-times-table-practice-sheet) - Free times tables practice sheets generator
2. Hit the button – <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
3. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/> - great free site with teaching, practice and games
4. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/primary-multiplication-division/help-with-times-tables/>
5. Songs - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z97rdnb#zw6k7v4>
6. Games - <https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/times-tables-games/>
7. Useful blog with different ideas - <https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/how-to-help-your-child-learn-times-tables-at-home/>

Subscription / cost – focusses only on learning times tables

1. <https://www.funkeymaths.com/> - Tables cards £10. Play games with physical cards, used in school.
2. Squeebles tables: <https://keystagefun.co.uk/ttconnect/pricing/> - £2/month £20 a year (up to 4 children)
3. Times tables rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/families> - £9 a year (up to 3 children)
4. Math loops - 99p app from app stores

Subscription / cost – focusses on improving both general maths and times tables

1. <https://komodomath.com/plans> - £9.99/month. Winner of Best Home & Family Learning Resource in the BET Awards
2. <https://doodlelearning.com/tables-app> - £13/month or £120 a year
3. <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/> - £12 a month or £60 a year