St Margaret's Lee
Church of England School Diocese of Southwark

Guidance for parents on timed multiplication facts tests

Each week, children take part in a timed test of their multiplication facts. The children work at a level appropriate for them, and each level builds on the one before. As a guide, children will progress to the next level when their test answers are consistently error free and completed within 3 minutes.

Below are the 8 test levels:

Name of level:	Multiplication facts included:	Number of questions
Balsa	2, 5 and 10 (in order)	10, then 20, then 30
Cork	2 and 10 x tables	20
Pine	2,5 and 10 and all facts up to 5x5	28
Birch	2,3,4,5 and 10	36
Oak	2-10	45
Walnut	2-9 and 12	46
Teak	Teen multiplication and division	40
Mahogany	2 digit multiplication and division	unlimited

Below is a guide to **minimum expectation of achievement** within each year group:
In other words, a child in year 2 should be achieving 100% in under 3 minutes on Pine level.

Year	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
2	Cork (achieved)	Cork/Pine (achieved)	**Pine** (achieved)
3	Pine (achieved)	Pine/Birch (achieved)	**Birch** (achieved)
4	Birch (achieved)	Birch/Oak (achieved)	**Oak** (achieved)
5	Oak (achieved)	Oak/Walnut (achieved)	**Walnut** (achieved)
6	Walnut (achieved)	Teak (achieved)	**Mahogany** (working on)

You can help at home by:

- practising times tables (see guidance on back)
- practising the times test booklets (copies are available from the school office or you can download/print from the school website – learning/our curriculum/mathematics)
- reviewing errors that your child makes and spending time on them

Stages to learn:

- read the times table
- read the times table, with some answers covered up (cover up more each time)
- chant in order, with you supporting (one 5 is 5, two 5's are 10, three 5's are 15)
- chant in order without support
- answer questions (e.g. What are six 5's?)
- answer division related questions (e.g. How many 5's in 20, If I share 20 sweets equally between 5 people, how many sweets will they each get?)

Keep practising – little and often!

1 x __ = __
2 x __ = __
3 x __ = __
4 x __ = __
5 x __ = __
6 x __ = __
7 x __ = __
8 x __ = __
9 x __ = __
10 x __ = __

A visual model of how the tests systematically build upon prior learning

X	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

Cork				
Pine	Pine			
Birch	Birch	Birch		
Oak	Oak	Oak	Oak	
Walnut	Walnut	Walnut	Walnut	Walnut (x10 removed)

The weekly tests are based on two key principles:

1. Facts to be committed to memory are systematically built upon
2. The commutativity of multiplication is constantly reinforced e.g. 10x7 = 7x10