

RAINBOW MATHS

Times tables

Learning their times tables off by heart allows children to calculate and estimate in their head, thereby helping them across the maths curriculum. The national curriculum (September 2014) sets out clear expectations for when children should acquire this skill:

By the end of Year ...	Children should be fluent in ...
Year 2	2, 5 & 10 times tables
Year 3	3, 4 & 8 times tables
Year 4	All times tables up to 12 x 12

In order to help the children achieve this, we have decided to implement Rainbow Maths in all year groups and aim to have strong focus on mental mathematics. This is not only for their times tables but also to help with calculation works across lots of mathematical topics.

Rainbow maths-what is it?

Rainbow maths begins with addition and subtraction, progressing to multiplication and division, then fractions and decimals.

The purpose of Rainbow Maths is to improve the children's rapid recall of the four number operations (+, -, x, ÷). Below is a table of the content.

<u>Addition and subtraction</u>		<u>Multiplication and division</u>		<u>Division and decimals</u>	
Fire	adding and subtracting	Red	multiplying	Bronze	dividing and multiplying
Air	adding and subtracting	Orange	multiplying	Silver	dividing
Earth	adding and subtracting	Yellow	multiplying	Gold	dividing decimals
Water	adding and subtracting	Green	multiplying	Platinum	dividing decimals
		Blue	multiplying	Kryptonite	Converting decimals
		Indigo	dividing		
		Violet	dividing		

The children spend about 10 minutes each day working through their colour card. Everyone starts the year at lowest part of the scale (Fire in KS1 or Red in KS2 depending on your focus). When a child can successfully answer all 50 questions correctly within 4 minutes every day for a week then can then move up a colour. When they get to the end of the stages (Water, Violet or Kryptonite) they can either go on to the next Group of Stages or restart depending on the focus of learning. Each year, the children start back at Fire or Red regardless of their ability as this gives them ample practise and ensures their recall is quick.

What will my child do?

Beginning in reception the children will work on basic counting skills and doubling and halving and will have only 6 questions. In years 1 and 2 they shall be starting on Fire, working on their number bonds. In year 3,4,5,6 they shall all be starting on red and working their way through the colours. However some children may start on a different level if their teacher thinks this may benefit them more.