



Times Tables Awards at St John's

For many years, children have had the opportunity to achieve awards for learning their times tables. Times tables are a fundamental part of maths and the ability to recall them at speed extremely benefits children and enables them to develop fluency in many other areas of maths.

Within the National Curriculum, the expectation is that **all pupils know their x2, x5 and x10 by the end of KS1 (Year 2)** and **all pupils know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.**

The Challenge

A teacher or LSA will test the children on their times tables. They will use a pack of playing cards with the Jack, Queen, King removed and a timer. The two minute timer will be started and the playing cards will be turned over one at a time. The child must multiply their times table by the number on the card turned.

i.e. if they are doing the 2x table and a 4 is turned over they must say 8. ($2 \times 4 = 8$)

The cards continue to be turned over until all 40 are completed or the time has run out. If they complete all 40 in the two minutes then they will be able to tick off that times table.

The Awards

Bronze ARE Y2	Copper GD Y2	Silver ARE Y3	Gold	Platinum ARE Y4	Diamond (Can be achieved annually)
2x 5x 10x	Mixed x2, x5 and x10 - 40 pairs in 2 minutes	3x 4x 6x	7x 8x 9x	Mixed : x6 x7 x8 11x 12x	2 packs of cards turned over together and the child must multiply the two numbers together. All 40 pairs must be answered in 2 minutes.

Year 1/2

Throughout Key Stage 1, pupils will be taught to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. Following this they will learn to recall and use these multiplication facts. When children are ready, they will be tested on each times table and once they have achieved their 2s, 5s and 10s they will receive their Bronze Certificate in celebration assembly. Following their Bronze Award, Year 2 children will then work toward greater fluency through their Copper Award. This will be one pack of cards (with the picture cards removed) and one pack with a mix of 2s, 5s and 10s. There will be 40 pairs to answer in 2 minutes.

Year 3/4

During Year 3/4, pupils will need to learn their remaining times tables. Pupils in Year 3 will be expected to focus their learning on 3s, 4s and 6s to achieve their Silver Award by the end of the year. Pupils in Year 4 will need to learn their 7s, 8s and 9s for their Gold Award as well as their 11s, and 12s to prepare for their Platinum Award. Children will need to practise these at home, as well as in school, and let their class teacher know when they are ready to be tested.

Year 5/6

Pupils who didn't achieve their Platinum Award in year 3 / 4 will be given additional practice in school to support them in improving their fluency with multiplication facts. Daily practice at home is encourage too. They can also achieve their Year 5 Diamond Award and then their Year 6 Diamond Award. This will assess that they have retained their times table knowledge and identify any areas for further practice.

How to help your child learn their times tables

- 1) Write out the times tables in order and identify which ones they know already
- 2) Practice counting in order
- 3) Begin to ask them facts they do know to build confidence
- 4) Write the trickier ones out in a specific place e.g. on a cereal box, stick one on the bathroom mirror
- 5) Practice the test at home with playing cards
- 6) Celebrate when they achieve their award

A useful online game to practice rapid recall is:

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

Children also have a log in for Times Table Rockstars and are expected to use this at least 3x a week as part of their homework in Years 3-6.



Please speak to your child's class teacher if you want any additional information.