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Inkpen's Times Table Challenge Afternoon - 8th January 2018

Dear Parent,

On Monday 8th January 2018, your child will be taking part in our annual Times Table Challenge Afternoon. This will be part of your child's normal maths learning and will include reminders of good strategies to use for learning tables and a "Maths Bee" competition (in our classes).

I am delighted to say that many children have made brilliant progress in their times tables knowledge this year - thank you for all your support! If you have not managed to get started yet with a regular routine as part of child's homework, it is never too late.

Does my child need to continue to practice at home?

Yes. This is part of their weekly homework. While times tables are taught, practised and tested at school, more regular practice is needed to make sure that the learning goes into the brain's long term memory. Knowledge of times tables is an essential building block for all mathematicians and any child can succeed at their own pace.

What does it mean to be "fluent" in times tables?

Your child has only fully mastered the times tables facts when they can **quickly recall any fact you ask them (out of order)** without taking the time to count up from the start on their fingers or in their heads. So it is very important for them to learn them forwards first, then backwards and then out of order. **Just chanting or writing times tables in order will not achieve fluency.**

We hope your child enjoys the afternoon and we enclose some activities which we hope will help make learning times tables both positive and effective on the back of this letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to come and speak to your class teacher or to me.

Yours sincerely,
Amanda Banks