

12.03.18

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning from home just got more exciting with Times Table Rock Stars!

We are pleased to announce that Woodpecker Hall has purchased a subscription for **Times Table Rock Stars** for every pupil so that you and your child can access **Times Table Rock Stars** from home!

Maths is an extremely important subject and we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without **quick and fluent** recall of the tables. For that reason, *learning the tables is fundamental* – they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top. This is something that at Woodpecker Hall Academy we have always believed. **Times Table Rock Stars** also supports our belief that times tables are the foundation of success and achievement in maths.

About Times Tables Rock Stars

Times Table Rockstars is a fun and challenging online programme designed to help students master the times tables.

Your child will have received their log-in details today, which includes a username and password which is individual to them. You can access Times Table Rock Stars here:

<https://ttrockstars.com/home>

Once your child has logged in they will have access to a choice of game modes including: **Single player garage mode; Single player studio mode; Multiplayer Rock Arena; and Multiplayer Rock Festival.**

The questions from **Single Player Garage mode** are questions set by the teacher for that week. As pupils start to answer questions, **Times Table Rock Stars** works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts.

Single player Studio mode can be questions that are anything from 1×1 up to 12×12 . **Times Table Rock Stars** calculates the mean speed from their last 10 games in the Studio and this translates into a Rock Star Status.



Multiplayer Rock Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together).

A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. Pupils earn 1 coin per correct answer; the more coins they earn, the more they can add to their "Rockstar" status.

The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from 1×1 to 12×12. Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band.

Your child will have an avatar which will ensure that other users will not be able to identify them, neither is there a messaging platform through which your child can be contacted by another user.

It's essential that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. In our experience, short bursts of daily practice are more effective than spending hours once a week. The government intends to introduce national testing of times tables at year 4 and all pupils are expected to know all their tables by the end of year 4.

And this is where you come in! For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child. We recommend that they play online for up to 10 minutes daily.

We hope you will find **Times Table Rock Stars** a useful resource to extend your child's learning. If you have any further questions about how to use the service or if you have any trouble logging in or accessing the service from home, please ask your child's class teacher in the first instance or contact Miss Davey.

Help us to make your child (and all Woodpecker Hall pupils) Times Table Rock Stars!!!!!!

Kind regards,

Miss Davey
Assistant Headteacher