

West Sussex County Council

**Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School**

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Headteacher: Mr C King

28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As one of our specific school development plans for the current academic year, we are, as a school really focusing in on children's times tables knowledge and their quick recall during 2018/19. Being trialled from next summer, and rolled out nationally from 2020, there will be a times tables assessment for all Year 4 pupils and all Year 4 will be expected to know their tables up to x 12. Needless to say, this reflects the need for all children in years 5 and 6 to know at least all their times tables up to x12 and to be able to recall them quickly and accurately so that they can apply this knowledge to so many other areas of maths. It is very evident, when children are insecure in their times tables knowledge, that they start to struggle accessing other areas of the maths curriculum (for example, fractions work, which relies very heavily on times tables skills).

It is expected, as children progress up the school, that they become more and more secure with their times tables knowledge and that they have strategies to hand to enable them to quickly recall their times tables facts. Whilst we are spending a lot of time within school helping children with this area of maths, we are aware of gaps in children's knowledge and very much need parents and carers to regularly help their children at home too.

There are all sorts of resources available online, including the following:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/help-with-times-tables/>

<https://komodomath.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-learning-times-tables>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/times-tables>

However, we cannot emphasise strongly enough that the best way to learn times tables is through practice, repetition, questioning and chanting, all of which can be done at home.

With school and home working together, we can really help them make great progress.

If you have any questions, please speak your child's teacher.

Kind regards

Mrs Powell and The Key Stage 2 Team

