Dear Parents,

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. At Churchtown we have been developing this fluency through our weekly multiplication tracker, with awards ranging from Bronze to Platinum. To support this learning your child has been given login details for Times Tables Rock Stars, an online resource that has been designed to develop children's fluency with their multiplication facts in a fun format.

On Times Tables Rock Stars each child competes against him or herself to move from Headliner to Rock Star to Rock Legend to Rock Hero. The game can be accessed either on a computer by visiting www.ttrockstars.com and clicking on the 'Login' option from the menu bar. Once on that page your child will simply need to type in the school name, in the top box, then enter their username and password. Similarly, there is an app that can be used on tablets. Search the app store for 'Times Tables Rock Stars' and follow the same process to log in.

There are different play options once you are logged in:

Studio: This is where your child can play against the clock with multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. Once you are logged in, your child will be asked to complete 10 rounds (1 minute each) on the studio option to assess their ability and tailor their programme.

Garage: The garage is similar to studio, except the multiplication tables that your child used is controlled by the school, meaning it can be focused on current learning and multiplication facts that need to be learnt for that year or term.

Rock Festival: This is where your child can play against other schoolchildren from across the UK on multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12

Rock Arena: Your child can play against other children in their own class with multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12.

All children can choose their rock star name and design their avatar. As they practise online children collect coins which they can use to buy treats for their avatar. The online 'Stats' page shows which questions children answer most accurately and which ones they need to practise more. You, and they, will also be able to view a 'heat-map' for your child, detailing which times table questions they are secure and not secure with. Incorrect answers are always immediately corrected in front of them so that they start to associate the correct answer to every question. The clever code behind the scenes works out which times tables facts your child is consistently taking longer to answer and then it gradually starts to present these facts more frequently until pupils have mastered them. It will also ask related division questions 20% of the time in order to reinforce division facts

Children move through the levels of rock stardom based on how quick and accurate their times tables recall is e.g. More than 10 secs to answer a question=wannabee, less than 9 secs to answer a question=busker, less than 4 secs to answer a question=headliner, less than 3 secs to answer a question=rock star and less than 1 sec to answer a question=rock god.

We appreciate your support in this initiative and we are sure you will quickly see how beneficial accessing the website is and also how much fun the children can have whilst learning their multiplication facts.

Happy Rocking!

Mrs Keen

KS2 Maths Co-ordinator