

February 2021

## TT ROCKSTARS during LOCKDOWN 3.0

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Why is the fluent recall of the times tables important?

At Wheatfields Primary, we love Maths! It is an awesome subject to learn and to teach. Maths is a big 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 fluent recall of the tables.

*But the point of being fluent in them [times table facts] is to free up the working memory when tackling a more interesting and engaging piece of mathematics. (Askew 2012 p54)*

For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental – they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top. We've always believed that.

In addition to that, the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) was officially announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2017. It will be administered for children in Year 4, rolling out from the summer term 2022. Although, this year, all tests have been cancelled because of COVID-19, in 2020 the MTC became compulsory for all English maintained schools, special schools and academies (including free schools).

For more information for parents about the multiplication tables check, please visit –  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

### How can you help your child practise their times tables?

Because the National Curriculum for maths is so extensive, there is an expectation that parents will help their children learn their times tables at home and not rely on schools to bring them up to speed.

Some of the techniques you can use include:

- Practising times tables by rote.
- Asking your child multiplication questions out of order – such as 'What's 11x12? What's 5x6?'
- Asking your child the related division facts: 'What's 8 divided 4? What's 9 divided 3?'
- Using arrays to help your child memorise times tables – you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.
- Giving your child word problems to test their skills, like 'If Peter has 800ml of orange juice and needs to share it between four friends, how much can they each have?'
- OR Using times tables app **TT ROCKSTARS** to build speed.



### What is TT Rockstars?

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS also known as **TT ROCKSTARS** is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice. Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practised every third week or so.

### TT Rockstars during lockdown 3.0

At Wheatfields Primary, we have been using TT Rockstars for the past two years. Every Friday's celebration assembly, we announce the highest points winner from each class. This has resulted in positive attitudes toward learning times tables by all year groups (Y1 to Y6). And since the Lockdown 3.0, Teachers are also allocating TT Rockstars slots in the weekly suggested timetable.

### How does TT Rockstars work?

Please see the images below.

Contact your child's teacher if...

- You have username or password issues
- Something isn't working or you're not sure how it works
- You have a complaint or a suggestion
- You have something nice to say about [trockstars.com](http://trockstars.com)!

Best wishes

Mrs Khan-Blacker (Maths Subject Leader)

#### Logging in to Times Tables Rock Stars

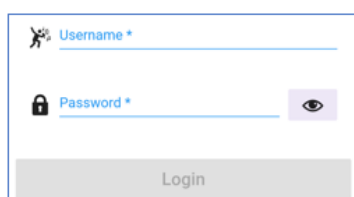
1 Type [play.trockstars.com](http://play.trockstars.com) into your browser's address bar.

2 Click Login! > School > Student

3 Enter the School Name.



4 Enter your child's username and password.



## Game Modes

### Single Player

**Garage** - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. It will include multiplication *and* division questions.  
As pupils start to answer questions, TT 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. Players get 10 coins per question.

**Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from  $1 \times 1$  up to  $12 \times 12$ .  
TT Rock Stars calculates the mean response time from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates that time into a Rock Status.

$\leq 1 \text{ sec/qu}$  = Rock Hero  
 $\leq 2 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Rock Legend  
 $\leq 3 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Rock Star  
 $\leq 4 \text{ secs}$  = Headliner  
 $\leq 5 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Support Act  
 $\leq 6 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Breakthrough Artist

$\leq 7 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Unsigned Act  
 $\leq 8 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Gigger  
 $\leq 9 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Busker  
 $\leq 10 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Garage Rocker  
 $> 10 \text{ secs/qu}$  = Wannabe

If you don't play in the Studio you don't get a Rock Status.

Players earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

**Soundcheck** – When you play Soundcheck, you get 20 questions each with a 5-second time limit. The questions are multiplication only and evenly weighted in terms of difficulty each time you play. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

### Multiplayer

**Rock Arena** - The 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. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

**Rock Festival** - 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  $1 \times 1$  to  $12 \times 12$ .  
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. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.



## Stats

If you click on your avatar icon in the top right of the screen and then click My Stats, a heatmap like the one below will load. It shows how successful your child is at each of the facts.

