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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing this letter to inform you about changes to the structure of maths teaching and learning at our school and how we will be working with your child/ren to establish new systems that will benefit their mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills.

Firstly, as part of our recovery curriculum following our full return, we will spend the next two weeks assessing and identifying misconceptions to work on with the children. This will be an intensive support period and highlight children who may need additional intervention sessions moving forwards to ensure they meet their age related expectation for this year.

Following these two weeks, we will introduce our new whole school programme of study – ‘Power Maths’. We have made a substantial investment in textbooks for every child to follow the scheme throughout the school following extensive research for the highest quality of outstanding maths schemes. Power Maths is a whole-class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help nurture confidence in maths. It is the only mastery maths programme perfectly aligned to the White Rose Maths progressions and schemes of learning – in line with previous teaching and learning at our school. Power Maths is written by leading maths mastery experts and is **highly** recommended by the DfE.

We are also introducing a new times tables progression scheme throughout the school and linking it with how you can help your child learn and retain key facts to support their maths fluency. Times tables and related facts are crucial to children’s progress and attainment in maths. We will be dedicating fifteen minutes of whole class teaching time every day to learn and embed key facts followed by a short assessment each afternoon where children can ‘show off’ their learning and track their progress and performance. Question sheets will regularly come home with your child so you can see how well they have done. We strongly encourage the practise of times tables calculations with your child for about 10-20 minutes each day to help consolidate their learning.

To make the new times tables progression scheme motivating and fun for the children, we have made innovative links to Times Tables Rockstars to create our own ‘Oak Meadow Rockstars’ for each times table. This will go hand in hand with the work your child completes on the Times Tables Rockstar learning platform - <https://ttrockstars.com/> - and help them to earn certificates of recognition as they move through the school. Please note that if your child is having trouble logging into the Times Tables Rockstar learning platform or the MyMaths learning platform they should inform their class teacher immediately as we want all children to access these platforms regularly.

To earn their Oak Meadow Rockstar certificates, the children will complete a three minute assessment when they feel confident they will be able to answer all set calculations for a designated times table. They must answer all questions correctly to earn their certificate! In line with DfE expectations we will be aiming for every child to achieve the following times tables certificates by the end of the specified Year groups:

By the end of Year 2: **2x, 5x, 10x.**

By the end of Year 3: **3x, 4x, 8x.**

By the end of Year 4: (including Year 5 and 6 this year as all children return to school): **6x, 7x, 9x, 11x, 12x.**

Children in Reception and Year 1 will explore patterns and be exposed to times tables concepts. Any children who demonstrate a readiness to be assessed for a times table certificate will be given an opportunity. Children who achieve all times tables certificates for their year group will be challenged to attain certificates from the next year group. We want children to be motivated to learn and embed number facts thoroughly and earn a portfolio of certificates to recognise they have mastered all times tables.

To launch the Oak Meadow Rockstars scheme we will become the 'School of Rock' for a day and formally introduce all of the children to the Rockstars they will be trying to earn. On **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, we would like all children to come to school dressed as a Rockstar for the day! Below, I have included the new Oak Meadow Rockstars if your child would like to dress as one of these or your child can be original in the Rockstar they become. Hopefully, as well as launching a new scheme that will prove to be important in your child's maths learning, the day will also be a fun one full of smiles and laughter and showcase the creative approach we adopt at our school!

Thank you for your continued support as we strive for the children to be the best that they can be.

Kind regards (and Rock on!),

Mr. Lane (Mathematics Team Leader)



2 x table 'Trixie T-Rex'



5 x table 'Freddy Fury'



10 x table 'Tammy Talent'



3 x table 'Theo Thunder'



4 x table 'Freya Flame'



8 x table 'Ella Edge'



6 x table 'Santana Strummer'



7 x table 'Sid Savage'



9 x table 'Nova Nash'



11 x table 'Elton Eagle Eye'



12 x table 'Tegan Texas'

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...

