

St Levan Primary School
where all children SHINE...for life

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Friday 21st January 2022

Maths at St Levan

Dear Parents

In order to help our pupils know more and remember more in maths, to support them building on prior learning and to develop their mathematical confidence, we have two new resources to share.

- 1) The first is a new subscription for St Levan for **Times Table Rockstars** – an online times table website. A covering letter with individual logins and a parent guide are attached to this letter for your information.

Whilst we understand that extended screen time for pupils is not desirable, we also acknowledge the value that technology can play in supporting pupils to master skills which will be invaluable to them. The site recommends a 'little and often' approach of 3 minutes a day, 4 or 5 times a week. Teachers are able to set specific challenges for individual children and children can earn points to customise their avatars. Names are anonymised: the site generates 'Rockstar' names which pupils can choose from. We are using the site as part of our regular maths lessons and hope pupils will enjoy using the resource outside of school as well.

- 2) The second is the introduction of KIRFs as a whole-school program (beginning in Year 1). KIRFs (**Key Instant Recall Facts**) are designed to support the development of the mental skills that underpin much of the maths work in schools. They are particularly useful when calculating, be it adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. An important part of maths development has always been rote learning of certain numeracy facts and KIRFs will support this.

Each half term, children will be given Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) to practise and learn at home as well as the work in school. These will be sent home on A4 sheets and include practical ideas for parents / helpers to assist children in grasping the key facts. It is important that they know these thoroughly and can recall specific facts instantly.

Whilst children have a wide range of abilities in mathematics, the KIRFs are designed to be a set of facts that need to be learnt thoroughly as they build on each other year on year. Further challenges will be shared with pupils if they have already mastered a specific skill. **To see the most benefit, children must aim to know their KIRF inside out, back to front and with instant recall.**

Ideas are included on the sheet to support you to support your child learning the facts. We know that by internalising these key facts, which have been carefully structured to build upon each other term by term, year by year, children will leave St Levan with a stronger foundation of mathematical understanding. Today, your child will be coming home with the 'Spring 1' KIRFs sheet. We hope that you enjoy working alongside your children with this

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mathematics work. Should you have any questions about the KIRFs programme, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Continuing initiatives:

St Levan Society for Mathematical Thinking will be returning to its previous format of sending challenges home. We have trialled having the challenges as part of Maths lessons, and while the merits of having peers to discuss ideas with has been evident, the children feel that they preferred taking the challenges home as it allowed collaboration with parents. Please speak to Miss Finch if you think you would like to become a part of this group!

99 Club continues to run each week with children having the opportunity to answer times table questions in a timed situation but now with the added edition of badges! Once a child has completed a 99 club sheet (all correct in under 5 minutes), they can now come over to Puffins class and make the corresponding badge for their completed 99 Club sheet!



Many thanks

Anya Finch and the St Levan Team

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