

St Mark's C of E Junior School
Growing together, becoming all we are created to be



Spelling

We teach the spelling rules during an English lesson and the children will practise these during registration sessions when they first come into school. Children should be practising their spellings at home regularly through the week. **A great way to do this is through Spelling Shed.** Your child's login in details will be in their reading diaries. If it is not possible for your child to have access to a device for this purpose, they need to request a **'Look Cover Write Check' sheet from their teacher** to use for regular practise through the week.

Multiplication Facts – Times Table Rock Stars

Recall of times tables facts are a key skill in Maths and in everyday life. They lay the foundations for children to access all fundamental areas of maths with greater ease and accuracy. If children can recall multiplication facts instantly, the mental effort required to solve calculations is greatly reduced. A secure grasp of these will therefore develop confidence and success when accessing more complex maths. The National Curriculum expectation is that children are fluent in their recall of times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

Times tables are taught in Maths lessons in Year 3 and Year 4, continuing on from facts learned in Year 1 and 2. Regular recall of facts takes place in all year groups to support and further build upon their fluency.

As a school, we subscribe to a platform known as **'Times Tables Rock Stars' (TTRS)** – it is an excellent tool to support the recall of times tables through question-based games that automatically adapt to each child. An algorithm tracks the progress of each child and selects the questions according to their speed and accuracy. **TTRS** data suggests that children who played for more than an average of 13 minutes per school week scored 22/25 by the end of Year 4. Those who played for more than an average of 21 minutes per school week scored full marks.

Your child's login details for TTRS will be in the front of your child's Reading Diary at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Reading

There is an expectation for children to read regularly as part of their Home Learning and to keep a log in their Reading Record book. Each week, the class will visit the Library and select a **banded book** from our carefully devised scheme that ensures the child is exposed to the correct range of vocabulary for their stage of reading. If your child has more than one day to wait between finishing their book and their Library day, they must bring their book in, tell their Class Teacher / Teaching Assistant and they will be able to change their book at the next available time.

Your child will also be able to choose a **'reading for pleasure'** book from the library, again, from a range of books appropriate for their age group. This might lend itself more to some shared reading with an older sibling or adult, depending on the book chosen.

If your child is reading Little Wandle Phase books or Little Wandle Fluency books at the end of Year 2, they will continue with these in Year 3 until the teaching sequence is complete.