Manor Park
CE (VC) First School

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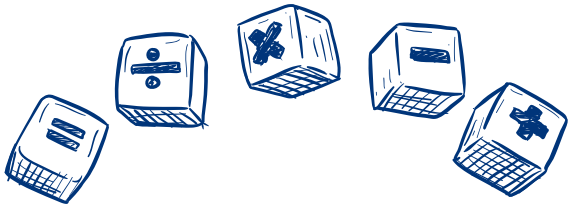
Why Multiplication Table Fluency Matters

Why does your child need to know their times tables?

- **Builds a strong maths foundation:** Times tables are the building blocks for many maths topics like division, fractions, and measurement.
- **Speeds up problem solving:** When children know their facts quickly, they can focus on solving tricky problems without getting stuck.
- **Boosts confidence:** Fluency helps reduce anxiety and makes maths more enjoyable.



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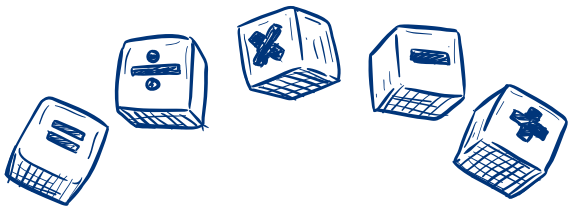
What happens when children are not fluent?

- **Division becomes harder:** Division is linked to multiplication. Without fluency, children struggle to divide numbers easily.

- **Fractions and decimals are confusing:** Understanding parts of a whole depends on knowing times tables.

- **Problem solving slows down:** Children spend more time on basic calculations and less on understanding the problem.

- **Challenges in measurement and geometry:** Calculating area, perimeter and volume requires multiplication skills.





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Division becomes harder:

- If a child doesn't know that 6 × 4 = 24 quickly, they will struggle to work out 24 ÷ 6 or 24 ÷ 4 easily. This slows down their ability to divide numbers and check their answers.

Fractions and decimals are confusing:

- To understand that 1/4 means one part out of four equal parts, children need to recall that 4 × 6 = 24 when working with equivalent fractions like 6/24. Without times tables fluency, these connections become tricky.

Problem solving slows down:

- When solving a word problem like "If one packet has 8 sweets, how many sweets are in 5 packets?", a child who can't quickly recall 8 × 5 will spend more time calculating the total and less time understanding what the problem is asking.

Challenges in measurement and geometry:

- To find the area of a rectangle that is 7 units long and 4 units wide, children multiply 7 × 4. Without knowing this fact fluently, they may struggle to calculate area, perimeter, or volume efficiently.





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How can you help at home?

- Practice times tables regularly in short, fun sessions.
- Use games, songs, and apps to make learning engaging.
- Use Sumdog our online learning platform.
- Talk about numbers during daily activities, like cooking or shopping.
- Celebrate progress and effort to build confidence.

Remember

Being confident with multiplication tables helps your child to quickly remember important number facts and see how numbers are connected. This skill is important for doing well in all areas of maths.

If you would like further ideas or support, please speak to your child's teacher. We are here to help!