



THE DEAN TRUST
Park View Academy

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Academies Director: Mr Barry Bridden MEd MSc
Executive Headteacher: Mr Damian Kenny

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Times Tables (TT) Rock Stars

Here at Park View Academy, we love TT Rock Stars! It is a fantastic online way to develop knowledge of times tables and division facts for all pupils from Year 1-Year 6. Times tables are recognised as essential to access many mathematical concepts and knowledge will be assessed at the end of Year 4 by a national test.

As a school, we will be having a TT Rock Stars Day on **Friday 13th November**. **The children are invited to dress as their favourite classic rock star (think Kiss, Freddie Mercury and Slash) if they wish to.** If you need any inspiration, please log onto TT Rock Stars and look at your child's character. Any child who does not dress up as this theme should be in their full school uniform as normal.

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. TT Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the times tables!

Your child's teacher has introduced them to how TT Rock Stars works, and the appropriate times tables to practice on a weekly basis will be allocated. This programme can be accessed online via <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school> and your child has their own login and password. You may also download the TT Rock Stars app for Apple or Android devices through which your child may practice.

When they first login, your child will choose their own rock star name and design their own avatar before starting to practise (many will have already completed this).

There are three single player modes:

- **Garage** – This is the main mode the children should play. The questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. As children 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.
- **Studio** - The questions in the studio mode can be anything from 2x2 up to 12x12. TT Rock Stars calculates the mean speed from their last ten games in the studio and translates it into a Rock Status.
- **Sound Check** – This is a vital mode as it mirrors the Year 4 statutory test. Children are asked 25 questions and have 6 seconds to respond. If you would like to know how far your child is from the national expectation of 25/25, please have them carry out a weekly sound check to keep up to date on their progress towards 25.

There are also multi-player modes:

Believe Achieve Succeed

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- *Rock Arena* - The arena allows players to compete against all other members of their band/class (their band mates would need to join the same game in order to compete together).
- *Rock Festival* – The rock festival games are open to players from around the world. The questions are selected at random from 2x2 to 12x12.

It is recommended that that your child does some times table practice every night. Short bursts of practise on a daily basis are more effective than spending hours once a week.

To make a success of this programme and ensure that your child follows the programme of practising and remains motivated, we need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child.

Thank you for your support and I am sure your hard work and theirs will have a direct impact and make them a Times Table Rock Star! I can't wait to see the pupils in the rock costumes on **Friday 13th November**.

Miss Phillips

Maths Lead

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