



Our Goal

At St. Michael and All Angels, from year 2 upwards, we focus on children achieving a 'depth' of understanding when learning their times tables and aim to improve over time their speed of recall. When it comes to times tables, accuracy is important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. In year 2 the focus is on their 2, 5 and 10s, with more tables introduced in year 3 and by the end of year 4 we aim for the children to be competent in all their times tables up to 12 x 12. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables! To be a Times Table Rock Star your child needs to answer any multiplication fact up to 12x12 in less than 3 seconds by UKS2!

Message to Parents

World famous rock musicians are the best at what they do because they've spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music or playing on the drums. It's just the same with times tables – all Times Table Rock Stars need to do is practise and practise and practise.

It's key that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. In our experience, short bursts of **5 minutes daily practise** are more effective than spending hours once a week. And this is where you come in. For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, practising times tables will not feel important to your child. Over the course of the next few weeks and months, with your support, your child WILL get faster and more accurate with the times tables. All your hard work and theirs WILL make them a Times Table Rock Star!

Rock Status

It's helpful to understand that the quicker your child can answer a times tables question, the higher their Rock Status. Use this list as a guide to help your child work out their Rock Status:

- ≤ 1 sec/qu = Rock Hero
- ≤ 2 secs/qu = Rock Legend
- ≤ 3 secs/qu = Rock Star
- ≤ 4 secs = Headliner
- ≤ 5 secs/qu = Support Act
- ≤ 6 secs/qu = Breakthrough Artist
- ≤ 7 secs/qu = Unsigned Act
- ≤ 8 secs/qu = Gigger
- ≤ 9 secs/qu = Busker
- ≤ 10 secs/qu = Garage Rocker
- > 10 secs/qu = Wannabe

Playing online

TT Rockstars works on a phone, tablet or computer. Your child will already have a login for ttrackstars.com from their teacher. This is in the front of their reading diary but many children know their log in details off by heart!

Once logged in they should play for a short while (5 min per day) until they are successfully answering the questions quickly. Let your child's teacher know if you have difficulty accessing the internet or difficulty getting on to ttrackstars.com. You can also use the contact details on the website to ask for assistance.

Time to Play! Game Modes

Garage Arena – this is the main place for your child to practise and play!

The questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week or facts that have been personalised for them. As pupils 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. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

Studio Arena – this is great if your child wants to improve their 'Rock Status'.

The questions in the Studio can be anything from 1×1 up to 12×12. TT Rock Stars calculates each the mean speed from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates into a Rock Status.

Rock Arena – this allows your child to compete against class mates.

The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together). A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

Rock Festival – mainly suitable for children who are competent with all their times tables

The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from 1×1 to 12×12. Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.