



# MICKLEOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Times Tables Rock Stars



Dear Parents

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. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and flexibly, and allows them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in school. This is why the Department for Education has recently announced, that from 2020, the children in Year 4 will sit a national times table test to ensure that table facts are known by heart by Year 4.

We are pleased to announce that we have subscribed to 'Times Table Rock Stars' a fun and challenging online programme designed to help pupils master times tables and division facts.

The aim of TT Rock Stars is to develop the speed and confidence of our children when recalling times tables, which will help them considerably in Maths as a wider subject. It is hoped that following the carefully sequenced programme of daily times table practise, children will soon see an improvement in their speed and recall. Each week concentrates on a different times table with consolidation weeks for rehearsing and combining tables that have already been learnt.

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 practise and practise and practise. We advise that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. In our experience, short bursts of practise on a daily basis, 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, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child.

It's helpful to understand that each time a child practises they can earn coins which they can use to buy accessories for the Avatar that they have created. The quicker your child can answer times tables question, the higher their Rock Status. Use this list as a guide to help your child work out their Rock Status:

To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to  $12 \times 12$  in less than 3 seconds!

≤ 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**

## Game Modes

### Single Player

**Garage** - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. 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** - 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**. They earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

### Multiplayer

**Rock Arena** - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Band mates 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** - 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.

The children will all receive a login and this can be found stuck in the Home School Diary. This programme can be accessed online via the web address <https://play.ttrockstars.com/> You may also download an App for tablets; this is available on the apple store as well as on android systems.



Good Luck and Keep Rocking!



AKA Mrs Harrison