



Our Lady & St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Times Tables & Sumdog

A guide for parents and carers

Working together to build confident, capable mathematicians



Why are times tables so important?

Times tables are the building blocks of maths. Knowing them helps children:

- ★ solve problems quickly and confidently
- ★ understand fractions, division and larger numbers
- ★ do mental maths with ease
- ★ feel more **confident** in the classroom and in life

The more secure your child is with their times tables, the easier everything else in maths becomes – and the more confident they will feel!

What are we working towards?

National expectations for each year group

Reception	Group in twos, fives and tens.
Year 1	Count in twos, fives and tens. Doubles and halves to 12.
Year 2	2, 5, 10 (including division facts).
Year 3	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 (including division facts).
Year 4	All times tables up to 12×12 (including division facts).
Year 5	As Year 4 + prime numbers to 19, factors and multiples.
Year 6	As Year 5 + prime numbers below 100, common factors and multiples.

What is Sumdog?

Sumdog is an online maths platform that makes learning times tables fun, engaging and interactive.



- ✓ Covers all times tables from 2 to 12
- ✓ Presents questions in a variety of fun games and activities
- ✓ Adapts to your child's ability and gives **instant feedback**
- ✓ Tracks progress and identifies gaps in knowledge
- ✓ Builds confidence through positive rewards and challenges

How does Sumdog help?



Builds fluency

Regular, short bursts of practice help children recall facts quickly and accurately.



Makes it fun

Children earn points, badges and rewards while they play and learn.



Identifies gaps

Teachers can see which facts children find tricky and plan extra support.



Supports all learners

Activities are personalised, so children can progress at their own pace.



Builds confidence

Success comes from effort and practice – not just getting the right answers.



How can you help at home?

There are lots of simple and fun ways to practise times tables at home:

- ★ **Play games** – card games, dice games, board games and online games.
- ★ **Use everyday moments** – count in 2s, 5s and 10s when cooking, shopping or travelling.
- ★ **Try chanting** – say the times tables out loud, clap or march!
- ★ **Use flashcards** – ask and answer in random order.
- ★ **Encourage Sumdog** – a few minutes each day makes a big difference.
- ★ **Celebrate effort** – praise their hard work and progress, not just the score.

Little and often really does work!



Top Tips

- 1 Keep it positive**
Encourage and praise effort, not just results.
- 2 Make it short**
5–10 minutes a day is better than an hour once a week.
- 3 Use a variety of methods**
Chanting, games, flashcards, apps and real-life practice.
- 4 Keep it fun**
Use the Sumdog platform and mix it up!
- 5 Be patient**
Building fluency takes time – keep going, you're making a difference!



Useful links & information

- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)
- National Curriculum – Maths
- BBC Bitesize – Times Tables
- Sumdog Parent Guide & Support

Together we can make a real difference!



Remember...

Every child learns at their own pace. With the right support, encouragement and a little practice, your child can become a confident, fluent mathematician – and that will open doors for their future.

Fluency ★ Reasoning ★ Problem Solving

Together we achieve more!