

Learning Times Tables at Bletchingley

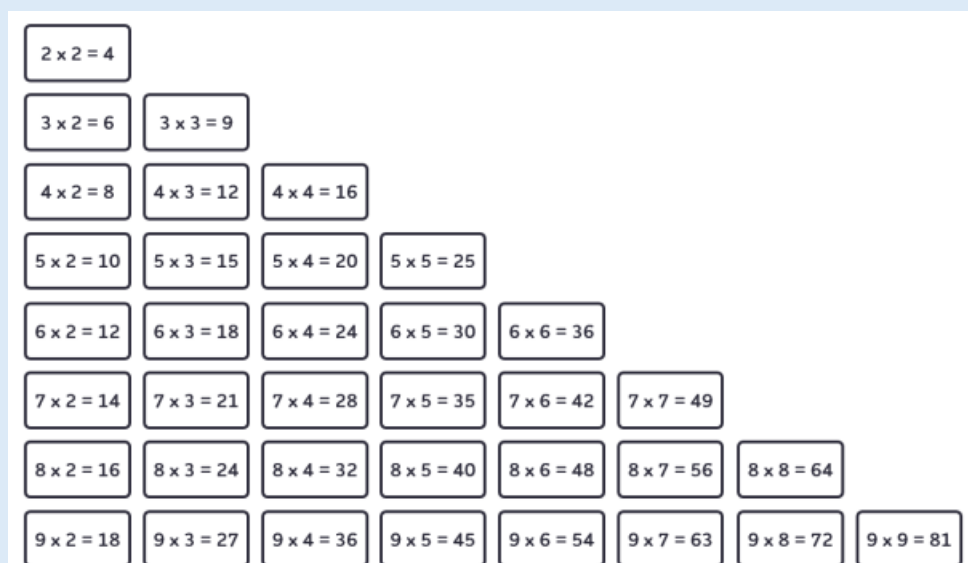
At Bletchingley, times tables are an essential part of our maths curriculum. Children begin learning their 2, 5, and 10 times tables in Year 2. In Key Stage 2, times tables are taught explicitly during short, daily sessions using the **Number Sense** maths scheme. Our goal is for all children to know their times tables facts by heart, so they can recall them quickly without needing to count on their fingers or use repeated addition.

Why Learning Times Tables is Important

- Knowing times tables facts by heart frees up working memory, allowing children to focus on solving more complex problems.
- Many Upper Key Stage 2 topics, such as fractions and ratios, rely on multiplication and division. Being fluent in times tables helps children succeed in these areas and prepares them for secondary school.
- Confidence in times tables supports children's confidence in maths lessons overall.
- When the whole class is fluent in times tables, lessons can progress at a faster pace.

How We Teach Times Tables

Children learn all times tables up to 12×12 , with a priority on mastering the essential 36 facts up to 9×9 . While the 10 times table is also taught, it is generally easier for children to learn due to its clear patterns.



$2 \times 2 = 4$									
$3 \times 2 = 6$	$3 \times 3 = 9$								
$4 \times 2 = 8$	$4 \times 3 = 12$	$4 \times 4 = 16$							
$5 \times 2 = 10$	$5 \times 3 = 15$	$5 \times 4 = 20$	$5 \times 5 = 25$						
$6 \times 2 = 12$	$6 \times 3 = 18$	$6 \times 4 = 24$	$6 \times 5 = 30$	$6 \times 6 = 36$					
$7 \times 2 = 14$	$7 \times 3 = 21$	$7 \times 4 = 28$	$7 \times 5 = 35$	$7 \times 6 = 42$	$7 \times 7 = 49$				
$8 \times 2 = 16$	$8 \times 3 = 24$	$8 \times 4 = 32$	$8 \times 5 = 40$	$8 \times 6 = 48$	$8 \times 7 = 56$	$8 \times 8 = 64$			
$9 \times 2 = 18$	$9 \times 3 = 27$	$9 \times 4 = 36$	$9 \times 5 = 45$	$9 \times 6 = 54$	$9 \times 7 = 63$	$9 \times 8 = 72$	$9 \times 9 = 81$		

Our approach involves short, daily lessons of around 10 minutes, focusing on just two or three new facts at a time alongside the facts children already know. Learning is reinforced through oral rehearsal, helping children recall facts quickly and confidently.

Each child has a personal booklet and practices recalling 40 facts in a two-minute challenge. The teacher chants the fact and the class then chants the same fact back, supporting memory retention. Classrooms feature a times tables display showing facts learned and those still to learn, allowing children to self-check when needed. Over time, repeated practice means the display is no longer necessary.

Multiplication lessons are linked to division, so children can confidently move between operations. For example, memorising that “seven fives are thirty-five” supports work with both 7×5 and $35 \div 5$ or $35 \div 7$.

In year 3, we learn 21 of the 36 essential facts:

2 times table	Square times table	5 times table
8 facts	7 new facts	6 new facts
$2 \times 2 = 4$	$3 \times 3 = 9$	$3 \times 5 = 15$
$3 \times 2 = 6$	$4 \times 4 = 16$	$4 \times 5 = 20$
$4 \times 2 = 8$	$5 \times 5 = 25$	$6 \times 5 = 30$
$5 \times 2 = 10$	$6 \times 6 = 36$	$7 \times 5 = 35$
$6 \times 2 = 12$	$7 \times 7 = 49$	$8 \times 5 = 40$
$7 \times 2 = 14$	$8 \times 8 = 64$	$9 \times 5 = 45$
$8 \times 2 = 16$	$9 \times 9 = 81$	
$9 \times 2 = 18$		

In year 4 we learn the other 15 essential facts:

3 times table	4 times table	6 times table
5 new facts	4 new facts	3 new facts
$4 \times 3 = 12$	$6 \times 4 = 24$	$7 \times 6 = 42$
$6 \times 3 = 18$	$7 \times 4 = 28$	$8 \times 6 = 48$
$7 \times 3 = 21$	$8 \times 4 = 32$	$9 \times 6 = 54$
$8 \times 3 = 24$	$9 \times 4 = 36$	
$9 \times 3 = 27$		

7 times table	8 times table	9 times table
2 new facts	1 new fact	No new facts to learn!
$8 \times 7 = 56$	$9 \times 8 = 72$	
$9 \times 7 = 63$		

We also recap the 10 times table, which children tend to know already from place value work and learn the 11 and 12 times tables.

In years 5 and 6 time is spent consolidation the facts learnt previously.

How You Can Help at Home

- Show interest in your child's progress: ask what facts they are learning and what new facts they have mastered.
- Practice recalling times tables together.
- Celebrate your child's achievements, especially as they work towards completing their 40 facts.
- Encourage your child to write out and recall the times tables they are working on.
- Ensure your child completes at least **25 minutes per week on Times Tables Rock Stars**, ideally in short sessions spread across the week. Using the **Garage mode** helps teachers track which times tables your child is confident in and which need more practice.