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Principal: Emily Rosaman

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to inform you that Year 7 students will soon be starting *Times Tables Rock Stars* (TTRS) as part of our ongoing efforts to improve and reinforce their mathematical skills. This program is designed to help students develop fluency in their times tables, which are essential for success in mathematics.

Why are times tables so important?

Times tables are not just a primary school skill—they form the very foundation of GCSE mathematics. The ability to recall multiplication facts quickly and accurately is crucial for more complex topics such as algebra, fractions, and problem-solving. Without a solid grasp of times tables, students can struggle with many aspects of their mathematics learning. By continuing to practice and improve their times tables throughout secondary school, students are setting themselves up for success in both their immediate studies and future GCSEs.

Why TTRS?

Times Table Rockstars is a highly effective and research-backed programme, used by over 17,000 schools and 100,000 households. The platform's engaging design motivates students while its smart algorithms analyse their responses to pinpoint and improve areas of weakness. This personalised approach ensures every student can make progress at their own pace, while also having fun with their learning.

Baseline Assessments and Launch of 'Multiplication March'

To help us determine each student's current level of fluency with times tables, all Year 7 students have completed a baseline assessment during their maths lessons before the February half term break. This has allowed our teachers to identify any gaps in knowledge and provide targeted support where needed. Following this, we will officially launch 'Multiplication March' on Monday 3rd March, a month-long drive to promote and celebrate times table fluency. There will be rewards and challenges for students to engage with and enjoy throughout the campaign.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649. Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF. VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an Exempt charity. A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

How can you help support?

As parents and carers, you can play a key role in supporting your child's development in this area. Encouraging them to practice regularly at home and to make use of the TTRS platform will help them gain confidence and fluency. The website offers a variety of fun, engaging tools that track progress and make learning more enjoyable. You can support your child by setting aside time for them to practice, setting realistic goals, and celebrating their improvements. For further guidance on how to support your child and how to use the platform, please watch the video linked here.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child succeed in mathematics. If you have any questions about the programme or how you can help, please do not hesitate to contact your child's maths teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Brown
Second in Maths