



*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*

Bishops Down Primary School

Rydal Drive  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent, TN4 9SU  
01892 520114

office@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk  
www.bishopsdownprimary.org

Headteacher: Mrs C Owen

21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Times Table Rock Stars**

Welcome to 'Times Table Rock Stars'. At Bishops Down, we are trialling a fantastic online way to develop knowledge of times tables and division facts for all pupils from Year 2 –Year 6. The trial will last until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. At the end of the trial, we will consult the children, teachers, parents, and guardians for feedback before deciding whether to continue using Times Table Rock Stars. Times Table Rock Stars will be replacing Big Maths Beat That homework during the trial period.

Times tables are recognised as essential to access many mathematical concepts and knowledge will be assessed at the end of Y4, from September 2019, by a National test. 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. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the times tables! Your child's teacher has introduced them to how Times Tables Rock Stars works and the appropriate times tables to practise on a weekly basis will be allocated. This programme can be accessed online via the web address on the letter your child brought home with their own login and password. You may also download an App for the iPhone/iPad or Android App for your child to practise.

When they first login, your child will choose their own rock star name and design their own avatar before starting to practise.

#### **There are two single player modes to play:**

**Garage** – This is the main mode the children should play. The questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. As pupils start to answer questions, Times Table Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer.

**Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from 2x2 up to 12x12. Times Table Rock Stars calculates each of the mean speeds from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates scores into a Rock Status.

#### **There are also multi-player modes:**

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

**Rock Festival** - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. The questions are selected at random from 2x2 to 12x12.

There is no chat function on Times Table Rock Stars. When you play in the Rock Arena or Rock Festival the children will only be able to see their opponents scores.

It is recommended that that your child does a little bit of times table practise every night. Short bursts of practise on a daily basis are more effective than spending hours once a week. To make a success of this programme and ensure that your child follows the programme of practising and remains motivated, we need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, times tables will not feel important to your child.

Thank you for your support and I am sure your hard work and theirs will have a direct impact and make them a Times Table Rock Star!

Kind regards,

Miss Brooks