

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTHBOURNE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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9th November 2023

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. This week in school, your child has been introduced to Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS), an online programme to engage your child in short bursts of daily times tables practice.

To log in to TTRS (play.ttrockstars.com) they will need the same username and password that they already use to play on Numbots. TTRS does not replace Numbots and we will be encouraging the children to practice on both programmes. Numbots focuses on developing fluency with mental addition and subtraction, while the aim of TTRS is to secure multiplication and the related division facts. Effort and achievement are recognised in both programmes through certificates and when your child reaches the higher levels they will earn badges to wear with pride on their school uniform!

You will see there are several game modes on TTRS, for the time being we have directed the children to only play in 'Garage' mode as this is the best for improving their recall while they are still learning. In Garage, players are given a personalised set of multiplication questions (and their matching division questions) in each round. The questions they get keep adjusting to provide the best fit for every learner's needs.

Next week, the whole school will be taking part in England Rocks, this is a friendly competition being held on Times Tables Rockstars involving schools in England. The competition runs from **Tuesday 14th November to Thursday 16th November 2023**.

Year 3 children can take part by playing in Garage, with every correct answer to a multiplication or division question they earn themselves, their class and the school a point. The TTRS platform will calculate the class average and winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60-minutes per player. In other words, each player can earn competition points for up to 60-minutes between 07:30 GMT and 19:30 GMT from 07:30 GMT Tuesday 14th November 2023 to 19:30 GMT Thursday 16th November 2023. Once the player goes beyond 60-minutes of play on that day, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition. In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans.

We have attached a useful parent guide which is helpful in explaining the different aspects of the TTRS programme but as always please ask if you have any questions.

Mrs Boiron & Miss Brown
Y3 Class Teachers

Miss Lowrey
Maths Lead

