



The nationally acclaimed 'Times Table Rockstars' has come to our school. In response to parental feedback, which suggested that children would benefit from online maths activities, we have signed up for Times Table Rockstars. If you and your children find it a useful resource, we will look to buy into an annual subscription to the site – please do feedback to us.

What is TT Rockstars?

TT Rockstars is an online package to help children to practise their times tables. It allows children to have fun whilst learning times tables facts. Designed by a maths teacher, it is an ideal way to engage children in maths learning at home, whilst providing friendly competition on some activities.

What about our existing Times Table Mountain?

TT Rockstars offers a paper based version for school, but we are going to stick with our Times Table Mountain paper session, as it is so familiar to our pupils. I am hoping that TT Rockstars Online will complement our Times Table Mountain. With the creator's help, I have set up TT Rockstars online package to tie into our existing system. Therefore, when your child practises in the 'Garage' (more details further on), they will be practising only the times tables according to their current Times Table Mountain Level. However, there is scope in the package for the children to play games which involve all times tables up to 12x12.

Does information go to the teachers?

Yes! We can access all children's profiles to see for how long they have practised, how much 'money' they have earned, and how much they have spent on accessories for their avatar. It also provides us with information about how quickly your child can answer questions, and with which questions the class are most and least successful. This information can then feed into our assessments and the planning of maths lessons.

How do I get started?

Look on the inside cover of your child's reading record where you will find their login name and their password. Either access the site through Google, or download the app from the app store. (I have done both, and it is straight forward. I also showed the children how to access via Google, in assembly this morning.) They will then choose their rock star name and create their avatar (character). On the main dashboard, there are 4 different types of games:



In the 'Garage' pupils can practise by themselves. I am the band manager. (yes I know, cool eh?) I have input the children's information regarding their level on Times Table Mountain, so they will only get questions based around their ability. Due to having a limited number of sections, occasionally your child might get a question from the next colour band up, but this will generally only happen on the higher colour bands (Orange, purple, bronze, silver and gold), when they are more confident. Each time they visit the garage, children earn 'money' from which they can buy new accessories for their avatar.



In the 'Studio', pupils attempt all times tables up to 12x12. As the children get faster, their rockstar status increases: they move from a wannabe, to a busker, to a gigger, to a rock legend etc... I would suggest that pupils from Bronze level upwards on Times Table Mountain would feel most confident with the Studio. However, all children are welcome to have a go!



In the 'Festival', pupils attempt all times tables up to 12x12, but against children all over the world. Again, I would suggest that pupils from Bronze level upwards on Times Table Mountain would feel most confident with this.



In the 'Arena', pupils can play against their friends who are only identifiable by their rockstar name. The good thing about this area is that pupils play against their classmates, but at their own ability. The speediest player wins. If your child is working on yellow level on Times Table Mountain, they will only be asked questions that are on the yellow level, but they might be against somebody who is on the bronze band, answering questions from the bronze level. The player who answers the most questions in the allocated time wins.

Why are there division questions too?

The creator of TT Rock Stars felt that learning division facts is important too, and I could not agree more.

Approximately 20% of the questions are division questions. Try not to let this be a stumbling block. When your child comes across a division question, such as $15 \div 5 =$, try to use the vocabulary that we would use in school:

What is 15 divided by 5? How many fives are in 15? We know that 3 lots of 5 make 15. It will become second nature eventually. KS2 children will certainly be more familiar with this.

So, all that is left to say, is 'Rock On'. I do hope that your child enjoys playing on TT Rock Stars, and that it supplements the home learning activities effectively. All children's data will be input onto the system by 5pm this evening.

Have fun!

Mrs Shipp, band manager.