



St. Michael's C.E. (Controlled) Junior School

Church Lane East, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 3SS

Headteacher: Mrs Steph Tyler

10th February 2020

Dear Parents,

As some parents will be aware, we have been looking at how we reward the children for their times table practice and specifically how we award our certificates for TT Rockstars. Thank you to all those parents who support their children in the use of the online platform in order to become fluent with their multiplication facts. It has become increasingly popular and we can see the impact of the children's increased times table knowledge in our daily maths lessons. This is key to enabling children to progress in their maths learning. Without rapid recall and knowledge of times table facts, they simply cannot achieve age related expectations.

Some of the children are now achieving correct answers for all of the times tables (up to 12x12) on TT Rockstars and they are able to answer the questions in under 2 seconds. This is a real achievement and, as many of you will know, we currently award certificates each week for the children who improve their score the most. In some classes, the same children are coming out on top each week because of the speed of their recall. These children are, we believe, now ready for a new challenge! This will be in the form of an arithmetic challenge. This will include multiple areas of mathematics and require them to still use their multiplication knowledge within further problems.

As a consequence, where a child is at this stage (i.e. answering all questions in under 2 seconds) they will 'graduate' from TT Rockstars. Anyone who graduates will receive a certificate during Celebration Worship to commemorate their success and have their picture placed on a board within school – "The Graduates Board of Fame". TT Rockstars will continue to be accessible for all children, but scores accumulated by graduates will not contribute to the current TT Rockstars certificates, given out in Friday's Celebration Worship. Children's achievements in their arithmetic homework will be recognised in class and, where appropriate, in Celebration Worship.

The new system will begin straight after half term.

Please ask your class teacher if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss C McCabe
Maths Leader

