



Headlands Community Primary School

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Wednesday 11th January 2023

Year 3/4 Battle of the bands

Dear Parents/carers,

Year 3/4 have been working very hard on their times tables. In order to keep the enthusiasm going, we will be launching **'The Battle of the Bands'**. All children across Year 3/4 will be battling for the crown (and the inflatable guitar) as classes participate in Battle of the Bands.

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) has proven to be the most recent phenomenon of learning times tables as it is fun and challenging for all of our pupils. Through its carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice in-school and at home, it ensures no child is left behind in practice and for those that are confident, over-practice is ensured to increase higher levels of automaticity.

To continue to encourage this high level of practice, we are launching our first 'Battle of the Bands' over the Spring term where all classes in Years 3/4 will participate in order to win!

Pupils are excited, enthusiastic, motivated and highly competitive to battle one another, play different modes and earn 'coins' to tweak their personalised rock star avatars. This, in addition to the regular in-class practice, has already shown a progression in pupils' recall and fluency of multiplication/division facts.

Why is this important?

It is essential that pupils are fluent, confident and learn instant recall of times tables as without this, many future maths topics will elude pupils. Times tables are fundamental to many maths topics as mental maths facts and operations need to be able to be carried out quickly and with a degree of automaticity in order to free up pupils' working memory for newer, more challenging tasks at hand.

What is a Battle of the Bands?

A Battle of the Bands is a fun way to get groups of pupils competing against each other and a great way to sustain pupils' enthusiasm in practising times tables on TTRS. This battle will be between all classes in Years 3/4.



When will it begin/end?

Week beginning 16th- 20th January- 3/4 Green vs 3/4 Red

Week beginning 23rd – 27th January 3/4 Red vs 3/4 Blue

Week beginning 30th January – 3rd February 3/4 Blue vs 3/4 Green

The overall winner will then be announced in the class assembly the following week.

How to play:

Pupils can login via their personalised username and passwords. If they are unsure of this, they can check with their class teacher. All children will be limited to 60minutes per day.

How to earn points:

Every correct answer in *any* game type is worth 1 point towards the class team. Pupils can play in Garage, Rock Slam, Soundcheck, etc and earn 1 point per correct answer.

*Pupils should not confuse Battle points with coins! **Coins are separate.** They will still earn 10 coins per correct answer in the Garage, 5 per correct Soundcheck and 1 coin per correct answer everywhere else.*

TTRS promotes the "little and often" technique which is why pupils only need to play between 3-10 minutes a day as part of their daily practice and whilst doing this over the week they will be earning those points for their class band!

We look forward to see how this Battle of the Bands 'rocks' out.

Good luck,
Year 3/4 team