



'ad omnia paratus'



Headteacher: Mrs J Cook

Burton Joyce Primary School
Padleys Lane
Burton Joyce
Nottingham
NG14 5EB

Tel: 0115 9312373

head@burtonjoyce.notts.sch.uk
office@burtonjoyce.notts.sch.uk

20th September 2019

Dear parent(s) / carers,

I hope you received your paper copy of the Times-Table Rockstar (TTR) letter, which was sent home with your child last week. If it were possible, I would have emailed this to you but unfortunately I can only print the letters as a web document and can't download the files to be sent as emails. In the event you have not received the letter or you misplace the letter, a copy of your child's log-in details have been glued into your child's Reading Record.

Last year, I was incredibly pleased with the children's enthusiastic response to the application and the great feedback we received about our first ever Rockstars day. This year, we are looking to build on this and make even greater use of the application.

How are we going to make greater use of TTR?

Firstly, if your child has never used or made little use of TTR, the first of the single player options will currently read 'Gig' instead of 'Garage'. Once the children have played 'Gig' once, an algorithm will establish the most suitable times-table facts for your child to be developing. From this point forward, every time your child plays on 'Garage' or 'Arena', they will only face questions relating to the times-table facts which the algorithm identified your child needs to learn and those which the algorithm identified they already knew (to ensure these facts become fully embedded and do not get forgotten). Once your child is consistently demonstrating a mastery of the identified times-table facts, 'Garage' will alter to 'Gig' again, for your child to tackle and identify the next times-table facts for them to work at.

Secondly, I did detect the children's interest levels waning, as the novelty of the application wore off a little. This year, I am very confident that we can address this issue as the children will be introduced to the 'Battle of the Bands' feature. On a week-to-week basis, and for 2 or 3 weeks through the school breaks, various groupings of children will be competing with one another.

Children will be able to contribute to their respective groups' totals by correctly answering questions in any of the 6 TTR game modes.

Each of the 'battles' will start at 9.00am on a Friday morning and will conclude at 8.00pm on a Thursday evening. Some of the battles, at the end of a term or half term, will conclude on a Wednesday evening, if the children are not in school on the Friday. During Friday's 'Ready For Anything' assemblies, Mrs Cook or the teacher who is leading the assembly will announce the winner of the previous week's battle(s) and announce who will be battling in the forthcoming battle(s).



LOTTERY FUNDED

Who is battling against who during term time?

The children will be pitting their skills against one another in various groupings. For more information regarding the battles, please see the attached file called 'Battle of the Bands timetable'.

From halfway through the Spring term, I have withdrawn the Year 6 children from battles so their competitive streak does not interfere with their efforts in the preparation for the end of KS2 SATs tests. Rest assured, the moment the tests have been completed, the Year 6's are right back in the thick of the action!

Who is battling against who during the half term and termly breaks?

Over the Christmas and Easter break, the boys and girls, from across the whole school, will compete! Whoever loses over the Christmas break will have the chance to exact their revenge over the Easter break!

I have saved the biggest and undoubtedly most important series of battles till last though. During the 3 half-term breaks, house groups will compete with one another! Over the course of the academic year, the half termly house group battles will be used to calculate the overall house group winner. The winner will be announced in the final whole school assembly, before breaking up for the summer holidays.

As referred to above, I suggest keeping a copy of the 'Battle of the Bands timetable' so you can remind your child when they are involved in a battle.

Whilst I am very confident the introduction of the 'Battle of the Bands' will further heighten the children's interest levels, they can continue to make full use of the application even if they are not actively participating in any of that week's group battles. The children should always be aspiring to reach a higher rock status (based on their accuracy and speed of recall) so the more they play the better they will get.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jonathan.smith@burtonjoyce.notts.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr Smith