Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

St Michael's Parish School
ASHBURTON

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At **St Michael's School**, we are continuing to strengthen students' **multiplication fact fluency** across Grades Three-Six. Being able to recall multiplication facts efficiently and accurately is an important part of developing confidence and fluency in Mathematics. We want students to not only know their multiplication facts, but also understand the **strategies and relationships** that help them work out facts they may not yet know.

For Year Prep–Two students, it is vital that children develop strong mathematical fluency. In order to build multiplication skills with confidence, our focus with junior students is on developing fluency with addition. Children at this age need to develop a secure understanding of number and become increasingly confident and efficient when combining quantities, recognising patterns and using a range of mental strategies. Strong addition fluency provides an important foundation for multiplication, as students begin to recognise that multiplication involves repeated addition and the grouping of equal quantities. When basic addition facts and strategies become more automatic, students can devote greater attention to understanding multiplication concepts, making connections between numbers and applying their knowledge to problem-solving. Developing this fluency gradually and meaningfully ensures that children build both the confidence and number sense needed to approach multiplication successfully. Naturally, once these students master this, they will be extended to challenge their thinking.

**What is multiplication fact fluency?**

Multiplication fact fluency means being able to recall and use multiplication facts accurately, efficiently and confidently. Students will develop automatic recall of facts up to **12 × 12**, while learning strategies and connections that support their understanding. Students who have mastered these facts will be extended to explore larger facts, such as **13 × 19**, and apply their knowledge to more complex multiplication, division, decimals and problem-solving.

**What are the multiplication expectations?**

Students build their multiplication knowledge progressively throughout primary school:

- **Grade 1:** Develop fluency with **skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s** as a foundation for multiplication.
- **Grade 2:** Develop fluency with **multiplication facts for 2s** and use **doubling and halving** to extend and apply these facts, including developing related **division facts**.
- **Grade 3:** Develop fluency with the **2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables**, using patterns, relationships and efficient strategies to build understanding.
- **Grade 4:** Develop fluency with the **6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables**, building on known facts and applying efficient strategies.
- **Grades 5–6:** Consolidate and demonstrate **proficient and automatic recall of multiplication facts up to 12 × 12**, and apply this knowledge to more complex multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and problem-solving.

This progression supports students to move from understanding patterns → developing strategies → building fluency → automatic recall → applying their knowledge.

**Why are multiplication facts important?**

Strong multiplication fact knowledge supports students across many areas of Mathematics. When students can recall multiplication facts efficiently, they have more mental capacity available to focus on problem-solving, reasoning and more complex mathematical thinking.

Multiplication facts are particularly important when working with:

- multiplication and division
- mental computation
- fractions
- decimals
- percentages
- area and perimeter
- measurement
- ratios and rates
- larger multiplication and division problems

Our goal is not simply for students to memorise facts. We want students to develop understanding, efficient strategies and automatic recall.

**How will we support and monitor student progress?**

St Michael's has introduced **Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)**, an award-winning online multiplication fluency resource that provides engaging, regular practice to build students' accuracy, confidence and automatic recall. TTRS allows students to practise the multiplication facts they are currently learning, while progress tracking helps teachers monitor individual development and identify areas for further support.

You can find out more by watching the **TTRS Parent and Carer Video**.

**TTRS Home Practice:** We recommend students play the game *Garage* a few times each week. *Garage* provides targeted practice of the times tables that have been assigned to each student, helping them build fluency with the facts they are currently learning.

**How can you help your child at home?**

Short, regular practice is much more effective than long periods of drilling. Aim for **5–10 minutes a few times each week**, keeping practice relaxed, positive and enjoyable.

While online practice such as TTRS is valuable, hands-on games with dice and cards provide an important screen-free way for children to practise multiplication facts, talk through their strategies and build fluency together with family.

| Dice Games | |
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| **Roll & Multiply**<br>● Roll two dice.<br>● Multiply the numbers together.<br>● Say the fact and answer aloud.<br>● For an extra challenge, roll three dice and multiply two numbers first, then multiply by the third. | **Target Number**<br>● Roll two dice and multiply the numbers.<br>● Keep a running total.<br>● First player to reach a target such as 50 or 100 wins.<br>● Players must say the multiplication fact before adding their score. |
| **Make the Biggest Product**<br>● Each player rolls two dice.<br>● Arrange the numbers to make the largest possible multiplication.<br>● For example, rolling 3 and 6 → 6 × 3 = 18.<br>● Older students can use three or four dice to create larger multiplication problems. | **Roll, Double & Double Again**<br>● Roll one die.<br>● Multiply the number by 2, 4 or 8.<br>● Ask: *"How did you work it out?"*<br>● Great for practising the ×2, ×4 and ×8 connections. |

| Card Games | |
|---|---|
| **Multiplication War**<br>● Remove the picture cards.<br>● Each player turns over two cards.<br>● Multiply the numbers.<br>● The player with the largest product wins the cards.<br>● Continue until the deck is gone. | **Flip & Find**<br>● Place multiplication fact cards face down.<br>● Turn over a card and answer it.<br>● If correct, keep the card.<br>● If unsure, use a known fact or strategy to work it out. |
| **Fact Family Match**<br>Make or use cards showing multiplication and division facts, such as:<br>6 × 7 = 42<br>7 × 6 = 42<br>42 ÷ 6 = 7<br>42 ÷ 7 = 6<br>Players need to find the four cards that belong together. | **Beat Your Score**<br>● Choose a times table.<br>● Use a deck of cards to generate facts.<br>● Give your child a set amount of time, such as 2 minutes.<br>● Record how many they answered correctly.<br>● Try again another day and celebrate improvement rather than just speed. |

**Encourage strategies**

If your child doesn't immediately know a fact, encourage them to use a fact they already know.

For example: **7 × 8** "I know **5 × 8 = 40** and **2 × 8 = 16**, so **7 × 8 = 56**."

This helps children understand that multiplication facts are connected, rather than being a collection of unrelated facts to memorise.

**Use known facts**
Encourage children to use relationships between facts:

- **×2** – double
- **×4** – double, then double again
- **×5** – half of ×10
- **×8** – double, double, double
- **×9** – ×10 minus one group
- **Commutativity** – if 4 × 7 = 28, then 7 × 4 = 28

**A note about speed**

**Speed is one part of fluency, but it is not the whole goal.**
We want students to become increasingly efficient and confident with multiplication facts while maintaining accuracy and understanding. If your child doesn't immediately know a fact, encourage them to think, use a strategy and explain their thinking. With regular practice, many facts will eventually become automatic.

**Our goal:** Understand it → Use strategies → Practise it → Recall it automatically

We want every student to develop the multiplication knowledge, strategies and confidence they need to become successful mathematicians. Most importantly, learning multiplication facts should be a positive and encouraging experience.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning in Mathematics.