

Chelsea School Basic Facts Programme

We are very excited about the launch of our new online Chelsea Basic Facts. The programme is designed to be used by students in Year 2 upwards. Instead of a whole class sitting to complete basic facts tests at the same time, students can let their teacher know when they are ready to attempt the next level and then complete an online test at a convenient time.

Interactive Online Practice Forms are available at home by following the link on the school website - Learning/Basic Facts. These practice forms can be completed at any time of the day and anywhere in the world. Students receive an email informing them of their score and showing them which questions they have answered correctly or incorrectly. This is a real bonus for parents, as now you will know exactly what sort of question your child needs help with.

Although the Quiz Forms (the actual tests) are also accessible through the website, for the time being these are only intended to be completed at school. As with the practice forms, an email with results is sent to the student, who then forwards it to their teacher to show their progress/achievement. The question order in each practice form and quiz are random, ensuring students do not learn a sequence of answers by rote.

We believe that moving away from a formal testing situation will not only reduce students' anxiety but will also minimise interruption to their learning time.

The progression of basic facts knowledge through the levels is linked directly to the New Zealand Curriculum and Number Framework. Although it would be normal for a student to complete all the sections at one level before moving up to the next, if a student developed an ability or interest in a higher level, they are free to chat to their teacher about completing a quiz.

We have spent a great deal of time checking over the practice forms and quizzes but if you do spot an error, please let us know. I would like to acknowledge the Chelsea staff, who helped to write the questions; Peter Anderson, who wrote many of the word problems and Jono Lange, the IT whizz who has built the entire platform.