

A Basic Facts Athon for every learner

Kia ora whānau — we are holding a Basic Facts Athon to strengthen students' mathematical knowledge and to raise funds for engaging maths resources in every classroom. Accuracy matters more than speed.

ATHON DAY Wednesday, September 23, 2026	SCHOOL WEEK Week 10, Term 3	SPONSORSHIP DUE Friday, October 23, 2026
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WHY BASIC FACTS MATTER

The New Zealand Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum places a strong focus on secure number knowledge and on recalling basic facts accurately and efficiently. When students can recall these facts quickly, the thinking time they would have spent on simple calculations goes instead into harder problems, spotting patterns and learning new ideas. Fluent recall is the foundation everything else is built on.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Practise little and often, every day.
- Say facts aloud while driving, walking or cooking.
- $6 \times 4 = 24$, so $24 \div 6 = 4$. Link the two.
- Use flashcards — show a fact, see how fast.
- Focus on a few facts, and mix up the order.
- Make it a game. Race a clock or beat your score.

Celebrate improvement, and keep practice positive — students build confidence when they experience success and can see themselves improving.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL PRACTISE

Students receive practice material matched to their year level, and all of it is on the school website — readable on a phone or tablet as well as printed. This is **not** the Athon paper itself, but it follows the same format and the same types of question, so nothing on the day is a surprise.

SUPPORTING MATHS AT WAIRAKEI

Money raised goes directly towards hands-on resources that support problem solving, collaboration, and the chance for tamariki to explore and enjoy mathematics. A sponsor form comes home with this letter; sponsorship money is due by **Friday, October 23, 2026** (Week 2, Term 4). Thank you for supporting your child, and for supporting mathematics at Wairakei Primary School.

Ngā mihi nui,

Sara Sprague

Mathematics Curriculum Lead Teacher

