

Dear families,

As you may be aware, the government recently introduced a times table test called the 'Multiplication Check' for pupils in year 4, to be taken in June each year. The assessment is mandatory for all schools in England.

Under the National Curriculum, primary school children are expected to know their 2,5 and 10 times tables by the end of Year 2, their 3,4 and 8 times tables by the end of year 3 and all tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June over a three-week period from Monday 5th June 2023;
- is done online using a computer or tablet;
- can be done one pupil at a time, in groups or as a class;
- will take no longer than 5 minutes;
- will feature 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to answer each question;
- there's no problem solving or division, just simple "3 x 4 = ?" type questions;

The results are for the teachers. There is no pass or fail mark however last year the government focussed on how many children achieved full marks 25/25. The year before they focussed on how many children achieved 20/25. We therefore focus on both with 20/25 being the minimum age related standard that we aim for. The results of the check are not published publicly. They are for us to use so that we can provide the appropriate support where necessary. Your child's score will be given to you in Praising Stars 6.

I am sure that along with you, we do not want our children worried or stressed about the check. The Government has called it a "check" rather than a "test" or "exam" for a reason.

Practice at home

Obviously, we do a lot of practice in school. At home, if you can do little and often, it really helps secure the facts. I can not emphasise how much of an impact this will have on future learning. Below are a few ways that you could help.:

- learning the multiplication tables via Times Tables Rockstars. Five one minute goes in the 'garage' aspect of the game everyday is best as this targets the individual child's needs.

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- If you do not have access to online or if you prefer less screen time, then reciting times tables by rote (1 times 4 is 4, 2 times 4 is 8, etc) is just as effective.
- <https://www.themathsfactor.com/times-tables-check/pinpoint/#/> this website is really useful.

Why do we learn the times tables?

In primary school, times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in Years 5 and 6 (division, fractions, percentages).

For further information about these tests please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr S Tait
Head of School