

27th September 2023

Y4 Multiplication Check

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 two-week period from Monday 3 June 2024;
- is done online using a chromebook 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. The results of the test 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.

What we are doing in school

In school we are practising times tables daily. We are doing rote learning, TT Rockstars, learning songs and using counting sticks.

Starting from **Tuesday 14th November 2023**, we are also inviting children to come into school at 8:30am Monday-Thursday to have an extra 15 minutes of concentrated times tables practise on TT Rockstars before the school day starts. Children will need to come into school via the front office.

Each week children will complete a times tables test (on a Friday) which is focussed on a particular times table, which will be set as homework. As we move closer to the check, we will practise all the times tables at one time.

Practise at home

We will need your continued support to help practise the times tables with your children. Some easy ways to do this include:

- learning the multiplication tables set weekly as homework.
- reciting times tables by rote (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- using apps and games (your child has a login to TTRockstars and EMILE)
- <https://www.themathsfactor.com/times-tables-check/pinpoint/#/> this website is really useful.
- singing times tables songs (there are loads online)

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).

Multiplication Check Meeting

We would like to invite parents to a Multiplication Check Meeting on **Monday 2nd October 2023 at 3:30pm**, where the Year 4 teachers will go through details of the check and be available to answer any questions. Please collect your child from school as normal and proceed to the front office to wait before the meeting starts. The meeting should finish no later than 4pm.

For further information about these tests please visit:

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Matthew Vickers
Principal

Laura Vickers
Primary Maths Director