

Tuesday 21st May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Year 4 Times Tables Check

The National Multiplication Table Check (MTC) is a test for all Year 4 pupils that takes place **Tuesday 4th and Friday 14th June 2024**. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can **fluently recall their times tables up to 12**, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

What is the multiplication table check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of **25 times table questions**. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have **6 seconds** to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

Why are times tables important?

Times tables are fundamental to support children and underpin everything within Maths. It is vital that all children know their multiplication facts up to 12 x 12.

Knowing the multiplication facts up to 12x 12, will give them the essential knowledge needed to be proficient with Years 5 and 6 Curriculum. In school, as part of Early Morning Work, we are using TimesTable Rockstars sound check mode to practise answering questions under timed conditions. We are also practising our times tables in Maths lessons.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for the check, which can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check was designed to be inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements. If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child's school.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage children to play Times table Rockstars as often as possible. Small 5-minute daily sessions will help children to learn times tables more than one long session a week. Try to encourage your child to play the 'Soundcheck Mode' within the game over the coming weeks. This provides a timed 25 question test which is similar to the actual check children will take. If at all possible, let them play it on a computer rather than phone or tablet as this will enable them to practise their typing speed and accuracy as well as times tables knowledge.
- Quiz your child at home regularly. This could be when making dinner or on the journey to school
- Display a poster with all of the times tables facts on at home.
- We teach the children fun tricks at school such as the 9 times table finger trick. If you know this, you can practise it with them at home.
- We use lots of songs to teach our times tables in school. Children can recognise these from you tube by typing in 4 times table song. Let them sing along with those at home. Children could also make their own times tables.
- Chanting their times table is an excellent way to learn them. They could do this each time they walk up the stairs.
- **You can use the free multiplication table check to help develop your child's time table speed:**

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results, to allow them to identify pupils who need additional support.

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes. We will share your child's score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Russell

Year 4 class teacher