

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. I was able to share information about this with parents who could attend the Year 4 information meeting, however I wanted to ensure that those who could not make it were able to learn more about the check also. This letter will cover what the multiplication check entails, what we will be doing in school to support the children and what can be done at home.

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.

Practise in school

- Learning the multiplication tables set weekly as homework.
- Weekly opportunities to complete a 'soundcheck' on TT Rockstars (the game on the website that is closest in format to the multiplication check) as well as 'garage' (a game which produces a heatmap of the children's strongest times tables/ones that need more practise)
- Tackling Tables (timed multiplication practise opportunity)
- Unofficial multiplication check on TT Rockstars every term

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) as well as random fact recall to develop fluency. I will send out a copy of the children's heatmap produced by them playing the 'garage' game, which may help direct you with which times tables to focus on at home.
- 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 many online)

Why is it important to know 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). Becoming fluent in this knowledge now, is hugely beneficial for the future. Securing the basics of maths, including the fluent recall of times tables, is crucial for children's success in moving on to more complex maths.

For further information about these tests please visit:

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Lucy Yeomans
4LY Class Teacher.