

## Year 4 Multiplication Check

Dear Parent,

As you may be aware, the national '**Multiplication Tables Check**' is a test for all year four pupils that will this year take place between the **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June**.

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. In primary school, times table knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics that the pupils learn throughout KS1 and KS2.

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.

In school: Under the national curriculum, primary school are expected to know their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4 so we have been preparing all students in Year 4 to know these for quite some time now. The pupils regularly undertake times tables tests, have all been working on Mastering Number at KS2 daily and use Times Tables Rock Stars on a very frequent basis.

Before the 'Multiplication Check', all pupils will complete several practice 'checks' so that they are familiar with the set-up and organisation of the 'check'.

The check itself will be carried out in June and will be completed online on a laptop. All pupils regularly practice in school on a laptop so are used to the layout of the keys to press. They will complete the test in the hall, with each pupil on their own laptop. There are no problem solving or division questions, just simple ' $3 \times 4 = ?$ ' style questions.

Although our year 4 pupils are aware that they will be undertaking this check, we are not drawing attention to it. Working on our speed of recall of the multiplication facts and completing tests / checks on TTRS is all part of our planned curriculum coverage, so there is nothing new for the children. Whilst we encourage pupils to regularly practise their multiplication tables and associated facts at home, there is not a need to be doing any additional work on top of this, nor discussing it at greater length.

The results of these tests are for the teachers. There is not a pass or fail mark and the results are not published publicly. The results will not end up on a league table and they are not anything to be concerned about. The results are for us teachers to use to support our planning and provision for each individual pupil

Ways that you can support your child at home with practising the times tables include:

- Asking questions such as 'What is  $7 \times 8$ ?'
- Reciting times table by rote (we say them as factor, factor, product e.g. 4,5,20 and the children are familiar with hand gestures for these)
- Using apps and games TTRS, Hit the button (Topmarks Maths Games)
- Singing times tables songs (there are lots online)

If you have any concerns or further questions about the Multiplication Tables Check, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Miss Grant and Mrs Osborne