

6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, the government has introduced a times table test called the 'Multiplication Check' for pupils in year 4, to be taken in June each year. This is the first year that the assessment will be mandatory for all schools in England – its introduction was planned for two years ago but did not go ahead due to the pandemic.

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 6 June 2022
- 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. 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.

### **Practice at home**

We will need your continued support to help practice 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 TT Rockstars and MyMaths)
- <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).

For further information about these tests please visit:

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Battersby  
Primary Maths Director