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23rd September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children in Year 4 are now required to take part in a Multiplication Tables Check. This will be taken towards the end of Year 4 to make sure they are meeting the benchmark of memorising their times tables up to 12×12 before moving up to Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and Year 6). Children will sit the new times tables test in June 2020. The Multiplication Tables Check will take place on an iPad at school with a teacher.

The times tables test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting approximately 5 minutes in total. The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with – mostly from the one times table. Following the practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as $2 \times 5 =$ with the child required to input the product or result, which in the example we've provided would mean inputting the answer 10. Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question.

The questions will be randomly selected by the testing programme from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 . The test's software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier times tables focused on more in Years 3 and 4. (The 2s, 5s and 10s are more of a focus in Years 1 and 2.)

What can you do to help your child in practising their times tables?

Even though many schools have chosen to streamline their homework policies, times tables (along with home reading) are seen as an area for parents to [support their children in their learning](#).



We would recommend a number of strategies to support your child in the run-up to and aftermath of the times tables test including:

- Times tables chanting: “6, 12, 18, 24...”;
- Times tables chanting in reverse order: “108, 99, 90, 81...”;
- Using times tables songs
- Using apps, like the one by ks2timestables.co.uk or [Hit the Button](#)
- Using free online games, like those on [Maths Frame](#);
- Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: “What is 4 x 7? What is 9 x 5? What is 6 x 11?”;
- Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $3 \times 4 = 12$;
- Asking your child related short division questions, like “What is 12 divided by 4? What is 55 divided by 11?”;
- Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: “If five friends have £3 each, how much money do they have in total?”;

We appreciate your continued support with our home learning strategies.

Kind regards

Miss K L Evans
Maths Lead Teacher

