



28 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware that children in year 4 have to take a multiplication check at the end of the year.

Here's what you need to know: Under the national curriculum primary school children are expected to know their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4. As a result we've been preparing the children to know their times tables by the end of Year 4 for quite some time now and this will be a useful checkpoint.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term. There will be a three-week period that the test can be taken starting on 6th June.
- 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 are no problem solving or division, just simple "3 x 4 = ?" type questions
- during the test there will be an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, which will form the majority of the 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 a letter. 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: as maths is such a big subject, and we will of course continue to teach the full curriculum, we will need your continued support to help practice the times tables with your children. Some easy ways to do this include:

- asking questions such as "what's 7 x 8?"
- reciting times tables by rote (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- using apps and games including times Times Tables Rockstars (if you are unsure how to access this please contact your child's teacher)
- 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) **that prepare children for the end of primary SATs.**

The following QR code takes you to a practice check that can be done on tablets/mobile devices and emulates the check the children will take. Please feel free to practise as many times as you like but don't put too much pressure on children to do it.



If you have any questions regarding the check or require additional information on how to support your children at home then please let us know. Either contact your child's class teacher or email me jbarber@asquith.notts.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Barber