**SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School**



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Dear Parent,

You may be aware that the DFE have introduced a new test for year 4 children called the “Multiplication Tables Check”. This multiplication tables check has been designed to help ensure that children in primary school know their times tables up to 12 off by heart. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and flexibly, and allows them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in school.

Assuming plans are not changed due to Covid19, the check itself:

* will take place in the summer term in June.
* is done online using a computer or tablet.
* can be done one student 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’re not going to end up on a league table and they’re not to be concerned about, we do not want our pupils to be worried or stressed about the check. The Government has called it a “check” rather than a “test” or “exam” for a reason. Please be supportive of this approach and refrain from talking about the checks at home.

Because 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 practise the times tables at home 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 (see below for resources)
* singing times tables songs (there are lots online)

Further information about the check can be found below and also at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116420/2023_Information_for_parents_Multiplication_tables_check_Nov_22_PDFA.pdf>

Please do get in contact with either of us or Mr Ullah (Maths lead) with any questions,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Catling and Mrs Litchfield

**Year 3** – need to know 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

E.g. 3x4=12, 4x3=12, 12÷3=4, 12÷4=3

**Year 4** – need to know all of their multiplication and division facts to 12.

E.g. 9x8=72, 8x9=72, 72÷8=9, 72÷9=8

*‘Counting in groups of’ is a useful skill to learn if you are unsure of your facts’*

**Websites:**

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> - we use this website a lot to practise in school so your child will be familiar with it. There are also lots of other ways to practise on here.

<https://ttrockstars.com> TimesTables Rockstars– your child should have their password and login.

https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/multiplication-and-division - ‘hit the button’ can be found here which the children love! Lots of the games including ‘hit the button’ are also tablet friendly.

https://www.multiplication.com/games/all-games - variety of multiplication and division games

https://www.mathplayground.com/ASB\_Index.html - scroll down for multiplication.

# DFE Multiplication Test information for parents:

**Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?**

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check in 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. It will also help your child’s school to identify if your child may need additional support.

**What is the MTC?**

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.

**What if my child cannot access the check?**

There are several access arrangements available for the check, these can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child’s teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements. If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child’s headteacher.

**Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?**

No, you do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practise times tables with your child.

Schools will have unlimited access to a try it out area from April. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support required to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

**How will the results be used?**

Schools will have access to all their pupils’ results, allowing those pupils who need additional support to be identified.

**Will I receive feedback on my child’s check?**

Yes. Your child’s teacher will share your child’s score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.

**Further information**

Your child’s teacher will be able to answer any questions about the multiplication tables check.

For further details you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.