

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, all Year 4 children will be formally tested on their times tables fluency this term. We will be completing the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) after half term, at some point between **Monday 5th and Friday 16th June 2023**.

Times Tables - The Basics

Primary-school children are expected to be fluent in all of the times tables facts up to 12x12. Under the current National Curriculum, children should be fluent by the end of Year 4 to support them with more difficult mathematical concepts which they will encounter in Years 5, 6 and beyond.

Why MTC?

The Department for Education (DfE) explains that the check is part of a new focus on mastering numeracy, giving children the skills and knowledge they need. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether Y4 pupils can recall their multiplication tables fluently (being able to answer times tables questions accurately and quickly, without having to work out the answers).

What does the score mean?

The children will be asked 25 random multiplication questions throughout their MTC. There is no "pass mark" (expected standard threshold) for the MTC, however the DfE says the purpose of the check is to help teachers identify which children are falling behind and target areas where they're not being given a chance to succeed.

How can you help your child practise their times tables?

We have been so impressed with children's level of engagement with their times tables this year, and we ask that you continue to support them as you have been. We do recommend children continue to practise in preparation for the MTC using the Soundcheck game on TT Rockstars which replicates the real thing.

Some of the other techniques you can use include:

- Practising times tables by rote.
- Asking your child multiplication questions out of order - such as 'What is 11x12? What are five sixes?'
- Asking your child the related division facts: 'What's 8/4? What's 9/3?'
- Using arrays to help your child memorise times tables - you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.
- Using apps and games like TTRockstars, to build speed.
- Times table posters or work booklets.

We thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the upcoming MTC, please do come and talk to one of us.

Mrs Durham and Mrs O'Dea