



Saltford
CofE Primary School

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Dear Parents

You may be aware that from June 2020 there is a new test for year 4 children called the "Multiplication Tables Check". 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 are not concerned about the check at all.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June sometime over a three week period from Monday 8th June 2020.
- 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.
- During the test there will be an emphasis on the 6, 7's, 8's, 9's 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're not going to end up on a league table and they're not to be concerned about. The results are for us teachers to use so we can provide an even better education! Your child's score will be given to you alongside their school report.

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. We will endeavour not to draw childrens' attention to the check so will be not be referencing in class unduly. Please be supportive of this approach and refrain from talking about the checks at home.

Practise 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 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 about a resource your student has access to)
- 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).

Please also remember to make use of **TT Rockstars and Doodle Tables** to further support your child. On our class webpage, you will also find a variety of games that you can download, print and play. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that Doodle maths has replaced our previous homework and all children are expected to log in **regularly each week** to earn their stars. The teacher dashboard is checked by your child's teacher weekly.

Please also find [here](#) a link to the Inspire maths presentation that Mr Godwin led last week during our Access mornings which gives some further information about the check.

If you require any support with practising these calculations at home please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

For further information about these tests please click on the link [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support,

The Lower Key Stage team.