

BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dear Parent/Carer

You may have heard announcements about the Multiplication Tables Check coming in for Year 4 children. Here's what you need to know:

- We love maths. It's an awesome subject to learn and to teach.
- Maths is a big subject and we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental - they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top. We've always believed that.
- We're not worried about the checks. In fact, we're in favour of the checks because it's always good to sharpen practice across the education sector and this is a useful lever to get schools to do that. We're already in a good place with learning the tables and the expectations are in line with the National Curriculum so it's business as usual for us.
- The checks become compulsory in 2022 although we are participating in the voluntary assessment this year.
- Despite the success of remote learning, it has been a very disrupted year of education since last Spring. In order to minimise the impact of the time away from school our staff have been working hard to provide additional time and support to the learning of multiplication facts as they are such an important building block of maths education.
- They will be done within a three-week-long window starting 7th June.
- There's no pass or fail, there's just a score out of 25 marks. They're not to be used to compare children, they're for us to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision.
- The checks consist of 25 questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to 12×12. There's nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up. The assessment will focus on 6,7,8,9 and 12 times tables as they are classed as most difficult. The 1 times table is not included.
- Tests in themselves don't cause anxiety. It's the perceived cost of not doing well. For that reason, we will actively downplay the checks with the children. The only thing that will stress the children is if we repeatedly refer to the checks in class or at home, even casually in front of them when they're not supposed to be listening.

- You may notice us taking even more initiative when it comes to learning the tables with more options for home learning. If you are practising with your child, remember you're practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests. So please enjoy the opportunity to work with your child and remember to hold back on comments about the checks.
- Please be supportive of our approach in parent-parent communication channels. It's important that we get behind the checks for the benefit of all our children.

We are continuing to learn TimesTable within school but support at home is vital. Attached to this letter, there is a number of helpful hints, tips and games children can do at home alongside Timestable Rockstars.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to speak your child's teacher.

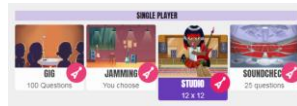
Yours sincerely

Mrs C Dickinson
Year 4 Leader

Multiplication Tables Check - Helpful hints

- **Timetable Rockstars**

To help develop this quick recall, the children are encouraged to use the 'studio' game mode on Times Table Rock Stars, as this is most like the statutory test.



- **Pearson Pinpoint tables check**

This is another game the children have been introduced to, that replicates the government test.

This is the QR code and link to reach this times table check.

<https://www.themathsfactor.com/times-tables-check/pinpoint/#/>



Once the children have clicked on the link or QR code and clicked start, they will be guided to choose the tab that tests all the times tables.

All times tables from 2 to 12

T Towards: You have 10 seconds to answer each question. You can stop the timer at any time by selecting **timer on/off** at the top of the screen. **Start**

S Securing: You have 6 seconds to answer each question. This Check matches the **Multiplication Tables Check** that you will do in Year 4. **Start**

They can then choose from three game modes, but these are the options they should choose from.

Once the children have played, they can see their progress.