



Saltford
CofE Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware that from June 2020 the Government announced a new test for Year 4 children called the "Multiplication Tables Check". Due to the pandemic, this test was postponed last summer and again this year. However, as a Trust, the primary schools in our team have decided to go ahead with the 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 this will be a useful checkpoint.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June sometime over a one-week period from Monday 21st June 2021
- 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'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, 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 (see below about a resource your pupil 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 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 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 year which gives some further information about the check.

Mrs Nethercott and Mr Jenkins will be hosting an online meeting via Teams on **Monday 17th May at 6pm** to give you further information. This will also be an opportunity for us to talk to you about the ways in which you can support your child next term in readiness for their transition into Year 5 and for you to ask any questions about the check. Details of how to access the meeting will be sent out to you in due course. We would be grateful if you could complete a very short Form [here](#) to indicate your attendance at the meeting.

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

For further information about these tests please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

The Lower Key Stage team