



MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love To Learn

20 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers of Y4 Children

TIMES TABLES – MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK

As you know, times table knowledge is fundamental to a child's mathematical understanding and quick recall of the times tables can not only speed up a child's arithmetic skills when working out number problems, but it can also hugely increase their confidence when faced with a mathematical problem.

Due to the importance of times table understanding, the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced a new Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) which will be statutory for Y4 children in 2020 (current Year 3 children). In 2019, schools are being encouraged to take part in the optional MTC which will follow the same format. We believe this check will help the children to continue to work on their quick recall of their times table facts, so Y4 children will be taking part in the MTC.

The MTC will take place in June 2019 (exact dates TBC) and will consist of 25 on-screen multiplication questions, with the children being allowed 6 seconds to answer each question with a 3 second gap between questions. They will be based on simple times table facts, such as $4 \times 3 = _ _$.

The DfE has stated that the results of the test will not be published publicly. There is no pass or fail; a score out of 25 marks will be provided to the school on completion of the MTC. The tests will not to be used to compare children; they are for us to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision.

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 are practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests.

We have signed up to a programme called Times Table Rock Stars which provides pupils with a fun, engaging way to learn and recall their multiplication facts. It also has the added benefit of being able to provide a forum for children to practise their times tables in a similar format to the MTC. In due course, you will receive more details about your child's Times Table Rock Stars login and instructions on how you can access this site at home.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Hollie Ward
Assistant Principal of LKS2