



St. John's CE Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

In June 2024, all children within Year 4 will take part in a statutory multiplication tables check. Each child will take a short online test to make sure their knowledge is at the expected level.

What is the purpose of the multiplication tables check?

The DfE state that the motivation behind the multiplication tables check is to allow teachers a chance to identify children who may need some more help with their times tables. And, in doing so, stop them from falling further behind their peers as they move up to Year 5 and then Year 6. It is important to note that it is not a judgement on what your child can do but a way for the school to know how their teaching is progressing and to adjust their focus if needed. Schools have a two-week window from the Monday 3rd June 2024 to have their Year 4 children sit the test but will be free to choose which day within that two-week period that they sit the test. All state schools in England, including maintained schools, special schools, academies and free schools will be required to enter their children for the multiplication tables check.

What is the Year 4 multiplication tables check?

The multiplication tables check is an online test for pupils in Year 4. Pupils are asked to answer 25 questions on times tables from their 2 times tables through to their 12 times tables. They are given six seconds per question, with three seconds rest between each question so the test should last less than five minutes. Questions about the six, seven, eight, nine, and twelve times tables are likely to come up most often as these are the hardest for most children to learn. It's a good idea to focus on these tricky times tables with your child.

At St John's, we work hard to ensure children are learning their multiplication tables regularly and their progress is carefully monitored. As well as working on their multiplication tables at school, it is vital that children continue to learn them at home too. We have invested heavily into Times Table Rock Stars and strongly believe that regular training on this site will help to improve children's speed and accuracy as well as allowing them to become familiar with answering questions using a device.

What can you do to help your child?

We recommend a number of strategies to support your child in the run-up to the times tables test including:

- Times tables chanting: "6, 12, 18, 24..."
- Times tables chanting in reverse order: "108, 99, 90, 81..."
- Using times tables songs (use You Tube to find suitable ones for your children)
- Using apps, like the one by Times Tables Rock Stars or Hit the Button
- Using free online games such as Top Marks
- Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, e.g. "What is 4 x 7? What is 9 x 5?"
- Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $3 \times 4 = 12$

Useful Websites:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

<https://urbrainy.com/mtc/test#>

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Oakden

"SHINE like the star you are."

