



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:

1. 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 are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental.
2. We're not worried about the checks and this wasn't a surprise. 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.
3. The checks became compulsory in 2020.
4. They will be done most likely within a two-week-long window towards the end of the year (June).
5. The results of the test are not published publicly. There's no pass or fail, there's just a score out of 25 marks. The results are for *us* to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision. We're actually looking forward to seeing how well we do.
6. 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.
7. The checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts. That doesn't mean we'll forget all about the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication. We're going to be learning those too, partly because they go hand in hand with excellent recall.
8. Given that the questions are relatively simple, age appropriate and the length of the check, which is carried out on a computer, is no more than $2 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes, we don't think the checks are onerous.
9. Please refrain from referring to the checks at home. As far as they're concerned, when it comes to the day itself, they're going to have the computers or tablets out so it will just seem like we have chosen to do something slightly different today.
10. You may notice us taking even more initiative when it comes to learning the tables with more options for home learning like the use of Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS). 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.
11. 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.

If you have any questions at all about the multiplication check, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team at Wombridge Primary School