

Dear Parents,

You may have heard announcements about the Multiplication Tables Check for year 4 children. It is a national statutory check that all children in the country will take. This became compulsory in 2020, but DJS were involved with a pilot of the check last year to help us understand and prepare our children for it. The feedback from our pupils was that it was achievable, fun and very similar to a soundcheck on TT Rockstars.

In June, there is a 3 week window in which all year 4 children will take the check using a school computer.

The check consists of 25 questions. The questions will all be multiplication questions (for example 8×7), up to 12×12 . Each question has a time limit of 6 seconds for the answer to be inputted. The check then moves on automatically. There are no division, problem solving or reasoning questions. There is no national league table or “pass mark”: just a score out of 25.

At DJS, we appreciate there is more to maths than learning times tables. 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. The checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts. Our maths teaching is all about the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication as well as recalling multiplication facts. Excellent recall of times tables facts makes this part of maths easier, so is an important aim.

We recommend that pupils try to use www.ttrockstars.com for about 15 minutes a week, mostly on ‘garage’ mode. As we get closer to the check, it is recommended to spend more time on the ‘soundcheck’ mode than the garage, as this is the closest experience to that of the Multiplication Tables Check.

Of course, you may wish to practise and test times tables with your child. This would be extremely beneficial at this stage. There are some fantastic practical games that the children have developed in school, and I am sure they will be more than happy to share them with you (using a pencil and paper).

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s class teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Tarrant
(Y4 co-ordinator)

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(Maths lead)