



Dobcroft Junior School

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Multiplication Tables Check

Dear Parents & Carers of Year 4,

Please find attached an information guide for the Multiplication Times Tables Check that the Y4 pupils will be completing in June.

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 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.

1. The Times Tables Check will be completed within a two-week-long window in June.
2. The results of the test are not published publicly and will not form part of a league table. All children will receive a score out of 25.
3. The check consists 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.
4. The checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts.
5. There are concerns shared in the public domain that this is "yet another test". The government has been careful to call it a "check". As with all assessments we will use the information to inform our planning for children moving forward into year 5.
6. 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. Children will complete the 'check' in small groups. We are hopeful that the process is not onerous.
7. 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, that is excellent and, ultimately, we are setting the home learning to ensure pupils have a sound foundation for all further maths learning and concepts- not to take the Check.

Helpful strategies you can use at home

Keep any practising you do at home light-hearted and in short, regular bursts.

- TT Rockstars (The Soundcheck area mimics the Times Tables Check)
- Hit the Button is a great game to practise speed of recall <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- Over learning – chanting tables by rote, then in any order, on the way to school, in the car etc.
- Writing down key facts and putting them round the house for children to see regularly
- Any printable worksheets widely available to download for free

If you have a questions, please feel free to ask your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Y4 Team

