

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

All children in Year 4 are required to sit the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). Due to Covid disrupting our pupil's learning, the government has called for this to be an optional test for 2021. At Bovington Academy, we have decided to still go ahead and take part in the check. We feel this is a crucial part of our maths learning and has been a major focus this year.

### **Why do we learn the times tables?**

Times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations, problem solving and solving division, fractions and percentages. Under the National Curriculum, primary school children are expected to know up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.

### **The check itself:**

- Will take place in the summer term in June.
- Is done online using a computer
- Can be done one student at a time, in groups or as a class.
- Will take no longer than 5 minutes.
- Will feature 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to answer each question.
- There is no problem solving or division, just simple "3 x 4 = ?" type questions.

### **The results are for the teachers**

There is no pass or fail mark. The results of the test are not published publicly and will be used to provide support and intervention where needed.

### **No stress!**

Staff at school and parents do not want children worried or stressed about the check. The Government has called it a "check" rather than a "test" or "exam" for this reason. We will endeavour not to draw students' attention to the check so will not be referencing this in class unduly. We complete timed timetables practises weekly both online and on paper in readiness for the check.

### **Practise at Home**

We need your continued support to help practise the times tables with your children as much as possible. Some easy ways to do this include:

- Asking questions such as "What's 7 x 8?"
- Reciting times tables by rote (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- Using apps and games such as Times Table Rock Stars or others guided by your class teacher
- Singing times tables songs (there are loads online)
- Ask your child what times table they are focusing on in class and work on that

### **What if my child cannot access the check?**

There are several options available for schools to use to ensure your child can access the check. There are, however, some circumstances in which it may not be appropriate for a

pupil to take the check. If you have any concerns about your child being able to access the MTC, you should talk to your child's teacher.

If you have a question or want to offer your thoughts on any of the above, please bring them to the attention of your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,  
The Year 4 Team