Dream, Believe and Achieve!

Monday 9ᵗʰ March

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that from June 2020 there is a new test for year 4 children called the "Multiplication Tables Check". Under the National Curriculum primary school children are expected to know their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4.

The check itself:
- ✓ will take place in the summer term in June.
- ✓ is done online using a computer or tablet.
- ✓ can be done one student at a time, in groups or as a class.
- ✓ will feature 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to answer each question.
- ✓ There's no problem solving or division just simple "3 x 4 = ?" type questions.
- ✓ There'll be an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 tables because these are considered to be the most difficult.

The results are for the teachers. There is no pass or fail mark. The results of the test are not published publicly, they're not going to end up on a league table and they're not to be concerned about. The results are for teachers to use so we can provide an even better education. I am sure that along with you, we do not want our children worried or stressed about the check. The Government has called it a "check" rather than a "test" or "exam" for a reason.

Practise at Home:
Because maths is such a big subject, and we will of course continue to teach the full curriculum, we will need your continued support to help practise the times tables with your children. 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 (Your child has a login for both Mathletics and TTRockstars)
- ✓ singing times tables songs (there are loads online)

Why do we learn the times tables?
In primary school, times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in years 5 and 6 (division, fractions, percentages).

If you have any further queries about the multiplication check, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hills
Deputy Head Teacher