



Wednesday 8th February 2023

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

Multiplication Tables Check

This year, pupils in Year 4 are required to take part in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The MTC is a statutory requirement for all children in year 4 and takes place in the summer term. It is a quick check of your child's ability to recall times tables facts (within 12×12) fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including special educational needs, disability or English as a second language. There are also several access arrangements designed for the check that can be used to support pupils with specific needs. We will ensure that, if needed, the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check.

After the check, we will have access to all pupils' results, allowing those who need additional support to be identified. We will share your child's score with you as we would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.

Because the National Curriculum for maths is so extensive, there is an expectation that parents will help their child learn their times tables at home and not rely exclusively on schools to bring them up to speed. There are several ways in which you can support your child to prepare for the MTC. Firstly, please support your child each week with their times tables homework; ensuring they are written in their homework books, practised and learned for the test that week.

All children have a log in for Times Tables Rock Stars. It is a fun, interactive way to support your child in learning their times tables. This format has very successfully boosted times tables recall speed for hundreds of thousands of pupils over the last 8 years in over 14,000 schools – both primary and secondary – worldwide. Children practice in class using TT Rock Stars several times a week and are constantly improving their recall, both in speed and accuracy. Extra practice at home would boost their progress further.

Other strategies that may be useful are:

- Access times tables songs on YouTube. There are lots of different versions, so find a song you like and learn 'the lyrics' as you would any other song!
- Practise tables as a time-filler. When you're sitting at traffic lights or walking to school, it is the perfect opportunity for a bit of times table practice.
- Help your child with the ones they find tricky. There are usually one or two multiplication facts in each times table that are more difficult. When you notice that your child is stumbling over the same fact each time, try to give them extra practice. You could even get your child to write the fact out in a fun way on a piece of card and then stick it somewhere prominent (like on the fridge) so that they have an extra reminder!
- Use a number grid. These are available at school to bring home. They are a great way to demonstrate how times tables relate to number sequences. You can get your child to colour in multiples of different numbers on different number squares so that they can clearly see the number patterns.
- Make it real. The danger with too much rote learning of times tables is that children can fail to see the use of times tables in real life. Try to take opportunities to get your child to use multiplication in problem solving, for

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School
Mitchell Street
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 1LU
Telephone: 0191 410 2324
Email: birtleystjosephscatholicinfantschool@gateshead.gov.uk
<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/>



St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School
School Street
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 2PN
Telephone: 0191 410 2231
Email: birtleystjosephscatholicjuniorschool@gateshead.gov.uk
Email: stjosephsjuniorslearning@gatedu.org

example working out quantities for scaling up a recipe, or calculating the price of more than one item of shopping.

- Create a challenge. Make it fun by turning times table practice into a competition or challenge for your child, by timing them and keeping a record of their scores.

Oxford Owl have produced a lovely booklet that will support learning at home. It explains patterns that might help to remember some of the times tables. There are suggested games and also some great resources. Each child will be given a booklet to bring home.

Being able to rapidly recall the times tables is a key skill that is important for your child's future progression in mathematics. We look forward to your continued support to enable your child to reach their full potential.

If you have any questions regarding the MTC, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely,

St. Joseph's.