



**CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
***Home of Bright Sparks***  
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March 2020

**Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Dear Parents

We would like to tell you about the Multiplication Tables Check coming in for year 4 children. Here's what you need to know:

- 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.
- We're not worried about the checks and this wasn't a surprise. We're already in a good place with learning the tables and the expectations are in line with the National Curriculum so it's business as usual for us.
- The checks became compulsory in 2020 and they will be done within a three-week-long window starting 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- 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 worry about. There's no pass or fail, there's just a score out of 25 marks. They're not to be used to compare children, they're for *us* to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision.
- The checks consist 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 so there's nothing to trip them up.
- Given that the questions are relatively simple, age appropriate and the length of the check, which is carried out on a computer, is no more than 2½ minutes, we don't think the checks are onerous.
- 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, remember you're practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests. So please enjoy the opportunity to work with your child and remember to hold back on comments about the checks.
- Please be supportive of our approach. It's important that we get behind the checks for the benefit of all our children.

**DREAM – ASPIRE - ACHIEVE**

What you can do to support your child learn their times tables:

- Encourage them to go on TT rock stars regularly. Garage is great for learning their times tables as their class teacher has set it up so it tests them on the current focus times tables they are learning. Little and often is best.
- Quiz them on their times tables and reward them for trying hard
- Sing some time tables songs together  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/ks2-maths-collection/z7frpg8>
- Chesswood cards
- Stick up the times tables facts they are unsure of
- Make it fun!

Yours sincerely



**Zoe Monger**  
**Head of Year 4**