



BOTLEY C of E (Controlled) Primary School

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11th January 2024

Dear Parents/carers,

You may be aware that there is a new test for **Year 4 children** called the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**. Under the national curriculum, primary school children are expected to know up to their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4.

The check itself:

- will take place in the Summer Term
- is completed online using a computer or tablet
- will take no longer than 5 minutes
- will feature 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to solve and type in the answer for each question
- there's no problem solving or division: just simple "3 x 4 = ?" type questions.

No Stress!

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. We will endeavour not to draw attention to the check so will not be referencing in class unduly. We will however complete some practise checks so children are aware of the layout and process involved with the MTC.

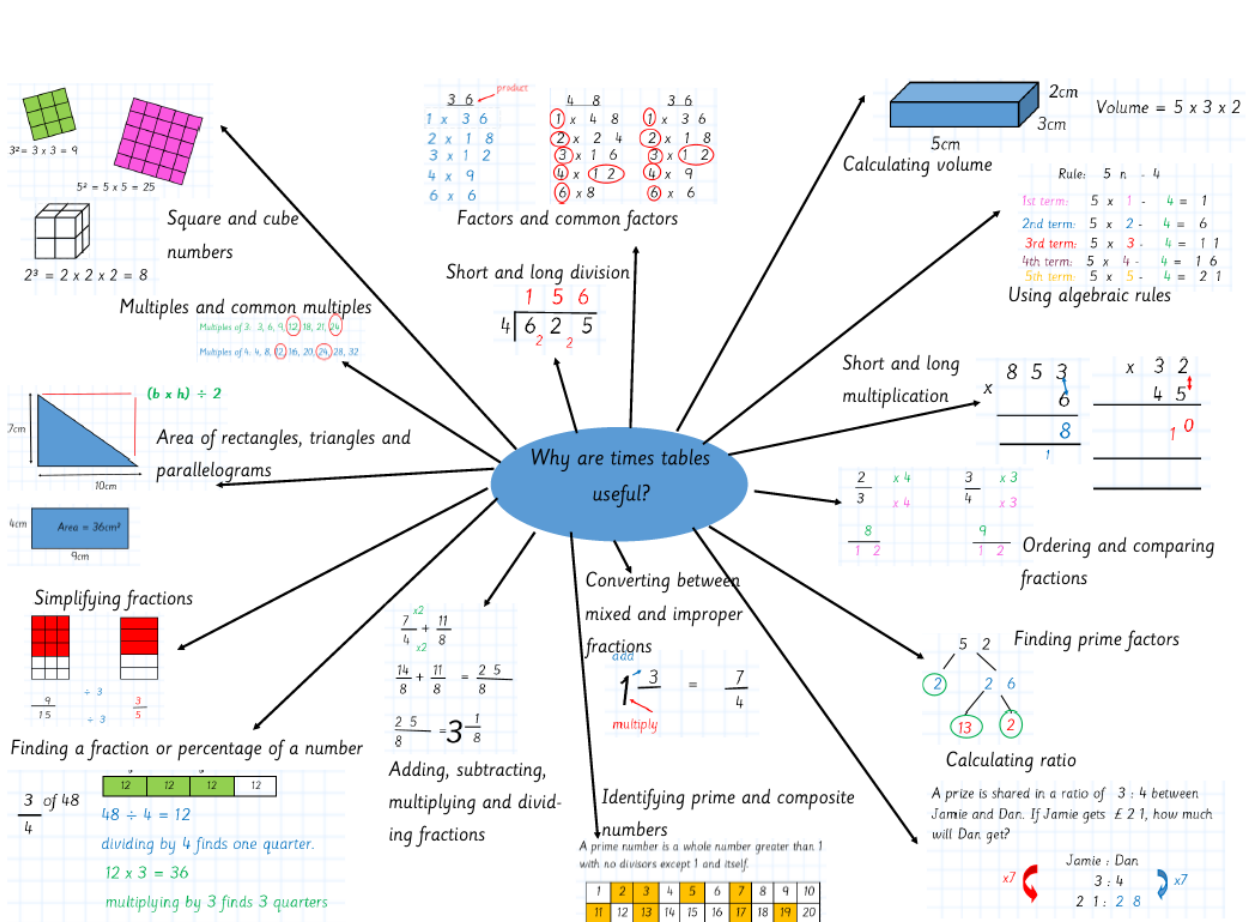
Practise at home:

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)
- singing times tables songs (there are loads online)
- Times Tables Rockstars App – the '**soundcheck**' mode on the app mimics how the MTC will run (log-in details have already been sent home)

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 (division, fractions, percentages). Strong times table facts knowledge helps attainment significantly. See the diagram below!



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 or myself.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Todd and Mr Jones – Maths Leaders