



**BOTLEY C of E (Controlled) Primary School**  
52 High Street, Botley, Southampton SO30 2EA  
Telephone: Botley (01489) 782308  
Email: [adminoffice@botley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@botley.hants.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.botley.hants.sch.uk](http://www.botley.hants.sch.uk)  
**Headteacher: Mr J Cooil B.A. (Hons) PGCE QTS**  
**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Shuttle B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE QTS**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents,

All Year 4 children nationwide participate in a multiplication times table check towards the end of their time in Year 4. This is a statutory assessment directed by the Department for Education. The National Curriculum states that primary school children are expected to know all tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

The link below takes you to DfE information about this check:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6543c1ef9e05fd0014be7c64/2024\\_Information\\_for\\_parents\\_Multiplication\\_tables\\_check\\_PDFA\\_v1.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6543c1ef9e05fd0014be7c64/2024_Information_for_parents_Multiplication_tables_check_PDFA_v1.1.pdf)

It is important to note that there is no set pass mark. The outcome is indicative of how well children know their times tables as they finish Year 4 to enable the school to put in additional support where it may be needed. Clearly, it is important that children are confident in their times tables recall as they move into Upper Key Stage Two as this supports them in continuing to make good progress in maths. It is for this reason that we encourage children to learn their tables and undertake regular practice including Times Tables Rockstars. The simple fact is the better children know their tables the easier they will find it to progress in maths in Year 5 and Year 6 because it supports other aspects of understanding within the maths curriculum (see the diagram overleaf) and supports effective mental maths. Regular practice and good times table knowledge and recall is essential.

The check will be carried out in school in the week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> June and will be completed online. It will take no longer than five minutes for each child and will involve twenty-five multiplication questions with six seconds to answer each by keying in the answer. There is no problem solving questions, just  $6 \times 6 = ?$  type calculations.

If you want to help your child improve their times tables, not specifically for the check but because it is generally supportive of their maths development, there are some simple suggestions below:

- Encourage your child to recite times tables by rote
- Use apps and online games
- Sing times table songs (lots available online)
- Complete 12 x 12 times table grids (including mixed) – this can be timed to add a competitive edge!
- Complete Times Table Rockstars



- Ask multiplication calculations out of the blue, “What’s 7 x 8?!” – one of my favourite things to do with my Year 4 son!

Each child is coming home with their 12 x 12 heat map so you can see where their areas for further development might be. On the heat map, each times tables fact ideally should be ‘green’ to show it is known.

If you have any further questions, please do speak to your child’s class teacher.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J. Cool  
Headteacher

