



Learning God's Way

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

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Dear Parents/carers,

April 2022


Year Four Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

You may have heard about the Multiplication Tables Check coming in for year 4 children. Here's what you need to know:

1. 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.
2. The checks became compulsory in 2020.
3. They will be completed within a two-week-long window towards the end of the year (June time).
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts. That doesn't mean we'll forget all about the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication. We're going to be learning those too, partly because they go hand in hand with excellent recall.

St Margaret's C.E. Primary School, Arundel Road, Angmering, West Sussex, BN16 4LP

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7. There are concerns shared in the public domain that this is “yet another test”. The government has been careful to call it a “check” and that’s important. It signals their intention to keep it low-stakes and we should remember that the data could prove useful to us.
8. 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.
9. As far as they’re concerned, when it comes to the day itself, they’re going to have the computers or tablets out so it will just seem like the teachers have chosen to do something slightly different today.

Please continue to encourage your child to look at their times tables each week and playing TTRS helps develop a quick recall of these.

If you have a question about the MTC then please ask your child’s class teacher.

With many thanks,
The Year Four team

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