



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre

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January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a fantastic start to 2020.

The Year 4 pupils have started this term with an excellent attitude to their learning.

We wanted to share Year 4 mathematics news with you:

Times Tables

In June 2020 your child will be taking part in the government multiplication tables check. Every child in Year 4 across the country will be taking this check.

The DfE says that the check is part of a new focus on mastering numeracy, giving children the skills and knowledge they need for secondary school and beyond. The purpose of the check is to determine whether Y4 pupils can recall their multiplication tables fluently (being able to answer times tables questions accurately and quickly, without having to work out the answers).

Children will be tested using an on-screen check (on a computer or a tablet), where they will have to answer multiplication questions against the clock.

The check will last no longer than 5 minutes.

Children will have 6 seconds to answer each question in a series of 25. Questions will be selected from the 121 number facts that make up the multiplication tables from 2 to 12, with a particular focus on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables as they are considered to be the most challenging. The six-second time limit per question has been decided on by the DfE because it should allow children enough time to demonstrate their recall of times tables without giving them the time to work out the answers to each question.

Preparing our children for the check:

We have our Monkey Maths times table scheme and use the Times Table Rockstars website <https://play.ttrockstars.com/> to help our children prepare for this check. It would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to practise their times table facts at home. The Times Table Rockstars website can be accessed on laptops, tablets and mobile phones. Your child should have their log in details, but these can be given to them again if required.

The Sound Check game on Times Table Rockstars is nearly identical to the national multiplication check that they will complete in June – the more they practice this game, the easier they will find the June multiplication check and the better their recall of times table facts will be. This will help in many areas of maths and as a life skill.

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Homework Videos

In Year 4 we are excited to be trialling a home-school learning task. We would like to trial using videos created by some of our children as homework, to see if they are a useful resource to engage our pupils in their learning. We would like to see if watching short videos with an adult at home will engage our pupils and have a positive impact upon their learning.

A small group of Year 4 pupils have created and filmed our first homework video, focussing on the 8 x tables.

To support your child in their learning, we would be very grateful if you could take 5 minutes to watch the school-made video with your child. This is so that they can have a discussion about the maths and try to answer the questions. The video also includes suggestions for further practice.

The homework video can be accessed via YouTube, on the Rivermead Inclusive Trust channel. This is a channel where Rivermead Inclusive Trust schools can share their videos. We do not allow feedback on this channel, but I would be grateful for any feedback once you have watched the video, so that we can see if this would be a useful homework resource.

Please could you go on YouTube with your child to watch the video. If you type **1. Homework Heroes 8X Tables** into the search bar, it should be the first video it finds. Or you can search for Rivermead Inclusive Trust and find the video on the channel page. We hope that watching these videos with someone at home will encourage valuable mathematical discussion, which will support your children's learning in a fun way.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your child's learning – it really does make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Simmonds

Maths Lead

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