

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
**SOUTHBOURNE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

New Road, Southbourne, Emsworth, Hants PO10 8JX



Telephone : 01243 375878  
Fax : 01243 370572  
e-mail : [office@southbournejuniors.co.uk](mailto:office@southbournejuniors.co.uk)  
Headteacher : Mrs L. Gasser, BEd (Hons), NPQH

Dear Parents,

As you may already know, it is a National Curriculum expectation of all year 4 children to recall multiplication and division facts up to  $12 \times 12$ . This expectation is assessed in June when all year 4 pupils nationally take the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Here are some things to consider:

- Maths is a big subject, 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.
- The checks consist of 25 questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to  $12 \times 12$ . There is nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up.
- The check will be administered during a two week window in June. 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.
- We will actively downplay the checks with the pupils. As far as they're concerned, when it comes to the day itself, they're going to have the laptops or tablets out so it will just seem like the teachers have chosen to do a different Times Tables Rockstars session.
- There's no pass or fail, just a score out of 25 marks. The results of the test are not published publicly and they're not going to end up on a league table, they're for *us* to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision. Your child's score will be shared with you in their end of year school report.

All we ask of parents is that you continue to support your child when it comes to learning times tables at home. There are a variety of ways that children can engage in short bursts of practice and they should choose the method that suits them best, this could include:

- Playing on Times Tables Rockstars or other interactive apps/games for learning times tables
- Reciting facts or singing them along to a favourite song
- Making it real by looking for areas in everyday life where we need to use multiplication skills. For example, 'everyone wants three potatoes with dinner, how many potatoes do we need to get ready?'
- Have a speed challenge – how many questions can they answer correctly in 30 seconds? Try mixing up the tables they know or throwing in some division questions too.

If you are practising with your child, remember you are practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the check. There is space in the times tables after school club on a Tuesday, if your child would like to take up a place please speak to the office.

As always, we are happy to answer questions so please speak to your child's class teacher or myself if you wish to share any thoughts on the above.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lowrey  
*Maths Lead*