

Priors Hall – A Learning Community

Gretton Road Priors Hall Corby Northants NN17 5EB Tel: 01536 216090

2nd November, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As some of you may be aware, the DFE have stated that all schools will be expected to administer a multiplication test to their Year 4 pupils. This multiplication tables check has been designed to help ensure that children in primary school know their times tables up to 12 off by heart. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and flexibly, allowing them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in their school journey.

The results of this check are for the teachers. There is **no** pass or fail mark. 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 be concerned about. The results are for teachers to use so we can provide an even better education to our children.

We will be having a Zoom meeting to discuss this in more detail and answer any question or concerns on the **10th November**. Zoom details will follow.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June.
- is done online using a computer or tablet.
- can be done one child at a time, in groups or as a class.
- will take no longer than 5 minutes.
- will feature 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to answer 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 children's attention to the check so will not be referencing in class unduly. Please be supportive of this approach.

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 practise at home 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)
- using apps and games (see resource list below)
- singing times tables songs (there are lots of examples online, especially YouTube)

Please find attached a list of websites and apps that your child can access at home.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year 4 team.

Multiplication Check Online Resources

All information above is correct at date of writing this letter, however sometimes guidance can change. To check the most recent guidance, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

Websites

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/multiplication-and-division>

'Hit the button' can be found here which the children love! Lots of the games including 'hit the button' are also tablet friendly.

<https://www.multiplication.com/games/all-games> - variety of multiplication and division games

https://www.mathplayground.com/ASB_Index.html - scroll down for multiplication.

Apps (All are free!)

Multiplication focus Mathninja – up to 9 times table. You collect playing cards by answering as many questions correct as you can. You can look at your progress too.

Number trolls multiplication – You have to slide the answer to the correct place to save the babies from the trolls. Harder when it is a 2-digit answer.

Multiplication genius – 20 seconds to answer each question. Then it moves on to the next question – just like the multiplication check.

Marble multiply – Use the marble to answer the multiplication questions.

Multiplication and Division focus Maths slide: Play against other people or against the computer. Have to be as fast as you can!

Quick strike – Play in different modes. Can set the level / time etc.