

STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Part of Anglian Learning MAT

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Dear Parents/ Carers

As you may be aware, starting in the academic year of 2019-2020 onwards, the DFE will introduce an online times tables check to be administered to Year 4 pupils at the end of Year 4. We have had a number of questions about this test and, as of November 2018, a framework has been sent to schools. I thought I would take this opportunity to pass this information on to you straight away.

The purpose of the Multiplication Tables Check is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently. The National Curriculum specifies that children should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including 12 x12 by the end of year 4 and fluency in times tables is vital to spotting patterns and making links between a variety of different areas of maths (particularly fractions, percentages and methods for long division and subtraction.)

We have been informed that we will have a 3 week window in which to administer the test and teachers will have flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, small groups or a whole class at the same time. The test will be delivered as an online, on-screen digital assessment. It will be automatically scored, and results will be available to schools once the assessment window closes. A time limit of 6 seconds per question has been set for the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) and there will be 25 questions worth one mark each.

Multiplication tables have always been an important aspect of the primary maths curriculum and we continue to promote activities (including homework) that helps develop fluency. To help prepare your child for these checks, practising times tables regularly would be really useful. On the curriculum area of the website is the handout from our recent learning cafe and some other suggestions for practising mental maths. As a school, we have signed up for Times Tables Rockstars and this is a useful way to build up speed with the tables. We will provide more information next year by which time example papers will hopefully have been sent to us.

Kind Regards

Miss Katie Street

