



# FARNBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Miss A James BA PGCE Head Teacher

Mrs C Browne B.Ed Hons Head of School

10 December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware the Department for Education (DfE) has produced a Multiplication Tables Check to be taken towards the end of Year 4. The rationale behind the tests is that if by the end of Year 4, the children recall table facts quickly and accurately, they will be better equipped for the Year 5 and 6 maths curriculum. Children will sit the Multiplication Tables Check between Monday 8th June and Friday 26th June. There is no set "test" day, or expectation that the children in Year 4 sit the test at the same time.

The Multiplication Tables Check is an online, on-screen digital assessment, meaning the children will take the test on a computer, laptop or tablet at school. The test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting approximately 5 minutes in total. The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with. Following the practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as  $2 \times 5 = ?$  with the child required to input the answer. Each child's test questions will be different.

Quick recall is essential as children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second gap between each question. The questions will be randomly selected by the testing programme from 121 different options, ranging from  $2 \times 2 =$  up to  $12 \times 12$ . The test's software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier times tables and a focus in Years 3 and 4.

Please note, no division or problem solving skills are being assessed.

The children will be helped with their learning through class teaching on strategies and finding patterns within the tables in class. Tables recall and speed can also be improved through playing online games such as 'Hit the Button' and practice through the school's subscription to the 'Times Tables Rockstars' website where each child has their own password and login. Please see your child's class teacher should you not be able to access these online resources, who will provide alternative arrangements.

During the beginning of the spring term, we would like to help the children prepare for the test by giving them a set of three short tests each week, with a focus on a particular multiplication table. The aim of these is for the children to improve their own personal goals and targets rather than competing against others in their class.

These tests will begin after Christmas on Week two. We will send you out a timetable for the tests during week one.

We appreciate this is a lot of information to take on board. We will be sending out further notices and reminders during the next two terms.

We would like to thank you, as always, for your support.

Year 4 Team

Mrs Browne, Miss Pattison, Mr Vallois



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