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Monday 23rd May 2022

Y4 Multiplication Tables Check

Dear Parents/carers

You may be aware that from June 2020 there is a new check for year 4 children called the "Multiplication Tables Check". Here's what you need to know:

We're not worried. Under the national curriculum, primary school children are expected to know up to their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4. So we've been preparing students to know these times tables by the end of Year 4 for quite some time now and are not concerned about the check at all.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June, week beginning 7th June 2022 (6th June is an INSET day).
- is done online using a computer or tablet.
- can be done one student 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 pupils 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 students' attention to the check so will be not be referencing in class unduly. Please be supportive of this approach and refrain from talking about the checks at home.

Practise at Home: Because maths is such a big subject, and we will of course continue to teach the full curriculum, but we will need your continued support to help practise the times tables with your children. Some easy ways to do this include:

- asking questions such as "What is 7 x 8?"
- reciting times tables by rote (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- using apps and games
- singing times tables songs (there are loads online)

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Why do we learn the times tables? In primary school, times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in years 5 and 6 (division, fractions, percentages).

Children have already for some time now been practicing their tables each week in a format very similar to the check they will take in June so the style of the check won't be unfamiliar to them.

If you have a question or want to offer your thoughts on any of the above, please bring them to the attention of your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ricky Leigh
Headteacher
Berewood Primary School