



Friday 23rd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to let you know about a new Government check that your child will be taking part in when they are in Year 4. The Government plans to check the times tables knowledge of all children in Year 4 in 2019-2020. This means that the children in the current Year 3 will be the first group of children to take part in the check. The check is going to be used to find out whether the children in Year 4 have **instant recall** of their times tables. Children will have 25 questions to answer and will have 6 seconds to answer each question; this will be done on a computer. The questions will test all of the times tables up to  $12 \times 12$  and there will be a focus on the 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables as these are deemed the hardest to learn.

There are many things we are doing in school to help your child become fluent in their tables. We have begun using Time Tables Rockstars and your child has a login to use at home. We are also completing worksheets at school to link with the times tables your child has been set on Times Tables Rockstars. Some of these will also be sent home for homework. Further to this we use lots of songs to help the children learn their times tables such as the Mr Demaio songs on YouTube and we use counting and chanting to help too.

However there are lots of things you can do at home too to help your child be ready for next year too. Please can you encourage your child to access Times Tables Rockstars at home as regularly as possible. If you have any problems accessing it please come and see me. To help those who cannot access it at home we are running lunchtime clubs where the children can have the opportunity to have access in school. Also you can chant the times tables  $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$  etc. Or you can ask your children questions on the tables to help speed up their recall. Children in Year 3 are focussing on 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 and then in Year 4 the focus will be 6, 7 and 9. This will mean by the end of Year 4 then will have worked on all their times tables ready for the check. If your child is ready, feel free to teach them the Year 4 tables early so they will have extra time for their recall to be instant by the end of Year 4.

If you have any further questions or queries about this check, or anything else to do with maths in school please feel free to pop and see me. Thank you again for your continued support.

Sam Stacey (Maths lead)