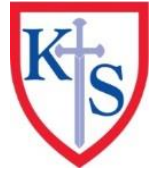




Kingsland C.E. Primary School



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Dear parents of KS2 children,

As you may have heard, the government has introduced a national Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for all children in Year 4. It is confirmed that all Y4 children will sit the check in June 2020. Below is some information quoted directly from the Department for Education:

“The national curriculum specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including 12×12 by the end of **Year 4**.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, **which is essential for future success in mathematics**. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

Schools will have a 3-week window to administer the MTC. Teachers will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, small groups or a whole class at the same time.”

“Schools will administer an on-screen check to assess whether pupils are able to fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of timed questions. Pupils will answer 3 practice questions before the check begins. The check consists of 25 questions. Pupils will have **6 seconds** to answer each question, with a 3-second pause between questions.”

Kingsland CE Primary School trialled the MTC in 2019 with our current Y5 children. The average score was 18.8 out of 25, slightly above the county average. However, with **focussed and concerted practice** both at school and at home, we are confident that ALL our current Y4 children have the capability of achieving at least 20 out of 25, with many achieving full marks. This should be our collective aim.

In order to achieve this aim, ALL children need to practice their multiplication tables regularly at home – **at least two or three times a week**. This will allow them to build up their knowledge in a structured manner, enabling them to **spot patterns** and **make connections**. They can then develop the speed of their recall.

The following video explains how many multiplication facts the children need to focus on:
<https://komodomath.com/blog/how-many-times-tables>

Children in Year 3 should know all multiplication **and division facts** for the following multiplication tables:

10 2 5 3 4 8 6



Children in Year 4 should know all multiplication **and division facts** up to 12×12 .

Children in Years 5 and 6 should know all multiplication **and division facts** up to 12×12 and be able to rapidly recall them and apply this knowledge to problem solving questions. They should also **make connections** with other related facts e.g. fraction and decimal facts – if I know $6 \times 7 = 42$, then I also know that $0.6 \times 7 = 4.2$ and $60 \times 70 = 4200$.

Children are well on the way to being able to rapidly recall these multiplication and division facts, but **THEY NEED YOUR HELP TOO!** The best way to support the children with learning these multiplication facts is to **START EARLY** and to **build on their knowledge from week to week**. We need to maintain the expectation that they remember the facts they have practised and so are able to focus on new facts each week. Help the children to make connections – for example, when they know $3 \times 4 = 12$, they also know $4 \times 3 = 12$. In other words, **they don't have to start from scratch each time they learn a new multiplication table!**

For example, when they start learning the 6 times table, they will already know the following facts:

1×6 2×6 3×6 4×6 5×6 8×6 10×6

Therefore, they only need to remember five new facts:

6×6 7×6 9×6 11×6 12×6

A helpful "Multiplication Tables Guide For Parents" is attached with this letter to give useful hints and tips for helping the children learn the multiplication tables.

The key to developing rapid recall of the multiplication facts is **REPETITION!** If the children learn a new fact each day, they will surprise themselves at how rapidly they will be able to recall all the facts! So, let's start **NOW ...!**

If you have any questions about how you can support your child with learning their multiplication facts, please speak to Mr Debenham, Mrs Smith, Miss Powis or Mrs Pritchard. Of course, Year 3 children will not sit the test this academic year. However, for all KS2 children, being able to rapidly recall multiplication facts is critical to their success within mathematics lessons and their wider understanding of mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Debenham (Headteacher)

Mrs Smith (Y3)

Miss Powis (Class 4)

Mrs Pritchard (Class 5)

