



# Heatherside Junior School

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Dear Parents

As many of you will be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) will be introducing a statutory online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for children in Year 4 from June 2020 (children currently in Year 3).

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

This means that the learning and quick recall of times tables facts will need to continue to be a priority and we hope that all parents will support children at home in this. A quick recall of tables' facts is the key to so many areas of maths and really makes a difference to children's attainment and confidence as they move into Year 5 and 6 and then on to Secondary School.

At Heatherside Junior, children currently in Year 4 will be taking part in the voluntary pilot between 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June this Summer. This will help us to prepare the children, familiarise ourselves with the format of the test and plan ahead for the practicalities of administering it the following year.

Full details of the test are available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process> but here is a summary.

- Schools will have a 3 week window in June within which to administer the test.
- The test will consist of **25 questions**, testing children's recall of facts up to 12 x 12 (the National Curriculum requirement for the end of Year 4). However, the 1 times table will not be tested and there will be limited coverage of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. *"There is an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables because these have been determined to be the most difficult multiplication tables."*
- The test will take no longer than 5 minutes, with a **time limit of 6 seconds per question** and a 3 second pause between questions. 1 mark will be available for each question.
- The questions will be presented in a purely numerical format:  $a \times b = \square$
- **Only multiplication facts will be tested;** not corresponding division facts.
- Questions in the test will not be ordered in terms of difficulty.
- At the end of the assessment window, a total score out of 25 will be reported to each school for each child. There will be no expected standard threshold for the MTC (no 'pass/fail')

From 2020 schools will receive their own pupils' individual results. School results will also be available to Ofsted and national results will be reported by the DfE to track standards over time. However, school level results will not be published in performance tables.

Should further information be made available by the DfE, we will of course update you. As always, we will be making sure our children are well-prepared for the test when it comes whilst also ensuring they are not too anxious about it. The more confident they feel, the better they will be able to demonstrate their true ability.

On the following page we have listed some ideas, links on our own website and some apps which parents and children may find helpful to support learning and quick recall at home. Tables' Facts are for life and not just tests!

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Dunn

Links and resources to help with learning the Times Tables at home!



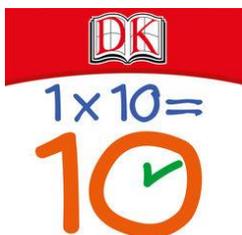
Practise for our Superhero Challenge and the 30 Day Challenge via the links on our website

<http://www.heatherside-jun.hants.sch.uk/children/superhero-tables-challenge>

You can 'Ask Alexa' via the 'Skills' option and she will orally test children on recall of Times Tables.



Details of some of the most popular apps can be found via the following website <https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-times-tables-apps> Some are even free to download!



There are also some helpful websites with interactive games and self-checking practice.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy-multiplication.html>

You could also download an audio book or buy a CD to sing the Times Tables



There are also 'Sing-a-long' Tables on YouTube which can be viewed via <https://safeyoutube.net/>

The best way to learn the Tables?  
Keep saying them...keep practising them...  
..... REPEAT!

Other useful tips for parents can be found via...

<https://www.whizz.com/blog/fun-ways-to-teach-times-tables/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/advise-for-parents/help-with-times-tables/>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/22-fun-hands-on-ways-to-teach-multiplication/> (An American site but it has great games which are not electronic that you can play at home!)