

Woodthorne Primary School

Woodthorne Road South

Tettenhall

Wolverhampton

WV6 8XL

Email: woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.ukWeb: www.woodthorneprimary.org**Headteacher**

Mr T Hinkley

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs A Cheema OBE

Part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust
Company Number: 08566185Tel: **01902 921160**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, from June 2020, a new annual statutory check for Year 4 children called the 'Multiplication Tables Check' (MTC) was introduced.

All children in Year 4 will take this check this year during June. The check will judge how well each child knows their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12, which is the expected standard by the end of Year 4.

As a result we've been preparing the children to know their times tables by the end of Year 4 for quite some time now and this will be a useful checkpoint.

The check itself:

- will take place in the summer term in June sometime over a two-week period
- is done online using a computer or tablet
- can be done one pupil 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
- during the test there will be an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, which will form the majority of the questions.

The results are for the teachers. There is no pass or fail mark. The results of the test are not published publicly. They are for us to use so that we can provide the appropriate support where necessary.

I am sure that along with you, we do not want our children worried or stressed about the check.

The Government has called it a "check" rather than a "test" or "exam" for this reason.

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Practice at home

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

- asking questions such as "what's 7×8 ?"
- reciting times tables out loud (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- using apps and games including Times Tables Rockstars
- singing times tables songs (there are many online)

Why do we learn the times tables?

In primary school, times tables knowledge is vital for supporting quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of many other topics in Mathematics including fractions, decimals, percentages and measure.

Mr Johnston, Mrs Wong and Mr Stack will be hosting a meeting about the times table check at school in : **4S – Mr Stack's classroom in the Key Stage 2 building at 3:30pm on Thursday 8th December**. Access will be through the side-door beside the 4S classroom in the Key Stage 2 building.

This will also be an opportunity for us to talk to you about the ways in which you can support your child next term in readiness for their transition into Year 5 and for you to ask any questions about the check. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you require any support with practicing these calculations at home, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. For further information about these tests please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr T Johnston

Maths Lead