

# Mengham Junior School

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Dear Parent,

You may have heard announcements about the Multiplication Tables Checks coming in for year 4 children. Here's what you need to know:

1. The checks became compulsory in 2020.
2. They will be done within a three-week-long window starting 8<sup>th</sup> June.
3. The results of the test are not published publicly; they're not going to end up on a league table and they're not to worry about. There's no pass or fail, there's just a score out of 25 marks. They're not to be used to compare children, they're for us to reflect on so that we make the most of our provision. We're actually looking forward to seeing how well we do!
4. The checks consist of 25 questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to 12×12. There's nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up. The check should take no more than 2½ minutes.
5. As far as the children are concerned, when it comes to the day itself, they're going to have the computers or tablets out so it will just seem like the teachers have chosen to do something slightly different that day.
6. Maths is a big subject and we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths we learn is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental – they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top. We've always believed that.
7. If you are practising with your child, remember you're practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests.

Below we have attached a monthly guide for how Time Tables Rock Stars could be used to prepare them for the assessment.

February	10 minutes a week in the Garage. They should aim to have passed level 308 by the end of the month. Focusing on the 7s and 8s.
March	15 minutes a week in Garage. They should aim to have passed level 365 by the end of the month. Focusing on the 9s.
April	15 games a week in Garage. They should aim to have passed level 420 by the end of the month. Focusing on the 11s and 12s.
May	10 minutes a week in Studio and 5 minutes a week in Soundcheck, which is our simulator for the Multiplication Tables Check.
June	3 games per day in Soundcheck.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki Farrage (Maths leader)

At Mengham Junior School we aspire to be Successful learners, Healthy and Confident individuals,  
Responsible members of our community

