

# Benhurst Primary School

Benhurst Avenue  
Elm Park  
Hornchurch  
Essex  
RM12 4QS

Tel: 01708 450807  
Email: [office@benhurst.havering.sch.uk](mailto:office@benhurst.havering.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk](http://www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @BenhurstPrimary



Head teacher: Mrs K. Hart BSc (Hons)

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## Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the Department for Education launched a Multiplication Tables Check for pupils in Year 4 which was due to become statutory last academic year. As a result of the COVID - 19 Pandemic, all National tests have been cancelled for this summer however, schools still have the option of completing the Multiplication Tables Check this year.

We have made the decision to go ahead with this test as times tables are a crucial part of Maths learning and the results will enable us to improve our Maths planning for this group of children next academic year. This letter will provide you with all the information you need regarding the check.

### What is the MTC?

The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help us as a school to identify pupils who may need additional support in this area.

### The check itself:

- will take place in June.
- is done online using a computer.
- will involve the children being taken out in small groups.
- 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

### No stress!

We do not want children to feel worried or stressed about the check. The Government has called it a "check" rather than a "test" or "exam" for this reason. We will be sensitive when talking the children through the check and they will be well prepared for the check in class.



## What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several options available for schools to use to ensure your child can access the check. There are, however, some circumstances in which it may not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check. If you have any concerns about your child being able to access the MTC, please talk to your child's teacher.

## Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

Your support at home would be fantastic and these are some of the ways you can help to prepare your child:

- Asking questions such as "What's  $7 \times 8$ ?"
- Reciting times tables by rote (4 times 1 is 4, 4 times 2 is 8, etc)
- Singing times tables songs (there are loads online)
- Ask your child what times table they are focusing on in class and work on those
- **Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic way for your child to prepare. They have a section called Soundcheck which has been set up in the style of the Multiplication Tables Check.**



## How will the results be used?

There is no pass or fail mark. The results of the test will not be published publicly this year and will be used to provide support and intervention where needed. We will include your child's score in their end of year report for your information.

Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have any further questions regarding the check.

Yours Sincerely,



Katherine Hart  
Head teacher