

# Seghill First School

Main Street North, Seghill  
Northumberland, NE23 7SB  
Tel: 0191 237 0419  
Fax: 0191 237 3518  
[admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



15 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Blue class

## Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Every Year 4 child in the country will be participating in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help us and their middle school to identify if your child may need additional support.

There is no pass mark for the Multiplication Tables Check, although in Seaton Valley the headteachers have agreed that 20 is the accepted target score for all children. The children face 25 questions and have 6 seconds to answer each one. The ability to know their times tables and recall them quickly will be really important in determining how highly they score.

We have attached an **information booklet for parents and carers** from the Standards and Testing Agency to provide you with more information.

## What we are doing in school to support your child

Learning all of the times tables facts up to 12 x 12 may seem like a daunting task. However, we have taught the children lots of strategies to work out the answers. For example, if you know that 5 x 7 is 35, you also know that 7 x 5 is 35. You do not need to learn 7 x 5 as a separate fact.

We systematically teach times tables to the children throughout school. We do this through direct teaching and providing opportunities for children to practice regularly in school.

Mrs Bell ran a **lunchtime times tables club** this half term. She is offering another **lunchtime times tables club** again next half term. She will also be offering **daily drop-in times tables sessions** at lunchtimes on the days that she is not doing the times tables club.

Mrs Lyons will be providing opportunities for children to practise their skills using the **Chrome Books** in school.

We are sending home a **heat map** for your child. This has been generated from **Times Tables Rockstars** and shows how your child is currently doing. The colours on the heat map indicate how quickly your child can answer each times tables fact. The greener the green box is shaded, the quicker they can answer that specific fact. The redder the red box is shaded, the slower they are at answering that specific fact. If a box is shaded grey, it means that the fact in the box has not come up for your child yet or your child has not logged on enough.

When you look at your child's heat map, the more green boxes you see, the better they are doing. If there are a lot of red and amber boxes, there is still a lot of work to do to learn the times tables facts and recall them quickly.

## What we are asking you to do at home

We will continue to support the children in school, but we are asking for your help so children practise their times tables at home. The old saying “practice makes perfect” is not true; however, practice does make permanent. If the children learn their times tables now, they will know them for life.

### 1. Please encourage your child to go on Times Tables Rockstars or MathsFrame regularly.

There are a number of different ways that children can use Times Tables Rockstars to improve their recall of the times tables facts. Please see page 3.

Mrs Lyons is sending home a reminder of your child’s **Times Tables Rockstars password**. We can see when your child has logged in. Some children have not logged in from home for more than 6 months.

On the back of your child’s heat map, you will see ideas for helping them to prepare of the multiplication tables check. For example, next month it recommends each child plays 5 games of **soundcheck** and does 16 minutes per week on the **garage** game (see page 3).

Children can also use **MathsFrame**. This is a free resource for children to practise their times tables using the format of the multiplication tables check. This is the link-

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

### 2. Help them with the times tables facts that they don’t know.

Encourage them to say the times tables facts out loud. Use their current heat map to see which facts are orange or red. Pick a couple of these times tables facts and practise them.

## Moving forward

Research shows that **21 minutes a week** will lead to success in the Multiplication Tables Check so children know their times tables and can recall them quickly, which is also a life skill. They don’t need to be spending hours on Times Tables Rockstars or MathsFrame, but using these resources regularly really will help your child to learn and recall their times tables facts. Practising little and often is definitely the approach to take- 21 minutes a week will really help.

If we work together, I’m sure that the children will become fluent in recalling their times tables facts by June. Mastery of this key skill will be essential for their future success in maths and life in general.

Please let us know if you need any help, or have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Miss Chappell  
Headteacher

Mrs Lyons  
Year 4 teacher

Enclosed-

Information for parents; 2024 multiplication tables check;

Your child’s Times Tables Rockstars heat map and a Multiplication Tables Check prep schedule;

A reminder of your child’s Times Tables Rockstars password.

## **Information about the activities on Times Tables Rockstars**

### **Jamming (raising confidence)**

This mode is great for building children's confidence. There is no timer and you can select which times table you would like to practise.

### **Garage (personalised practise)**

This mode is set up by class teachers. They set times tables for each individual child to focus on. This mode has a smart algorithm which personalises questions for each individual pupil based on which questions they struggle with and need further practise on.

### **Studio (motivation)**

Studio mode allows children to practise their speed. They will be asked any times table (up to 12x12) and will have 1 minute to answer as many questions as they can. The children can get a rock status from this - once played at least 10 times (average of the last 10 tries).

### **Soundcheck (standardised test Multiplication Tables Check)**

This mode was specifically made to mimic the MTC. The children will get a series of 25 questions and will have 6 seconds to answer each question.

### **Gig (creating a benchmark)**

Gigs should be played once each month. They last for 5 minutes and contain up to 100 questions. The questions come in 'waves' starting with the 10s, then the 2s, 5s, 3s, 4s, 8s, 6s, 7s, 9s, 11s, 12s. This makes it accessible for all students Y2-Y4. From this you can track your own progress.