



# The Hills Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to inform you that the DfE announced last month that **all pupils in year 4 will be required to sit an online multiplication check from 2020 onwards. This means that children currently in year 2 will be the first pupils to sit the assessment.** The national curriculum states that pupils are expected to be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 at this age. Initial information released states that children will be required to answer 25 randomised questions that are evenly weighted i.e. not all within the 2 or 10 times tables. Children will be given 10 seconds to answer each question, however the majority of this time will be required for inputting answers which highlights that fluent re-call of multiplication facts up to 12x12 is essential.

**Mastering multiplication skills and being able to fluently re-call and use multiplication and division facts is essential for future success within Mathematics.** Recognising this, the school have taken several steps to develop pupils' ability to fluently re-call and use multiplication facts since the launch of the new primary national curriculum in 2014. A times table initiative has been launched and emphasis has been placed on counting in multiples up to 12 across years 1-4 which will aid in the learning of and fluent re-call of multiplication facts. **However, our children's learning inside and outside of school needs to be aligned if this is going to be achieved.**

**We shared the 'Dorling Kindersley 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables' app with parents during our maths information evening last year. In light of the recent announcement made by the DfE, we would like to direct you towards this app again and encourage that it is used at home.** The app is completely free to download and continually use and is suitable for use on all tablets and smartphones. It allows you to select the multiplication tables that you wish to practise, requires questions to be answered in order and then randomly mixed, and the amount of time allowed to answer questions gradually decreases which encourages fluent re-call. The app very closely matches the times table initiative within school and the expectations of pupils during the multiplication check at the end of year 4. There is a slot on termly homework sheets to sign and confirm that this app has been used each week at home and although it is called 'Dorling Kindersley 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables', **we recommend that children spend 5-10 minutes 3 times a week practising their times tables.**

In order to ensure a strong home-school alignment and that early multiplication skills are mastered, **please practise and develop fluent recall of the multiplication tables outlined below in order:**

Year 1 – 1x, 2x      Year 2 – 10x, 5x, 3x      Year 3 – 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x      Year 4 – 9x, 11x, 12x      Year 5 & 6 – 1-12x

If you do not have access to tablets, smartphones or apps at home then please inform your child's class teacher as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for your child to develop their fluent re-call of multiplication facts. If you have any questions surrounding the use of the app please speak to your child's class teacher at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing and continued support.

The Hills Academy team