



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Productions

Christmas is drawing very near (just over two weeks until the holidays!) and the children are busy finishing their school work for this term (including a number of Christmas activities).

There is a wonderful feeling of Christmas in the air as the school is full of Christmas excitement and mischief from the elves who have again decided to visit St. Mary's this year. The children are really enjoying the fact that these elves seem to be extremely badly behaved again this year.



Year 2 Performance

We are delighted this year that the Year 2 teachers and children decided again to hold a Christmas Carol Service in aid of the Nightingale Hospice.



Thank you Year 2 for some beautiful singing this year and parents for your support for the children and for your donations for the Hospice.

Year 1 and Reception Productions

A lovely time was had by all who attended the Christmas plays in the Hall. A big thank you to the children of Years 1 and Reception for their enthusiastic singing, dancing, speaking, instrument playing and acting. Lots of budding future stars I think!



Many thanks to all of the staff across the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes for their hard work and dedicated effort in preparing the children.

Thank you too parents for your help in providing costumes where necessary and helping and encouraging your children to practise song words etc. at home.



Junior Choir Carol Service

We are now looking forward to the Junior Carol Service on the 13th December at 5pm in the church.

We would be very grateful if you would donate to the Nightingale Hospice as you always do so generously at this time of the year. You can make cash donations on the evening of the performance or to the school office or donate via parent pay.

Nursery Christmas Performances

We are also greatly looking forward to the Nursery performances (AM and PM) which are due to be held in the main hall on Friday 2nd December.

Again please bring along any cash donations you have for the Hospice.

Leading Parent Partnership

As part of our work towards continuing to develop our partnership with you to enhance our children's learning experience we had another 'Bring your Mum to School!' event earlier this term.

Again this event was very well supported and a very long queue of mums lined up outside the school ready for the 9.30am start.

Thank you mums for your excellent help and support throughout the morning and for your very positive and encouraging written and verbal comments.



Illegal Parking

We had the zig-zag lines outside the school repainted a couple of years ago. Although we think they are very visible there are still a small number of adults parking on the zig-zags generally in order to drop off or collect children from school.

Parents or carers parking on the zig-zags are parking illegally and putting our children in danger.

To avoid this please be prepared to come a bit earlier, park legally and walk a little bit with your child if necessary in order to keep the road in front of the school clear. This is also a healthier option as we focus on children having the option to walk a little bit each day.

Please try not to park across the driveways of our neighbours or in the car park which belongs to the Italian Centre and Mary Mother of God. I know the majority of our parents and others who

bring children to school don't do this.

Thank you to all who respect the zig-zags and keep them clear.



If you are late for school please do not abandon your child on the road outside. You must come in to school with your child.

I hope that during the rest of this school term while we wait for our school street to start all parents and carers will act in a responsible manner both for the safety of our children and a positive association with our neighbours. Thankfully so many already do.

Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support. More and more children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. Lots of parents too are parking away from the

school and walking with their children.

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>.



Sickness

We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours. There are unfortunately a number of nasty bugs around at the moment.

Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands with soap and water and /or use the sanitising liquid which is available in school.



Uniform

Just to remind you that the office staff process uniform orders on a Thursday only. Winter hats are now available at £4.00 each. School coats are very good value at £21.00.

Please ensure that your child's clothing is labelled. Labelled clothing when

found can be returned to its owner while unlabelled items generally remain in lost property.



Please encourage your child to wear the correct uniform (including hair colours and styles and tailored trousers for girls).

If your child wears boots or wellies to school he /she must bring school shoes to wear in the building.

Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). No highlights, designs, lines or dyes to be put in hair please.

Remember nits love long free flowing hair too! Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails

False nails or nail polish are not permitted in school.

Please encourage your child to respect the uniform policy by leaving all jewellery at home. If earrings are worn please

only allow your child to wear very small studs (no hoops please). These must be removed for PE.

Many thanks to the vast majority of parents who support us by encouraging their children to wear the uniform. It's an important part of St. Mary's identity. The majority of children look really smart every day.

Please encourage your child to leave all toys, football cards, jewellery, mobile phones etc. at home. Children become very upset if their personal belongings are lost or broken at school.

School Masses

Some of our children have led the readings, brought the gifts or Book of the Gospels forward or served at the various Masses and other services during the autumn term. Their excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation is to be commended.

All children have sung and responded well and behaved respectfully. Many members of the parish community have commented on the children's excellent behaviour. Parents thank

you for your excellent support with this always.



Thank you children for being so willing to take part and to you parents for encouraging your children always.

What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives. Young Minds also has a parent helpline:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Christian Meditation

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Play Safe, a national safeguarding campaign (Football Association)

The Football Association and the NSPCC launched 'Play Safe', a national campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in football. At the heart of the campaign are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves.

One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions:

• Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer?

• If so, do you have their tel no. in your 'phone, as well as that of the NSPCC?

• Are you up to speed with your child's club's safeguarding policies and procedures?

• Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying/not enjoying and why?

More information can be found here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

Talk PANTS resources for parents

From the NSPCC: We want all parents to talk PANTS. That's why we've created guides and resources to help them find the right words to talk to their children about staying safe.

[> Find Talk PANTS resources for parents on the NSPCC website](#)

Some Christmas Resources:

godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-donkey
godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-story-in-plain-english
godwhospeaks.uk/celebrate-christmas-with-bible-society

Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress.

Any requests for time off (for special circumstances only please) must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for time off which is taken during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school and to report all absences.

Please remember that your child's absence from school affects our total absence figures. It was 4.23% at the end of the summer term. Our absence was 3.13% at the

end of the first half term. Well done everyone for trying your best in these times which are still a bit more challenging for all families trying to cope with all of these bugs which seem to be around at the moment. Our absence level is higher than in past years but with time this should improve.

Up to the 25th November 2022, the class with the highest attendance over the term was St. Peter (96.76%) closely followed by St. Christopher (96.45%), St. Anthony (96.24%), St. Paul (95.99%) and Reception, Grace (95.66%).

Please (unless of course your child is ill) ensure your child is in school each day.

The DfE's persistent absence threshold is 10% (from Autumn 2015)!

The DfE's guidance on the 2014/15 school census explains that from the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, a pupil will be considered to be persistently absent if he/she is away for over 10% of school sessions in an academic year.

Pages 72-73 of the DfE's guidance, linked to above, contains a table which sets out the estimated thresholds that will be used to define persistently absent pupils.

	15 per cent	10 per cent
Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (autumn term and spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

Spring Term Reminder!

Don't forget the pattern of the Easter holidays this year.

Half -term holiday = 13th - 17th February 2023.

INSET Day (no school for children) = 20th February 2023.

Easter Holiday = 3rd April - 14th April 2023.

Summer Term Reminder!

School opens for the summer term on Monday 17th April 2023.

Half -term holiday = 29th May - 2nd June 2023.

May Bank Holiday= Monday 1st May 2023

INSET Day (no school for children) = 2nd May 2023.

King's Coronation Bank Holiday = 8th May 2023 (recently announced).

Last Day of the School Year = 21st July 2023

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is important that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin,

rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



Children in Need

The spotacular day earned £553.46 for Children in Need. Well done everyone!

Home School Agreement

Thank you to the parents who have already returned their child's Home School Agreement. Remember if you haven't already done so to read, sign and return one of the copies as soon as possible (you should have received two copies -

one is for you to keep at home).



Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by not allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school. As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Birthday Celebrations!



It is lovely that so many children now like to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in sweets for their classmates.

Please remember though parents that different parents have different rules about sweets and the kinds of sweets their children are allowed to eat.

If it is your child's birthday, and you do want to mark the day, please just send in one very small bar for each child. It is probably better to send a known brand of chocolate with which all parents are familiar rather than lots of very sugary sweets or party bags. *Lollipops and hard sweets are not permitted for health and safety reasons.*

Also we are unable to cut up and distribute cakes or organise birthday parties during the school day. We are unable to take birthday photographs for you.

Remember you are not obliged to send in sweets at all.



Holidays

It's almost the end of term already! Time seems to have flown by this year. The last day of term is **Friday 16th December**. The school will close at 12.45pm on that day for the infants and at 1pm for the juniors. Please try very hard to pick children up promptly.

The school will open again for the new spring term on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**

Future Dates

Thursday 1st December:
Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am followed by Confessions.

Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Friday 2nd December:
Nursery Christmas Performances AM and PM.

Thursday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 2-6.

Monday 12th December:
Christmas Lunch.

Tuesday 13th December:
Christmas Class Parties PM.
Junior Carol Service in church, 5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)

Friday 16th December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 18th anniversary Mass) in church for Years 2-6.

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Tuesday 3rd January 2023:
Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all parents who have volunteered to help in classes this term. We really value the time and support you give to children and staff.



Tissues

We have very few tissues and hundreds of runny noses! We are no longer able to afford to provide tissues for classrooms. Donations of boxes of tissues would be so very gratefully received.

If your child has a cold please try to send some tissues to school in his / her school bag.



School Fund

Since the last newsletter, **£3297.00** has been donated to the School Fund. This is excellent! Thank you to all who have supported the school to date this year with voluntary donations.

School Dinners

We started our new 'right choice' menu about this time a number of years ago. As I know you are aware we worked with CTCs (our provider of school meals) over a number of years to improve the quality of the cooked meals given to our children at lunchtime.

Our cook works to ensure that the contents of our school meals meet National Nutritional Guidelines.

As you know our kitchen was completely refurbished. We also purchased new dining tables and new benches for the children, as well as a new dessert bar and

upgraded our salad bar. In addition we had a new industrial oven installed.

School meals cost £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week (from September 2016).



Please pay in advance (at least a week in advance) online using the Parent Pay system or ask the Office staff for a Pay Point card.

Remember that if your child has school meals (and is not entitled to free meals) and you don't pay for them the school has to find the money to pay your debt. Always pay for your child's meals.

Your child may be entitled to free meals. To qualify for free school meals parents or guardians must be in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Asylum seekers subsistence payment (support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- Child tax credit (but not working tax credit) only and have an annual income of less than £16,190

Please contact the school office if you feel your child qualifies for free meals.



Phone calls

Your child is welcome to phone home (in emergency only). We would welcome a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any phone calls your child makes

Parish Christmas Bazaar



Thank you parents and children for your **very generous** donations of bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates, biscuits and sweets, toys, books, tins, toiletries and a host of other items for the Parish Bazaar.

Your willingness to give and support our parish is wonderful. I know your donations made a difference to the success of this event and earned much needed funds for our church.

Best Wishes

Many thanks for all of your support both for me personally and for the members of our school staff throughout the term and always.

It is really appreciated by all at St. Mary's and I know contributes greatly to the happy atmosphere we are so fortunate to have in our school.

I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and restful Christmas when the time comes. Enjoy this special family time together.

I hope to see you all in January well rested and ready for a new year.

Miss M. Creed
Headteacher



A Prayer for Christmas

What shall I bring Him,
Poor as I am.
If I were a shepherd I
would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I
would do my part.
What can I give Him.

Give Him my heart.



These are the prayers we say each day with the children. You might like to say these prayers with your child during the holidays. It's good practice to have a little quiet prayer time each day. I know many of you already encourage your child to pray at home.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.

I want to love you always
in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you
Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



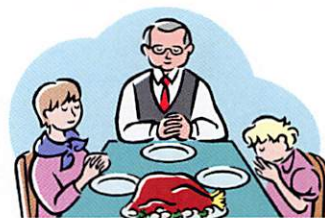
Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to
say,
Thank you for your love
today.
Thank you for my family,

And all the things you give
to me.
Guard me in the dark of
night.
And in the morning send
your light. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit
together,
Bless the food we eat
today.
Bless the hands that make
the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.



Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the
food we have eaten,
Thank you God for all our
friends.
Thank you God for
everything,
Thank you God. Amen.



The Our Father

Our Father, who art in
heaven; hallowed be Thy
name; Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass
against us, and lead us not
into temptation; but
deliver us from evil. Amen.

JESUS is
the Reason
for the
Season.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of
God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.



Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit. As it was in
the beginning, is now, and

ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Our School Prayer



This is our school.
May we all live here
Happily together.
May our school be full of
joy.

May love dwell here among
us
Every day.

Love of one another,
Love of all people
everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.

Let us all remember that
As many hands build a
house,
So every child
Can make this school
A lovely place. Amen



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

*Due to the fact that
there are now fewer
pupils in London
(decrease in the
population of children)
and the issues with
finding affordable
housing (as is usually the
case some of our families
were moved out of
London over the summer
period and in the first
half of this term) we
currently have places in
our Nursery, Reception
Year 1 and Year 3 2022
year groups and some
places in some of our
other year groups.*

Thank you parents for
recommending our school
and helping to build up
our pupil numbers. Some
new children have joined
us again this half-term.
Please continue to do
this.



From our School Inspection Reports:

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection...Pupils make good progress from their various starting points...Their willingness to come to school is evident in their well above average rates of attendance...You have successfully maintained the above-average attainment by the end of Year 6 in reading, writing and mathematics...Teachers form good relationships with pupils, providing them with a wealth of interesting activities across the curriculum. Pupils concentrate well in class and are keen to work with each other...Pupils say they feel safe at school and know how to avoid danger in the wider community'(OFSTED Inspection, June 2018).

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content*

and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.

- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.*
- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of*

both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.*
- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*

- Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.
- Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.
- The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school' (OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).

Music Lessons

Parents are now able to renew and book music lessons and activities for

Spring 2023 from the Music Store: <https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore>

Spring term music lessons in schools will start from week commencing 9th January and will include 9 lessons throughout the term. Saturday Centre sessions start on 7th January 2023.

The deadline for bookings is 4th December which gives parents a little bit of time to consider and book their Spring term music options.

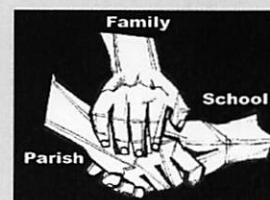
Best Wishes
Enfield Music Service



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

EYFS Topic 2: From Advent to Christmas

Autumn Second Half-Term 2022



Religious Education

Topic Theme: From Advent to Christmas

This unit will explore the events, rituals and practices of Advent and Christmas, in time with the Liturgical Year of the Church.

Learning opportunities include:

- Coming to know Jesus is God the Father's Son.
- Hearing the story of Christmas.
- Coming to know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus.
- Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Experiencing liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings.
- Experiencing praying with others as a celebration
- Joining in simple prayers and hymns
- Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another

Monitoring opportunities:

Children's development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.

Affective and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- An understanding that the stories of Jesus in the Bible link with the liturgical seasons of the church year.
- A familiarity with the seasons of Advent and Christmas, during which we anticipate and celebrate the incarnation: God in our world.

Activities to try at home

Parents are the first educators of their child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education occurs best when the family and the school are engaged in talking about the same topics. Help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this unit is being taught:

- Talk to your children about Advent and Christmas – how it is celebrated in the Church and in wider society. Note the different cultural expressions of Christmas: cards in other languages, foods and other cultures, customs and celebrations of other communities.
- Talk to your child about birth: their own, yours and other members of your family. Talk about your ancestors: grandparents and great grandparents. Think about your own family heritage.
- Read stories about Christmas. Remember there are two distinct stories in the Gospel: many picture stories amalgamate the two!

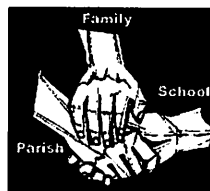
An idea for prayer at home:

Have an Advent wreath as a focal point in your home. Light a candle for each week of Advent and pray 'God of light, help us to be people who walk with you towards the birth of your son'.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary

Religious Education Newsletter for Autumn 2022

(second half-term) – Years 1-6



Religious Education

Key Idea: From Advent to Christmas

This framework of learning is intended as the second for the academic year 2022-2023 and the first of the Liturgical year, Year A. In keeping with the Liturgical year, this framework teaches the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the season of Christmas, according to the Gospel of Matthew. Pupils learn about the O Antiphons, said as part of Evening Prayer on the seven days before December 24th. Pupils finish this unit by learning Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- An appreciation of the gift of God's presence born again into the world at Christmas.
- An openness to the incarnation in their own lives.
- An appreciation of the truths contained in Scripture.
- A willingness to pray during Advent.

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs.

- Talk to your children about your plans and preparations for Christmas. What place does belief that God came to live among us have in your Christmas?
- Ask your children to share the prayers they are saying at school with you. Include them in your bedtime rituals.
























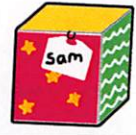



An idea for prayer at home

God of life,

Open our eyes to the coming of your light. Help us to grow in hope and give us the courage to hope for your presence in our hearts, hope for your peace in our world and hope for your promise in our lives. We ask this through Christ whose birth we await. Amen.

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1st Sunday of Advent What is the promise the prophet Isaiah speaks of in today's first reading? <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>An Advent wreath's candles are a symbol of Christ's light. Think of ways you can a light for others today.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p>Learn our Advent Carol <i>We are waiting*</i> and sing it as a class. Why not film your singing and share it with us @MissioUK</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>Today is the feast of St Andrew, one of the twelve disciples. Find out which country he is the patron saint of.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>Make a <i>Star of Hope</i> and think about how you can bring hope to others this Advent.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Tomorrow is the feast of St Francis Xavier. Find out why he is the patron saint of mission.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>Write an Advent prayer. Try to include the words: hope, wait, light, God, Jesus. Or create an artwork expressing these words.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist tells the people to prepare for Jesus. How can we do this too? <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>One way we can prepare for Jesus is by building peace. Make a peace paper-chain and think about how you can build peace in school this week.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Today is the feast of St Nicholas. Find out what St Nicholas did to bring hope to poor people.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>Say the Mission Together Prayer for children living in war zones: <i>May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>As a class, sing <i>Silent Night.*</i> Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>Make peace today. Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week. Or forgive someone who has upset you.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>Find somewhere peaceful to sit and thank God for the people who love and care for you.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent The prophet Isaiah predicts great joy in today's first reading. How can we share God's joy this week? <i>Isaiah 35:1-6,12</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>Yesterday was <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday. Find out what <i>Gaudete</i> means.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Find out how Advent & Christmas are celebrated in another country.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>Make a <i>Joyful Angel</i> and think about how you can share the joy of Jesus today.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>Joy is easy to pass on! Look out for people who are lonely today and invite them to play.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>As a class sing <i>Joy to the World.*</i> Why not film your singing and share it with us @MissioUK</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>Say a prayer for all children who are upset, sad, or lonely. Ask God to help us share his joy with them.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel, an angel visits Joseph and says, 'Do not be afraid'. Ask God to help you with your worries. <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>Imagine you are the donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem. Write a poem or carol about your special task.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>Sing your favourite carol to a family member today. Think about the words and tell someone what they mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>Create a <i>Gift for the World</i> decoration and think about the gifts God has given you to share.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>Be an Advent light today: make a Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>Today pray for people who have no home. Ask God to keep them safe this Christmas, and for us to find ways to help them.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God and your family for all the gifts their love brings.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">24 & 25</p>

The Sunday Bible stories are taken from the readings at Mass that day. An abridged version can be found in our accompanying liturgical prayers. A * refers to activities, assemblies or carols. Download all for free from the Advent page of the Mission Together website.

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Online Safety Newsletter

December 2022



Instagram

Is your child on Instagram? You should be over 13 years of age to set up an account.

Instagram is used to post photos and videos. Users can also DM (direct message), send disappearing messages, add to their stories (these disappear after 24 hours) and broadcast live.

Instagram have now introduced new age verification software to help confirm the age of users. Any user who tries to change their age will have to upload an ID document or take a video selfie. You can find out more here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/instagram-rolls-out-age-verification-for-users>

Personalised Digital Toolkit

Answer some simple questions and get age specific advice and recommendations:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family->

Parental controls

With Christmas nearly here and perhaps with presents including new technology or related games being received, we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how to set up appropriate parental controls.



Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI rating of any new games to ensure that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for games and **considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty.**

It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games. If a game does allow your child to communicate with others then you can adjust the settings so they are appropriate to your child - or disable it completely.

Secondly, for any consoles (new and old), it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and again managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for each device:

Xbox:

<https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>

PS5:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch:

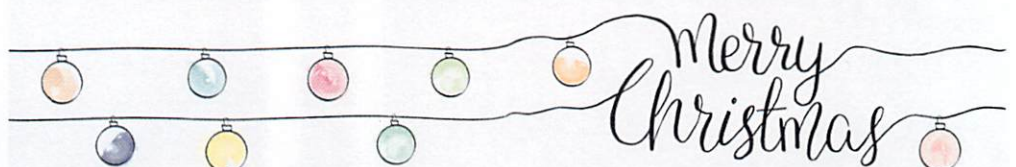
<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device. Is it suitable for their age? Review all settings and privacy options for each app. For the devices themselves use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Google Play: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>



Be kind online



It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face.

Dr Linda Papadopoulos (Internet Matters Ambassador) provides tips on how you can help your child to be kind online in this

YouTube video such as teaching them how to be inclusive and think about how they would like to be treated online themselves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q&t=9s>

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or see something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with them, but that they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.

Unicef have a comprehensive area on their website, which talks about what Cyberbullying is and how to stop it:

<https://www.unicef.org/end-violence/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>

Childline also have a lot of information about Cyberbullying, including advice to those that might be bullying:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-cyberbullying/>

How can the law help me?

Whilst we wait for the Online Safety Bill to be passed, which will hopefully improve Online Safety, there are certain laws already established to help protect us online. For example, in the UK we have the Malicious Communications Act 1988 that states it is an offence to send a communication that conveys an indecent or grossly offensive message or a threat. We also have the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which covers threatening behaviour or harassment online.

Report Harmful Content have curated a list of laws that are relevant to online behaviour here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/when-should-you-go-to-the-police/>



Online Safety with Google

As part of Google Families, Google have a hub of resources that you can use including conversation starters with links to additional tools and advice and information about parental controls. Google also provide you with resources to help your children build healthier habits and stay safe online. There is also a selection of ideas on how to use technology as a family in a fun and engaging manner such as exploring the world and learning how to code. You can access the hub here:

https://families.google/intl/en_uk/



CEOP: Updated 4-7s website and guide

This updated website from CEOP Education is designed for children to visit with their parents/carers. The children answer a series of questions as they work towards collecting badges. You can find out more here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/4-7s-website/>

Screen time advice

We're often asked how long children should spend on their devices each day. Childnet have created a blog discussing why it is difficult to specify a limit and what you should consider. You can read it here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/screen-time-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>

HAF Enfield Winter 2022

19th – 23rd
December and
28th – 30th
December



Ages
4-16

FREE* places available in
Enfield's Holiday Activities
and Food (HAF) programme
this winter, visit

<https://hafenfield.co.uk/>

to book today or email

haf@enfield.gov.uk

for more information

**Free for those in receipt of benefits
related free school meals*

Arts &
Crafts

Get
Active

Free
nutritious
meals

Cooking

Day
Trips

Plus
much
much
more!

<https://hafenfield.co.uk/>

www.enfield.gov.uk

ENFIELD
Council



Early Years Speech & Language Service



**Are you worried about your
child's talking?**

Would you like to discuss this with
someone?

Please call us on **020 8702 5226** – we
have a range of options we can offer you

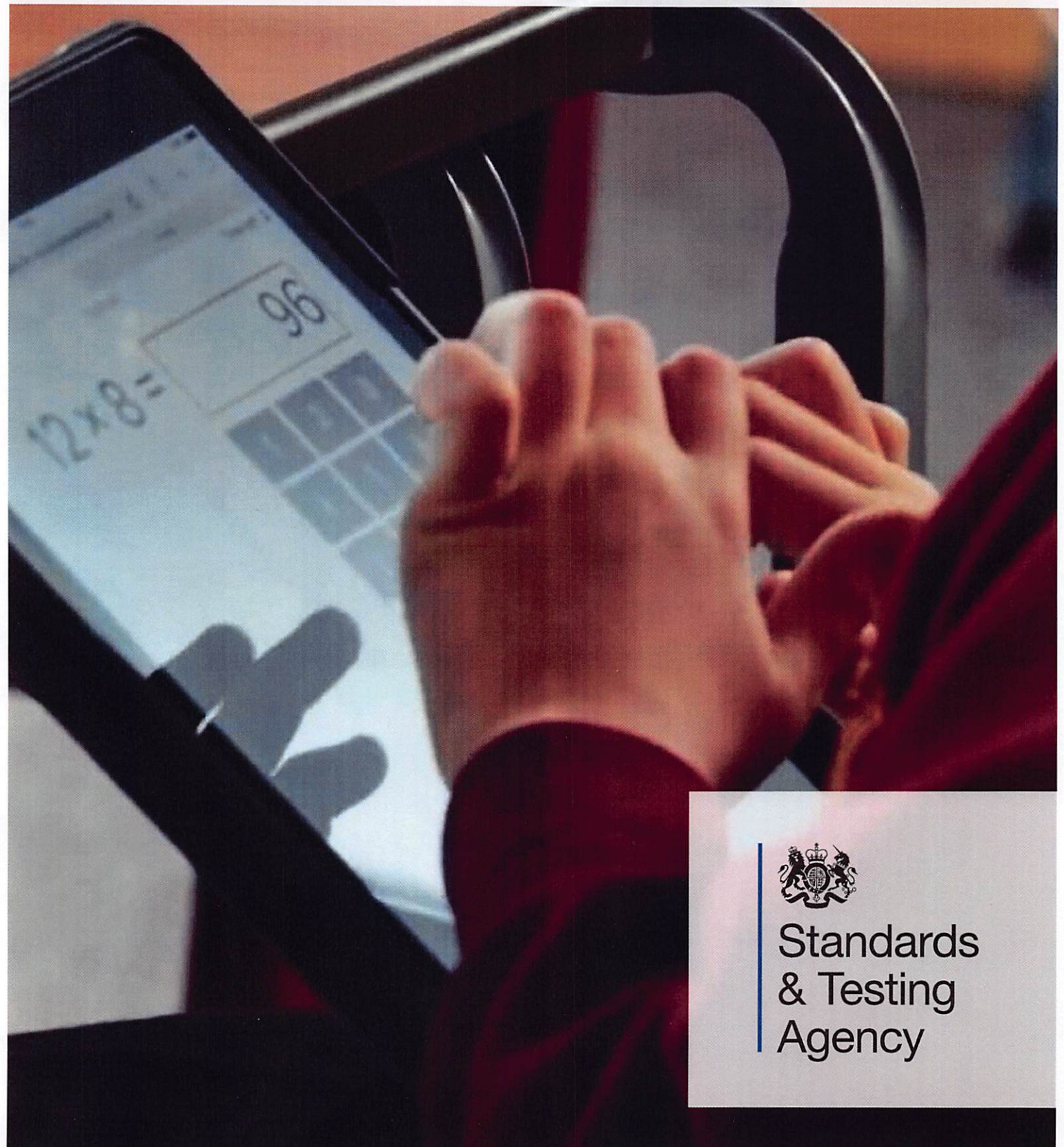


IF YOU DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH PLEASE ASK SOMEONE TO CALL FOR YOU AND BRING
SOMEONE WITH YOU TO HELP.



Information for parents:

2023 multiplication tables check



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Multiplication tables check

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check 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 your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

What is the multiplication tables check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for the check, which can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements. If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child's headteacher.

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

No, you do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practise times tables with your child.

Schools will have unlimited access to a 'try it out' area from April. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support required to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

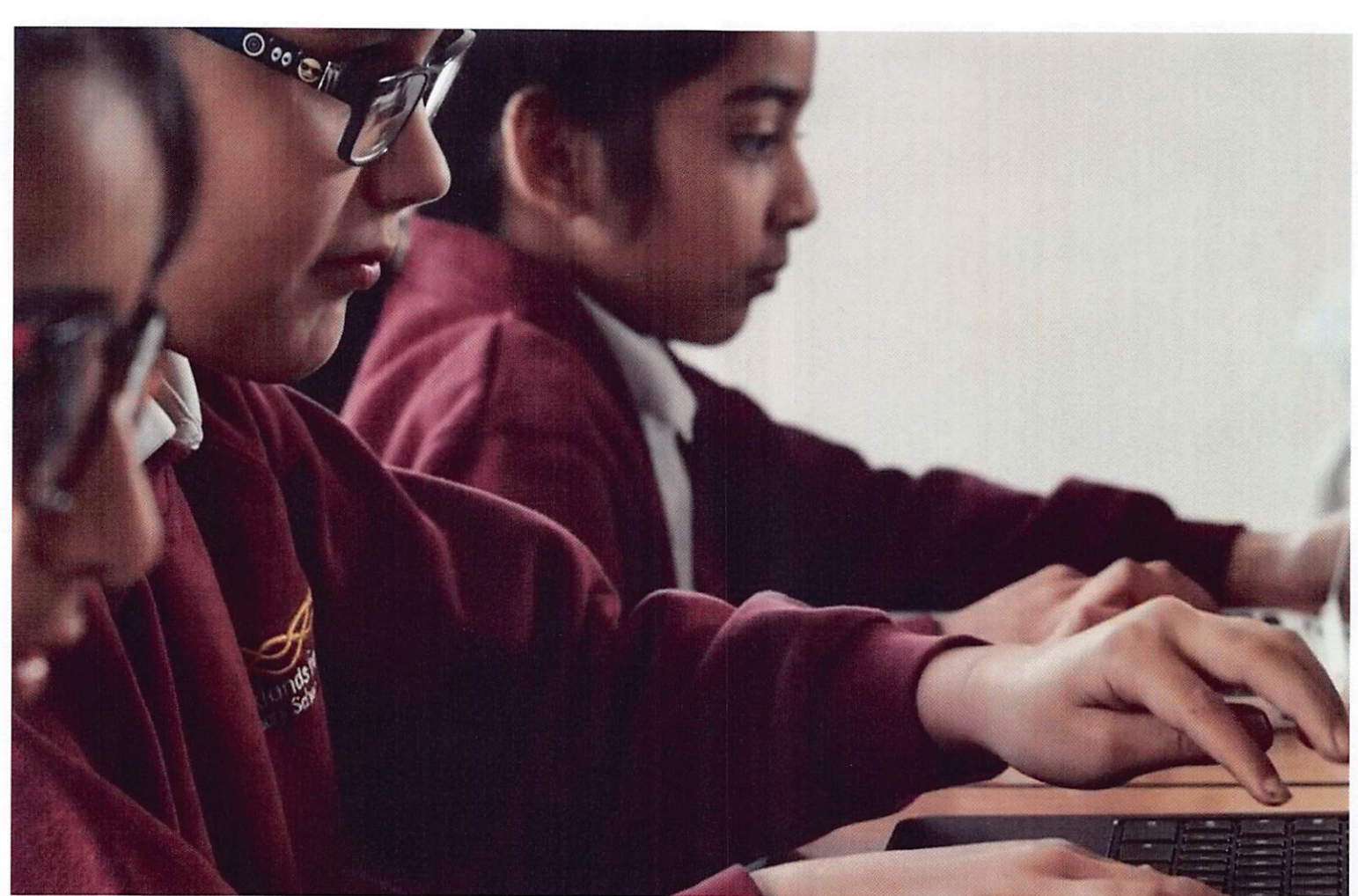
How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results, allowing those pupils who need additional support to be identified.

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes. Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.





Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the multiplication tables check.

For further details you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

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Information for parents: 2023 multiplication tables check

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