

8 March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer of **Year 4 children**

You may be aware that the Government is to introduce a timed test of children's recall of multiplication facts ("Times Tables").

It is important that we find the best way to teach times tables so that children can recall them quickly enough to use in larger problems but also understand the patterns and connections between the tables and other mathematical ideas.

Leighton Academy has agreed to be part of a research trial of different ways to teach them.

The research is taking place in over 20 schools and will happen in the Summer Term. Different groups in the trial will spend time working on different balances of "conceptual" approaches (games and activities in which children are asked to make connections between tables and to seek out and understand patterns) and "procedural" approaches (games and activities which practice the tables facts).

They will take a short tables test at the beginning and at the end of the project and will do the activities for 15 minutes a day on four days of the week.

They will also be asked to complete a short questionnaire at the end.

The activities are common activities that they may be doing as part of their tables learning anyway, just for different amounts of time.

No child or school will be able to be identified in the trial as all of the data is anonymised and the names of the children will be removed from the test papers by their teacher before being handed to the researchers.

You may ask for your child to not be included in the data of the trial or to take the questionnaire at the end by simply informing their teacher. We will not, then, include their test scores in the project.

We think that this will be a useful contribution to working out the best balance and type of activities to teach times tables. If you would like more information about the trial, please email markavis@aet.cheshire.sch.uk.

Thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Young
Principal

