

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Information for parents



Important information

- ❖ The MTC determines if Year 4 children can fluently recall their multiplication tables.
- ❖ They are designed to help schools identify which children require more support to learn their times tables.
- ❖ There is no 'pass' rate or threshold which means that, unlike the Phonics Screening Check, children will not be expected to re-sit the check.
- ❖ The Department for Education (DfE) will create a report about the overall results across all schools in England, not individual schools.

Why was it introduced?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLPFaOvhlKw>

Why was it introduced?

In primary school, times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in KS2:

- ❖ Multiplication
- ❖ Division
- ❖ Fractions
- ❖ Percentages
- ❖ Number sequences
- ❖ Many more!

In secondary school, good multiplication skills are a great help when starting to learn algebra, as well as chemistry, physics, biology and computing, all of which depend heavily on maths knowledge.

When will it take place?

- ❖ During the week of Monday 10th June to Friday 14th June 2024
- ❖ Please make sure your child is in school all week as we will be carrying it out over several days
- ❖ Children will only sit the check once throughout the week
- ❖ There is no set day to administer the check and children are not expected to take the check at the same time.
- ❖ All eligible Year 4 children in England will be required to take the check.

How is the check carried out?

- ❖ The check will be fully digital and completed on the school tablets
- ❖ There will be 3 practice questions before the check begins.
- ❖ There will be a total of 25 questions with a 3 second pause in-between questions.
- ❖ The children will have 6 seconds from the time the question appears to input their answer.
- ❖ Usually, the check will take less than 5 minutes for each child.
- ❖ Questions are generated randomly and the children do not see their scores. It is a low stakes check on what they can recall.

MTC Questions

- ❖ Each child will be randomly assigned a set of questions
- ❖ There will only be multiplication questions in the check, not division facts.
- ❖ The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are more likely to be asked.
- ❖ Reversal of questions (e.g. 8×6 and 6×8) will not be asked in the same check.
- ❖ Children will not see their individual results when they complete the check
- ❖ There is no pass mark – this is a check to see what times tables children are most confident with

MTC Questions

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) state that they are classifying the multiplication tables by the first number in the question. For example, 8×3 would fall within the 8 times table.

Multiplication table limits in the MTC

Multiplication Table	Minimum number of items in each form	Maximum number of items in each form
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	0	2
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	1	3
6	2	4
7	2	4
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	0	2
11	1	3
12	2	4

How has school prepared your child?

- ❖ Singing times table songs since Year 2!
- ❖ Weekly times table practice
- ❖ Regular opportunities to access TTRS, MTC so that this is nothing new or unfamiliar to them
- ❖ Number Sense program which focused on a specific times tables
- ❖ Regular retrieval and times table practice as part of Maths lessons

How can you support your child?

- ❖ Remind them that the check should last no more than 5 minutes.
- ❖ They are ready!!
- ❖ Sing Times tables songs with them
- ❖ If you want to go over times tables, make them fun.
- ❖ Play games with your child to support their recall of times table facts
- ❖ Ensure children are constantly revisiting their times table facts from previous weeks to ensure they develop fluency in all facts
- ❖ If you have any concerns, talk to your child's teacher.

Multiplication Games

Catch! – children throw a ball to one another and ask a multiplication question as the throw it e.g. call someone's name then say $3 \times 7 =$ the person whose name was called has to answer the question correctly. If they get it right, they continue the game and call someone else's name, ask a question and throw the ball.

Beat the Teacher/Beat my adult – who can answer more question in 1 min/30 seconds – keep a tally so you know whether students or the teacher is winning.

Bingo! – children write down 3 or 4 multiples from a given times table e.g. for the 9 times table they might write down 81, 27 and 36 (don't write too many – small focus e.g. on one or two times tables) teacher or another student calls out the times table question e.g. 3×9 and if children have 27, they cross it out. You could also do this in reverse, write down the question and teachers call out the multiples.

Throw the Dice – children work in pairs to throw two dice and call out the answer to the multiplication question show – keep a tally as to who has answered more questions correctly (play for max 2/3 mins)

Kinaesthetic tables – get children jumping, running (relay) or moving in any way they like to recite their tables (including the question e.g. 9×6 is 54)

The Disappearing Man – draw a stick person on the board and write a times table inside. Children come to the board and give a fact based on the times table e.g. if 12 is written inside they could say $4 \times 12 = 48$ this means they can rub out a limb/part of the stick man. If children get a question wrong, the teacher adds a limb/part to their stick man. The children have to rub out their stick man before the teacher completes theirs.

Online Games

If you're looking to support your child further with maths at home, there are lots of good websites with free resources:

- <https://urbrainy.com/mtc>
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>
- [Times Tables Rock Stars – Times Tables Rock Stars \(ttrockstars.com\)](http://ttrockstars.com)
- <https://www.multiplication.com/games/all-game>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/multiplication-anddivision>

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, these 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 teacher.

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 March. 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.

