

**Information for Parents**



**Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**

All Year 4 children have their multiplication skills formally tested in the summer term of Year 4. Please find some information below on how the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) works in primary schools.

The **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** was officially announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2017. **It will be administered for children in Year 4, starting in June 2022.**

**Although all tests were cancelled because of COVID-19, in 2020 the MTC became compulsory.**

**When will the checks happen?**

The times tables test is being introduced in English schools only. **It will be taken by children in Year 4, in the summer term (during a three-week period in June; schools will decide which day to administer the check).**

School will administer the multiplication tables check within the three-week period starting on Monday 7 June 2021.

**What does my child need to know?**

Primary-school children are expected to know all their [times tables](https://www.theschoolrun.com/maths/multiplication) up to 12x12.

**How will it be carried out?**

**Children will be tested using an on-screen check (on a computer or a tablet), where they will have to answer multiplication questions against the clock.**

This will be the first time that the DfE has used computerised tests in primary schools. Calculators and wall displays that could provide children with answers will be removed from the room the MTC is taking place in.

**The test will last no longer than 5 minutes** and is similar to other tests already used by primary schools. Their answers will be marked instantly.

**Children will have 6 seconds to answer each question in a series of 25.** Each question will be worth one mark and be presented to the child in this format:

n1 x n2 = \_\_\_\_

**Questions will be selected from the 121 number facts that make up the multiplication tables from 2 to 12, with a particular focus on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables** as they are considered to be the most challenging. Each question will only appear once in any 25-question series, and children won't be asked to answer reversals of a question as part of the check (so if they've already answered 3 x 4 they won't be asked about 4 x 3).

Once the child has inputted their answer on the computer / device they are using, there will be a three-second pause before the next question appears. Children will be given the opportunity to practise answering questions in this format before the official check begins.

The six-second time limit per question has been decided on by the DfE because it should allow children enough time to demonstrate their recall of times tables without giving them the time to work out the answers to each question.

**The following 11 multiplication questions are more likely to be asked:**

* + **6 x 6, 6 x 7, 6 x 8, 6 x 9, 6 x 12**
	+ **7 x 8, 7 x 9, 7 x 12**
	+ **8 x 9, 8 x 12**
	+ **12 x 12**

**What if my child cannot access the check?**

There are a number of accessibility features available in MTC to assist children with special educational needs and disabilities. These were developed with schools and pupils to ensure they do not disadvantage children that require additional support. However, there are some circumstances in which it may not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check. If you have any concerns about your child being able to access the MTC, please contact me and we can discuss it further.

Your child has access to a TTRockStars account.  On TTRockStars, the Soundcheck game is very similar in format to the MTC.

Click on the link below for another interactive tool that is also similar in format to the MTC.

[Multiplication Tables Check - Mathsframe](https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check)

**How will the results be used?**

School will be able to view their results once all participating pupils have taken the check. They will then share your child’s score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. Statistics on MTC data (all schools) will be published on GOV.UK at a local authority and national level by October. This will help schools understand how they are performing. School and pupil level data will not be published.

In Year 4 we regularly monitor the children’s progress on TTRockstars.  The main focus is to ensure that your child is making progress and if there are gaps in their knowledge, that we do our very best to help them fill them.  The children have heard me, many times, explaining the importance of a sound multiplication knowledge, as this will help them in Year 5 and 6 with different aspects of the mathematics curriculum, not just multiplication and division.  The children have already commented this year, that having a solid multiplication knowledge has helped them with their fractions, decimals, perimeter and area work.

**How can you help at home?**

Some of the techniques you can use include:

        Practising times tables by rote.

        Asking your child multiplication questions out of order – such as ‘What’s 11x12? What’s 5x6?’

        Asking your child the related [division](https://www.theschoolrun.com/maths/division) facts: ‘What’s 8/4? What’s 9/6?’

        Using different ways to help your child memorise times tables – you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.

        Focus on the times tables more likely to appear if they’re not 100% confident with them.  **6 x 6, 6 x 7, 6 x 8, 6 x 9, 6 x 12, 7 x 8, 7 x 9, 7 x 12, 8 x 9, 8 x 12, 12 x 12**.

        Encourage your child to visit and use TTRockStars on a regular basis.  I have found that just 10 minutes a day can make a significant difference to a child’s speed.  TTRockStars can be downloaded on to a phone or tablet (I have it on my phone) so is very easily accessed.  It is a great activity on a car journey.