Year 4
Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Information for Families

2026-2027

What is the MTC?

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils registered at state-funded maintained schools, special schools or academies, including free schools, in England.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently up to 12, through a set of 25 timed questions.

This skill is essential for future success in mathematics, and the check will help schools identify pupils who have not yet mastered this and provide additional support.

Curriculum Expectations

Expectations for times tables for each year group.	
Year 1	Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 Recall and use all doubles to 10 and corresponding halves.
Year 2	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 ad 10 times tables including recognising odd and even numbers.
Year 3	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for 3, 4 and 8 times tables.
Year 4	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for tables up to 12 x 12.
Year 5	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12.
Year 6	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12.

Primary-school children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

How will children be assessed?

25 Questions

Selected from
2 x to 12 x tables

6 seconds

To read, process
and type answer

Digital Format

PC, Laptop or
Tablet with Audio

Your child will answer 3 practice questions before moving on to the official check.

When will children be assessed?

- There will be a **2-week window** from Monday 7th to Friday 18th **June** 2027 (dates to be verified once issued).
- All eligible Year 4 children in England will be required to take the check.
- There is a 'Try it out' area, provided by the DfE, which will take place in school (from April 2027).
- Some children will be eligible for specific arrangements such as colour contrast, font size, 'Next' button, an adult to input answers, audio version, audible time alert.

How will the test be taken?

- In small groups or individually.
- It will take place in the morning, in a quiet room.
- Administration and conduct of test will be overseen by a member of Senior Leadership and another member of staff, in accordance with the Standards and Testing Agency, and the DfE guidance.
- No additional resources and wall displays will be removed.

The check questions

- Each child will be randomly assigned a set of questions.
- There will only be multiplication questions, no division facts.
- The **6, 7, 8, 9, and 12** times tables are more likely to be asked, as these are the hardest for most children to learn. It is a good idea to focus on these tricky times tables with your child at home.
- Children will not see their individual results when they complete the check. Results are published in their end of year reports.

Why do we learn times tables?

- In primary school, building fluent recall of times tables is vital for maths calculations and problem solving, as well as fractions, division, area, ratio and algebra all rely on it.

- The investment made in Year 4 pays dividends all the way through to secondary school. Fluent recall by Year 4 is the strongest predictor of GCSE Maths success at 16.

The MTC Score Distribution (National Context)

25 out of 25: Approximately 30% of pupils receive a perfect score. Last year the National Average for 25/25 was 44%.

20+: The national average. Indicates strong fluency.

Under 15: Suggests potential gaps in conceptual understanding.

In school, times tables strategies

1. Weekly or biweekly checks similar to the MTC process. Children will be kept aware of their progress.
2. Times Tables Rockstars – ad hoc/throughout the week.
3. A 'little and often' approach.
4. Focus on 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 (primarily from Spring 1).
5. Tailored interventions.
6. Multiplication games.
7. Daily practice after maths lesson.

This is in addition to daily fluency which is part of every maths lesson.

Strategies to use at home

1. Daily TTRs. 5 minutes is all that is needed!
2. Stick with one table at a time to minimise confusion.
3. Chanting and songs.
4. Make it fun!

Useful websites

https://ttrockstars.com/

https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=times%20tables

https://www.timestables.co.uk/

https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check

Any questions

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Admin Office who will direct your query.