

Multiplication tables check

Parent Meeting 14.01.25

Why is the Multiplication Tables Check being introduced?



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

Why has the Multiplication Tables Check been introduced?

- Multiplication facts underpin a lot of maths knowledge:
- Division
- Fractions
- Percentages
- Multiplication
- Number sequences
- Many more!
- All these areas when linked to problem solving
- Expectations (x and ÷) from Y1 – 4 in the National Curriculum

Year 4 times table check

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.

the multiplication times table checks will be undertaken by all eligible year 4 pupils within the 2-week period from **Monday 2 June 2025**

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.

- Questions about the 7, 6, 8, 9, and 12 times tables are likely to come up most often, as these are the hardest for most children to learn. It's a good idea to focus on these tricky times tables with your child.
- First and foremost, the check is about finding out which children are struggling with their times tables so that they can get extra support. It is not a judgement on what your child can do, but a way for the school to know how their teaching is going and to adjust their focus if needed.
- *“Leaving primary school with a fundamental grasp of basic numeracy is as important as leaving being able to read. And just as the phonics check has helped more children learn to read, this will ensure more pupils know their times tables.”*
- Nick Gibb, former schools minister

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 headteacher.

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.

How can I help my child prepare?

- The best way to keep the test stress-free is to work some times tables practice into your daily routine well in advance. With regular practice, your child will get used to tackling these kind of questions with confidence.
- If your child is feeling nervous in the approach to the check, don't panic. Our top five tips for helping your child learn their times tables will get them up to speed:

Use times table wall charts

Wall charts show all the answers for a particular times table. You could download a free times table wall charts and stick them up somewhere they'll be seen often. For instance, you could put them over the sink so that your child will see them when they're brushing their teeth. You'll be amazed how quickly they learn when they see these number facts every day!

Learn the tricks for difficult times tables

There are clever tricks for remembering several of the times tables. For instance, watch Andrew Jeffrey's method for tackling the seven times table below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TWuQvN-4jk>

Play times tables games

- Games and challenges are a great way to support learning, and a few minutes a day will make all the difference. Why not play snap with some times tables flashcards, matching the sums to the answers as fast as you can? Or you could surprise your child by asking times tables questions at random times during the day and seeing how quickly they can respond (this works particularly well as a competition between siblings or friends).
- Using games keeps practice short and sweet, and makes the process much less of a chore for you and your child.

Make it real

- If your child can't see any point in learning their times tables, try showing them how this knowledge is useful in everyday life. Instead of just rote learning their times tables, try to create opportunities for your child to use multiplication in problem solving.
- For example, ask them to scale up a recipe or calculate whether they have enough money to buy more of their favourite things (such as sweets or football cards). This will help your child see the value of their learning.

Practise on the computer, a tablet or a phone.

Help your child become comfortable reading and answering questions on a screen.

Encourage your child to access Times Tables Rock Stars online, every day for a few minutes.

