

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic design.

# Multiplication Test Check in Year 4

Parent Guide

# Curriculum Expectations

- ▶ Currently, primary-school children are expected to know all their times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . Under the current National Curriculum, children are supposed to know their times tables by the end of Year 4.
- ▶ The importance of this skill to be embedded by the end of Year 4 is essential in order for children to fulfil the Upper Key Stage 2 maths curriculum.

# Reasons for the new test in Year 4

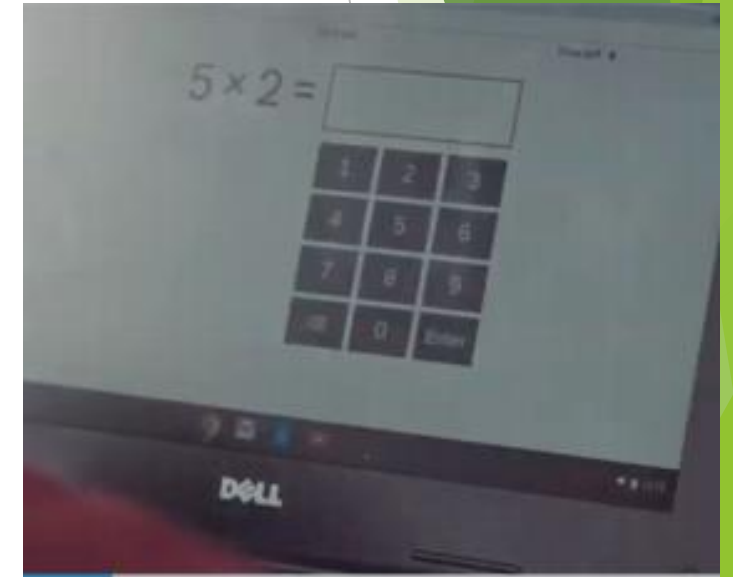
- ▶ The DfE says that the check is part of a new focus on mastering numeracy, giving children the skills and knowledge they need for secondary school and beyond. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether Y4 pupils can recall their multiplication tables fluently (being able to answer times tables questions accurately and quickly, without having to work out the answers).
- ▶ Announcing the tests in 2017, the then education secretary Justine Greening said, 'A good primary education lays the foundations for success at secondary school and beyond. This year's (2017) Key Stage 2 results showed our curriculum reforms are starting to raise standards and it is vital we have an assessment system that supports that.'

# Who sits the tests and when?

- ▶ The times tables test will be 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).
- ▶ In June 2020 it will become compulsory for all English [maintained schools](#), [special schools](#) and [academies](#) (including [free schools](#)) to administer the check.
- ▶ Children with special educational needs will be provided for when taking the MTC.

# How will the children be tested?

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The test will last no longer than 5 minutes.
- ▶ 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: number x number = \_\_\_\_ (see picture) Children will be given the opportunity to practise answering questions in this format before the official check begins.
- ▶ 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.



# How will the multiplication tables check results be reported?

- ▶ Pupils' individual results will be made available to schools, and the Department for Education will report national results to track how they change over time.
- ▶ Individual scores will not be shared, but the necessary information will be reported to parents or carers in order for them to support their child at home.
- ▶ School-level results won't be made publicly available or be used in league / performance tables.
- ▶ There are no 'pass marks' or 'threshold', now will there be a 'fail'. The information is used by teachers to see which children may be falling behind so that they can put the necessary provision in place.

# What will school be doing to support your child?

- ▶ Daily times table practice
- ▶ Weekly Times Table Rockstars homework set and tracked by the class teacher.
- ▶ Times table incorporated in daily maths lessons
- ▶ Times Table SODAs.
- ▶ Times tables intervention where necessary.

# How can you support your child?

Some of the techniques you can use include:

- ▶ Ensure your child is using and practising on Times Table Rockstars.
- ▶ Practising times tables by rote.
- ▶ Asking your child multiplication questions out of order – such as ‘What’s 11x12? What’s 5x6?’
- ▶ Using arrays to help your child memorise times tables – you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.
- ▶ Using apps and games like TheSchoolRun’s multiplication games to build speed.
- ▶ Singing times tables using songs like Percy Parker.



# Game Ideas:

- ▶ ☐ Pairs: Write answers to a times table on one set of cards. On another set, write the questions, turn them face down. Mix them and put them into a grid. Each person gets to turn over two cards, if they find a matching pair (the question and the answer) they get to keep the pair and have another turn, if not they must put them back into the grid in the same place and the next person gets a turn. This improves memory as well as recall.
- ▶ ☐ Bingo: Use a six square grid and write some answers to a given timetable in the grid. On cards write down the questions. Each person takes turns to draw a card and answer the question. If they have the answer in their grid, they can cross it out. First person to get a line wins.

# Website resources:

- ▶ <https://www.theschoolrun.com/maths/times>
- ▶ [tableshttps://www.theschoolrun.com/multiplication-tables-practice-check-1](https://www.theschoolrun.com/multiplication-tables-practice-check-1)
- ▶ <https://www.multiplication.com/games/all-games>
- ▶ [https://www.mathplayground.com/ASB\\_Index.html](https://www.mathplayground.com/ASB_Index.html)
- ▶ <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/multiplication-and-division>