Margaret Wix Primary School

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Presentation to Parents and Carers

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Important information about multiplication tables check (MTC)

- 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.

When the check will take place?

- There will be a 2 week window from **Monday 1st June and Friday 12th June** for schools to administer the check.
- There is no set day to administer the check and children are not expected to all take the check at the same time.
- All eligible Year 4 children in England will be required to take the check.

How the check is carried out?

- The check will be fully digital.
- Answers will be entered using a keyboard, by pressing digits using a mouse or using an on-screen number pad.
- Usually, the check will take less than 5 minutes for each child.
- The children will have 6 seconds from the time the question appears to input their answer.
- There will be a total of 25 questions with a 3 second pause in-between questions.
- There will be 3 practice questions before the check begins.

Specific arrangements for the check

Some children will be eligible for specific arrangements:

- Colour contrast;
- Font size adjustment;
- 'Next' button (alternative to 3-second pause);
- Removing on-screen number pad;
- An adult to input answers;
- Audio version;
- Audible time alert.

All children must complete each question within the 6 second timeframe.

The check 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 x 6 and 6 x 8) will not be asked in the same check.
- Children will not see their individual results when they complete the check.

More information about the questions

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) state[7] that they are classifying the multiplication tables by the first number in the question. For example, 8 x 3 would fall within the 8 times table.

5.2.1 Table 1 – 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

Ways to support times table knowledge

- Count and look for patterns.
- Understand that multiplication is repeated addition.
- Remember that multiplication is commutative.
- Remember that multiplication is the inverse of division.
- Recall and utilise number families.

Use different representations to represent multiplication, such as:

- Concrete manipulatives suck as multilink cubes or counters.
- Create pictorial representations such as arrays.

Ways to support times table knowledge

Play on ‘Garage’ setting to build your child’s heatmap.

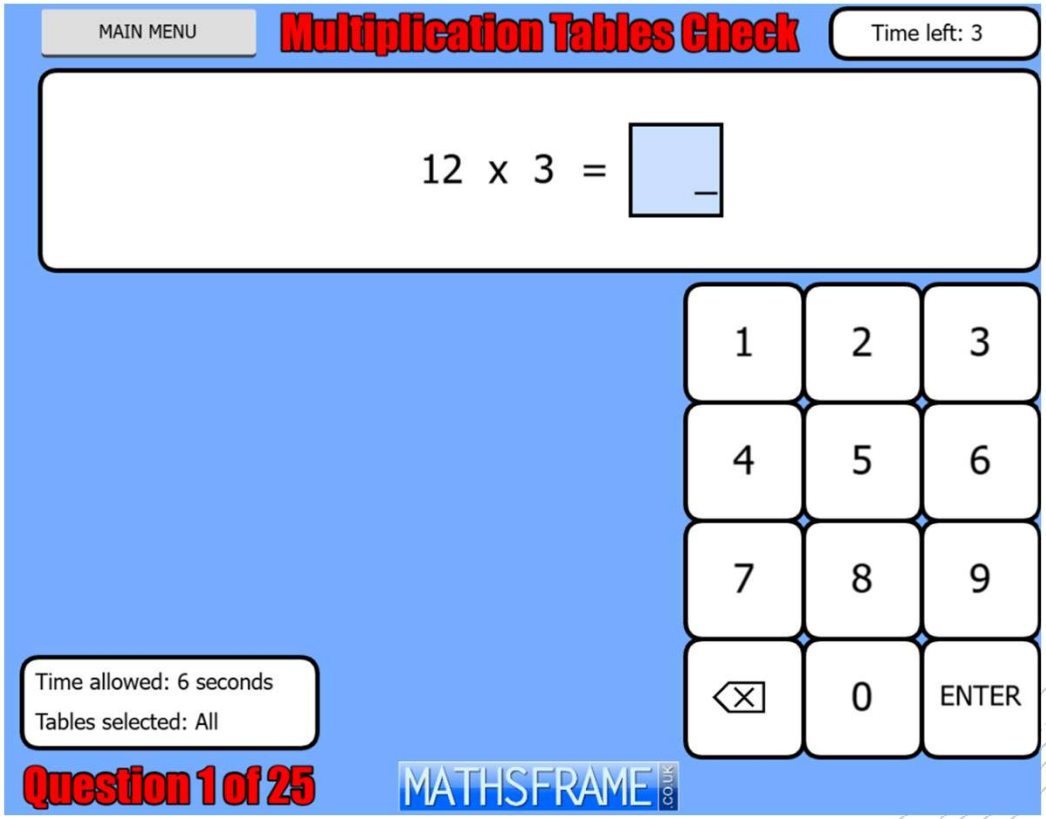
	10	2	5	3	4	8	6	7	9	11	12
10	10 × 10	10 × 2	10 × 5	10 × 3	10 × 4	10 × 8	10 × 6	10 × 7	10 × 9	10 × 11	10 × 12
2	2 × 10	2 × 2	2 × 5	2 × 3	2 × 4	2 × 8	2 × 6	2 × 7	2 × 9	2 × 11	2 × 12
5	5 × 10	5 × 2	5 × 5	5 × 3	5 × 4	5 × 8	5 × 6	5 × 7	5 × 9	5 × 11	5 × 12
3	3 × 10	3 × 2	3 × 5	3 × 3	3 × 4	3 × 8	3 × 6	3 × 7	3 × 9	3 × 11	3 × 12
4	4 × 10	4 × 2	4 × 5	4 × 3	4 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 6	4 × 7	4 × 9	4 × 11	4 × 12
8	8 × 10	8 × 2	8 × 5	8 × 3	8 × 4	8 × 8	8 × 6	8 × 7	8 × 9	8 × 11	8 × 12
6	6 × 10	6 × 2	6 × 5	6 × 3	6 × 4	6 × 8	6 × 6	6 × 7	6 × 9	6 × 11	6 × 12
7	7 × 10	7 × 2	7 × 5	7 × 3	7 × 4	7 × 8	7 × 6	7 × 7	7 × 9	7 × 11	7 × 12
9	9 × 10	9 × 2	9 × 5	9 × 3	9 × 4	9 × 8	9 × 6	9 × 7	9 × 9	9 × 11	9 × 12
11	11 × 10	11 × 2	11 × 5	11 × 3	11 × 4	11 × 8	11 × 6	11 × 7	11 × 9	11 × 11	11 × 12
12	12 × 10	12 × 2	12 × 5	12 × 3	12 × 4	12 × 8	12 × 6	12 × 7	12 × 9	12 × 11	12 × 12

Questions with purple borders are the ones this pupil will practise in Garage. The colours on this page relate to the speed shown in this table:

No data | 0 - 1s | 1 - 2s | 2 - 3s | 3 - 4s | 4 - 5s | 5 - 6s | 6 - 7s | 7 - 8s | 8 - 9s | 9 - 10s | > 10s

Ways to support times table knowledge

This website closely resembles the MTC test.



Counting and looking for patterns.

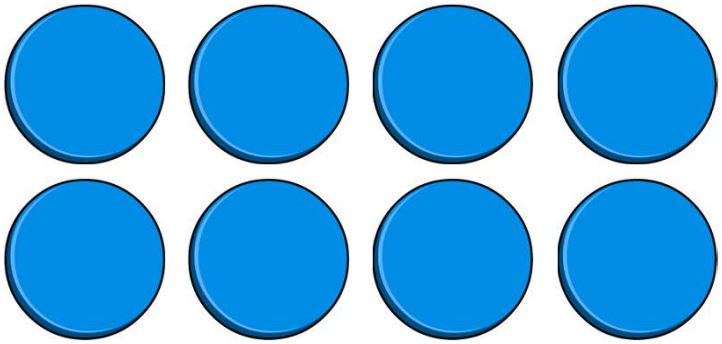
Example: Counting in 2s

2, 4, 6, 8, 10…

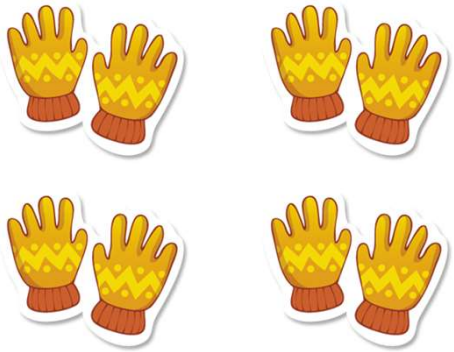
- Ensure children have a strong understanding of counting in groups first.
- When children are secure with counting, they can then look for patterns.

Repeated addition

Knowing that 2 x 4 is the same as 2 + 2 + 2 + 2



2 x 4 = ?

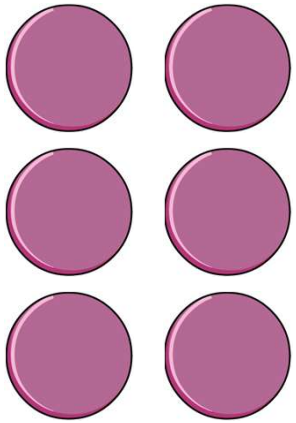


2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = ?

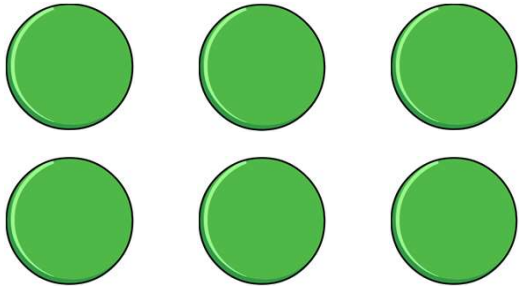
Multiplication is commutative

3 x 2 is the same as 2 x 3

Children need to understand that multiplication can be completed in any order to produce the same answer. Sometimes this link needs to be made explicit.



2 lots of 3 = 6

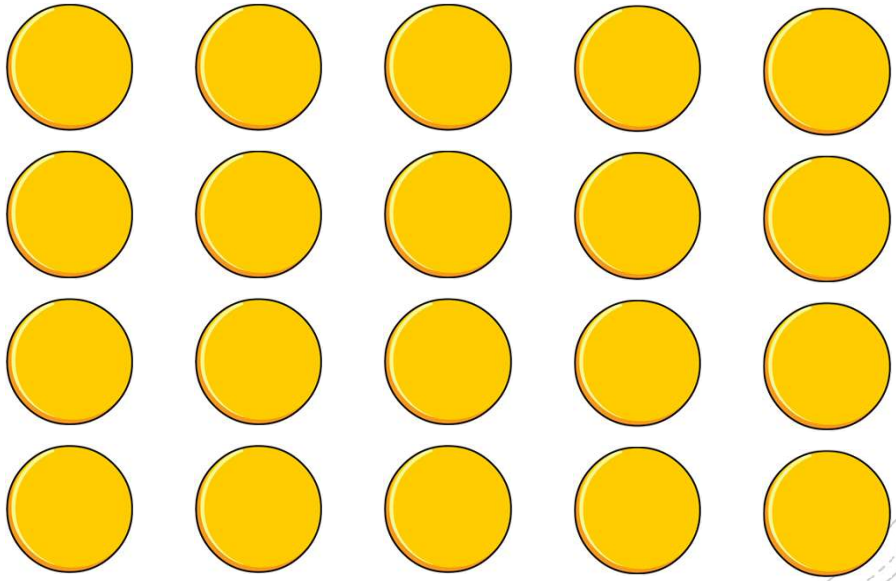


3 lots of 2 = 6

Multiplication is the inverse of division

20 ÷ 5 = 4 can be worked out because 5 x 4 = 20

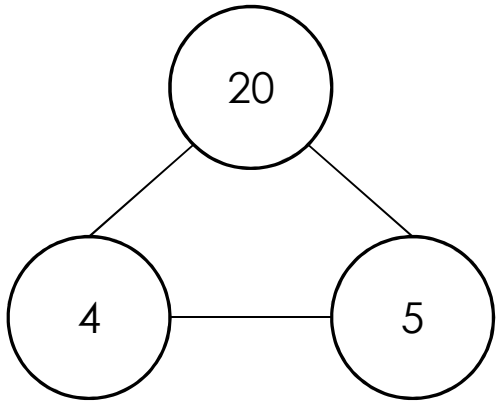
Using pictorial representations (such as arrays) is useful here for children to see the link between multiplication and division.



Number families

4 x 5 = 20, 5 x 4 = 20, 20 ÷ 5 = 4, 20 ÷ 4 = 5

Due to their commutative understanding, children should also be able to see whole number families. For many children this will need to be pointed out and discussed.



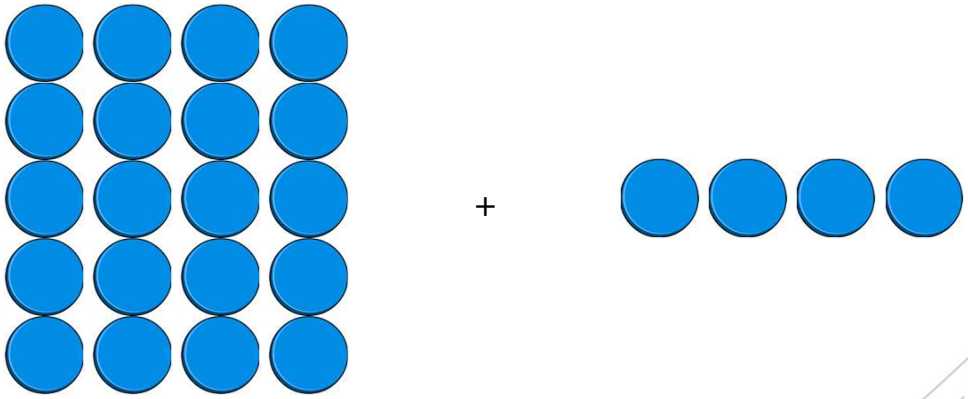
Using known facts

4 x 6 = ?

I know 4 x 5 = 20

Therefore, 20 + 4 = 24

By using known facts from 'easier' times tables, children should be able to find answers with increasing speed.



How we are preparing your children for the MTC?

- Regular teaching of multiplication tables using many of the previously mentioned strategies.
- Times table quizzes – both online (TTRS and MathsFrame) and paper-based – to improve recall speed.
- Maths Magicians weekly quiz.
- Setting home learning directly linked to multiplication tables.

How best to prepare your child for the check

- Remind them that the check should last no more than 5 minutes.
- If you want to go over times tables, make them fun.
- If you have any concerns, talk to your child's teacher.
- If your child has any concerns, encourage them to talk to a trusted adult (for example, yourself, their teacher).
- Multiplication Tables Check – Mathsframe

This website closely replicates the MTC. The link can be found under the maths star of Apollos' class page.