

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) is an on-screen assessment designed to determine whether pupils are able to fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

The MTC was trialled in June 2019 but this is the first year that it is a statutory requirement that all schools have to administer the check.

About the MTC

- The MTC is a KS2 assessment that is taken by pupils at the end of year 4 and is based on the 2014 National Curriculum
- It is focussed on the fluent recall of multiplication facts
- The curriculum states, *'By the end of Year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work'*
- The Year 4 programme of study also states, *'Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12'*
- The MTC only assesses the instant recall of multiplication facts

When will the MTC be carried out

- There is a 3 week window starting on the 6th June, for the administration of the check
- There is no set day to administer the check
- Children will not all take the check at the same time
- All eligible year 4 pupils in England will be required to take the check

How is the MTC carried out

- The check is fully digital and takes place on screen
- Children will use a device they are use to and have practised on (desktop, laptop or tablet)
- Answers will be entered using a keyboard or a touchscreen number pad
- The check should take no longer than 5 minutes per pupil and will be administered by an adult that they are familiar with

What will the MTC involve

- Children will get 6 seconds from the time the question appears to input their answer
- There will be 25 questions with a 3 second pause in-between them
- Each pupil will be randomly assigned their questions
- They will only have to face multiplication statements (not related division facts)
- There will always be questions from the 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11 and 12 multiplication tables in each check
- There will be no questions from the 1x table
- There will be a maximum of 7 questions from the 2, 5 and 10 times tables
- There is an emphasis on the 6,7,8,9 and 12 times tables as these are the most difficult

Specific arrangements for the MTC

Children with additional needs, who have adaptations made to their provision in school, may be allotted specific arrangements.

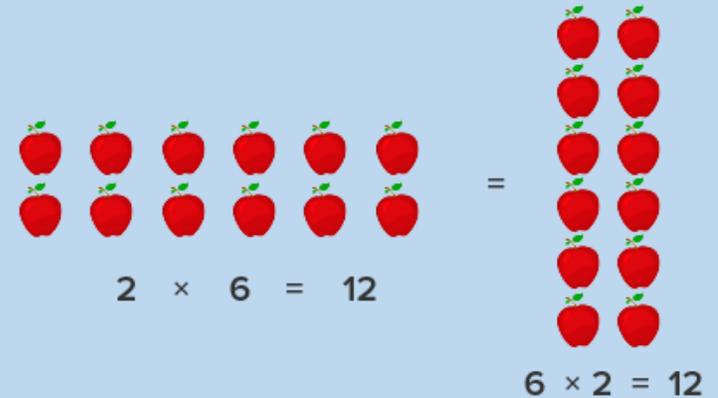
- Changes to the colour of the background and questions
- Font adjustments
- Removing on-screen number pad
- An adult to input answers
- Question reader
- Audible time alert

Reporting of the MTC

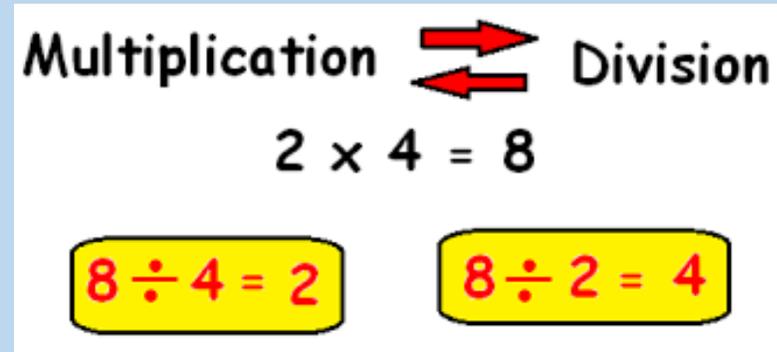
- The pupils will not be told their score at the end of the check
- Pupil results will be made available to schools later on in the term
- It is likely that schools will be asked to report the result to parents at the end of the term
- **There is no pass mark**
- The school level data will not be published

How do we teach times tables

- Counting and looking for patterns
- Repeated addition
- Multiplication is commutative
- Multiplication is the inverse of division
- Number families
- Using known facts



- Repetition
- Concrete manipulatives
- Pictorial representation
- Number songs and videos
- Games
- Online activities



Why are multiplication tables so important

Times tables are a brilliant brain training exercise for primary age children. Good times table knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving

E.g. if you know $6 \times 3 = 18$ you can quickly work out 6×30 or 60×3

Times tables are often taught separately from other areas of maths to begin with, but they are the building blocks for many other topics in maths such as division, long multiplication, fractions and percentages

E.g. find a fraction equivalent to $\frac{3}{5}$

Children need to know their times tables by the end of year 4 as in years 5 and 6 they will be moving on to more complicated concepts like multiplying and dividing using 4 digit numbers

Why are multiplication tables so important

Knowing multiplication facts will aid learning division facts. Once you know $6 \times 3 = 18$ you will be quicker recalling the answer to $18 \div 3$. It is vital that we practise these alongside each other and although the MTC will not test them, the knowledge will be important for future maths work.

Your child may protest that timetables are useless, but we rely on them constantly in everyday life

E.g. for working out if you have enough oranges if they come in bags of 6 and you need one a day for three members of your family.

Remind them of everyday ways that they can put their times tables to use

E.g. In the cinema count how many seats in a row and the number of rows in the venue and work out the total number of people

Knowing times tables makes life easier in secondary school. Good multiplication skills are a great help when learning algebra, chemistry, physics, biology which rely on mathematical skills

How can you support your child

Make Times table fun:

- Climb stairs counting in multiples
- Play verbal times table games
- Listen and learn table songs
- Say the tables in different voices
- Play online maths games

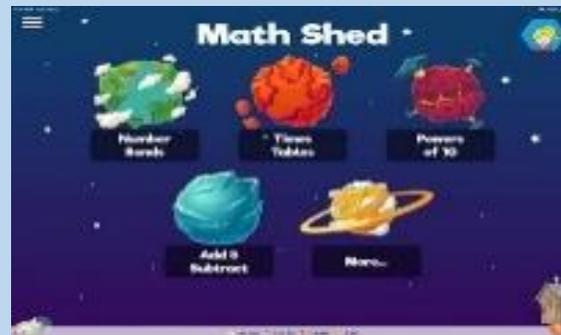
- Display a poster with the times table facts on
- Put tricky facts up around the house
- Create flash cards with the answers on the back

How can you support your child

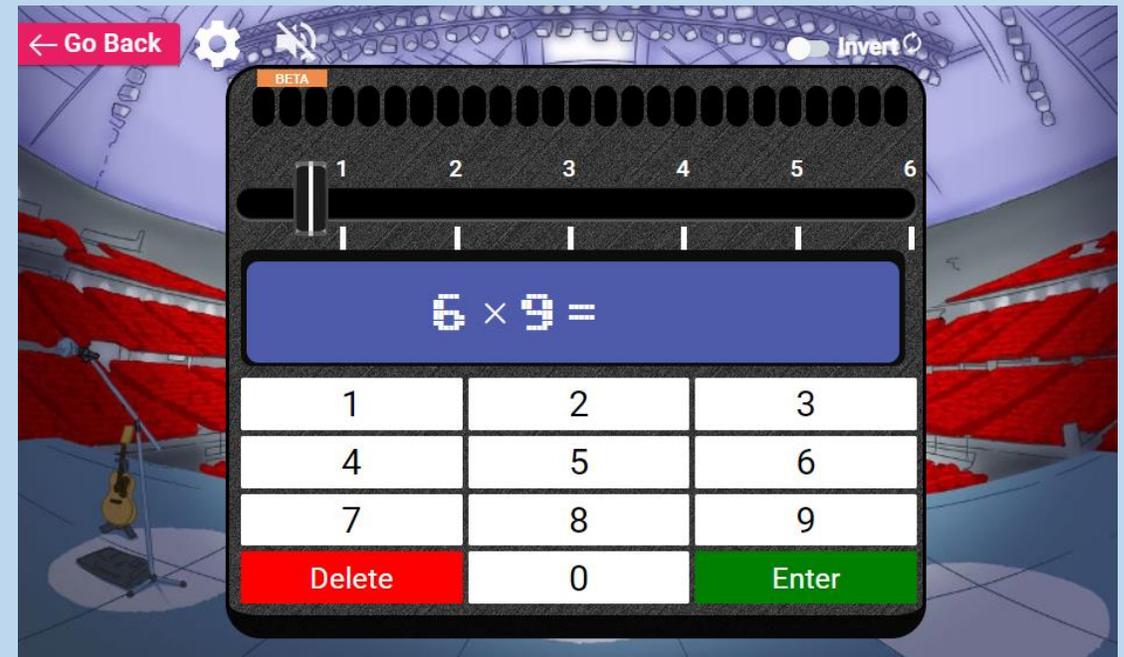
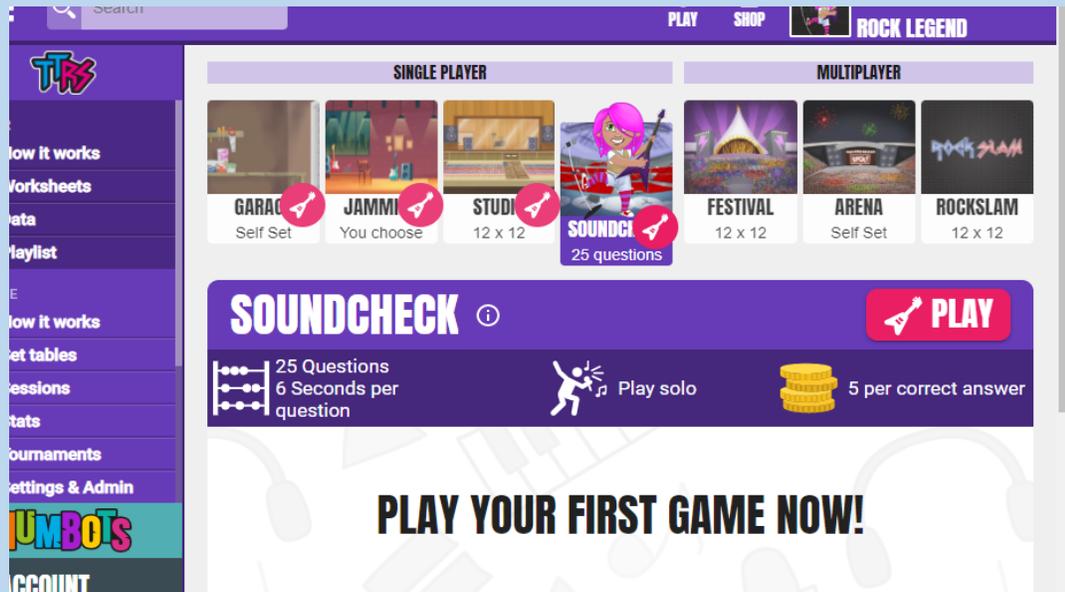
All children have a log on for Times Table Rockstars. Encourage them to play as often as possible but for short periods of time as this will help them learn better than one long session a week.



Children can access Maths Shed through their Spelling Shed log in. This also has a section for times table practise.



SOUNDCHECK on TTRS is set up so that children can practise for the MTC. They have 25 questions to answer and 6 seconds to answer them. This is good for them to see how long 6 seconds actually is!



Maths Shed also has a practise MTC. You can find it in the Times table section.

