

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may know, the Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 children is happening between Monday 1 June and Friday 12 June.

What is the Multiplication Tables Check?

- The checks consist of 25 times tables questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to 12×12 . There's nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up.
- There will be 6 seconds to answer each question.
- The check will be taken online during school time.
- There is no pass mark.
- Teachers will be able to apply for some children to be able to pause between questions.

Why do the children need to take this test?

All Year 4 pupils in England will take the check. The Government made the check compulsory in 2022. They say:

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

But why are times tables so important? Having rapid recall of times tables makes other areas of maths much easier. The most obvious area where learning times tables well is essential would be fractions. However, every multiplication, division, long multiplication, short division and long division method requires speed and instant recall of times tables while at primary school. At secondary school, the need becomes even greater.

Furthermore, having the secure tables frees up their working memory for newer, more challenging tasks at hand.

So learning them now, in Year 4, sets children up for a more successful maths career later in their school life.

What can you do to help your child learn their times tables?

You can access your child's heatmap by logging in to their account and then going to Stats > Fluency. It shows their current recall time for each of the times tables facts. The greener the fact, the quicker the response time. Any facts shown in red or orange are slower than 5 seconds, and should be practised.



How can you help them improve their recall times?

There are lots of ways to learn times tables, but here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Make sure they play regularly in **Garage mode** on Times Tables Rocks Stars - the Garage game mode is very clever and will adjust the questions your child is asked, ensuring they are always working on the facts they need to improve. Also, give them a times tables square to use whilst they play (one is included at the end of this document). This way they can double-check facts they are not sure about.
- Sing times tables songs. There are hundreds available!
- Chanting the old-fashioned way - rehearse the tables forwards and backwards, gradually increasing in speed.
- Write out the tables – this can be in the form of a simple list or you could also be a bit more fun. Being creative will make writing and learning the tables more enjoyable.
 - Write the facts as the petals of a flower.
 - Get them to test you on the facts and get them wrong on purpose and see if they correct you!
 - Treasure Hunt: Hide the facts around the house and give them the answers. Can they find them in record time?
 - Take a pot of water and a paintbrush outside to 'paint' the facts on a wall.
 - Use chalks to write the facts outside in giant numbers.

TIMES TABLES
ROCK STARS

MULTIPLICATION SQUARE

×	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144