

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) 2023

Tudor Grange Primary Academy
Perdiswell



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.



When the check will take place:

- There will be a 2 **week window** from **Monday 6th June to Friday 16th June 2023** for schools to administer the check.
- There is **no set day** to administer the check and children are not expected to take the check at the same time.
- All eligible Year 4 children in England will be required to take the check.
- There is a 'Try it out' area, provided by the DfE, which will take place in school.
- We are also taking part in the Officially Unofficial MTC on TT Rockstars, which will take place in May 2023 (these will be 2 Soundcheck games that the children are very familiar with.)



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**. (6 seconds per answer means that children must be able to read, recall and enter their response within that time. Whatever is written in the answer box at the end of 6 seconds will be counted as the 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.



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, 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 at home.
- Reversal of questions (e.g. 8×6 and 6×8) 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 that they are classifying the multiplication tables by the first number in the question. For example, 8×3 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



The screen children will be presented with:

Try it out Time left: 6

$5 \times 6 =$

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
	0	Enter



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



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.

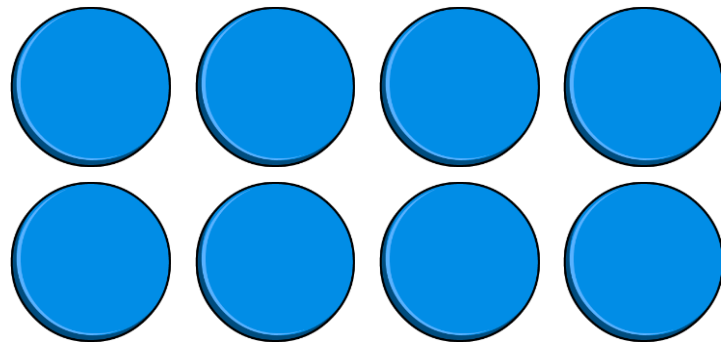


Repeated addition

Knowing that 2×4 is the same as $2 + 2 + 2 + 2$



$$2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = ?$$



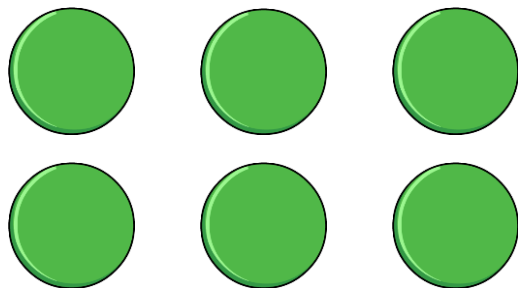
$$2 \times 4 = ?$$



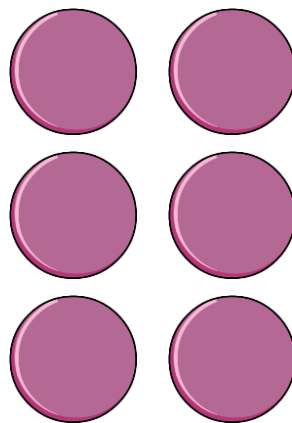
Multiplication is commutative

3×2 is the same as 2×3

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.



3 lots of 2 = 6



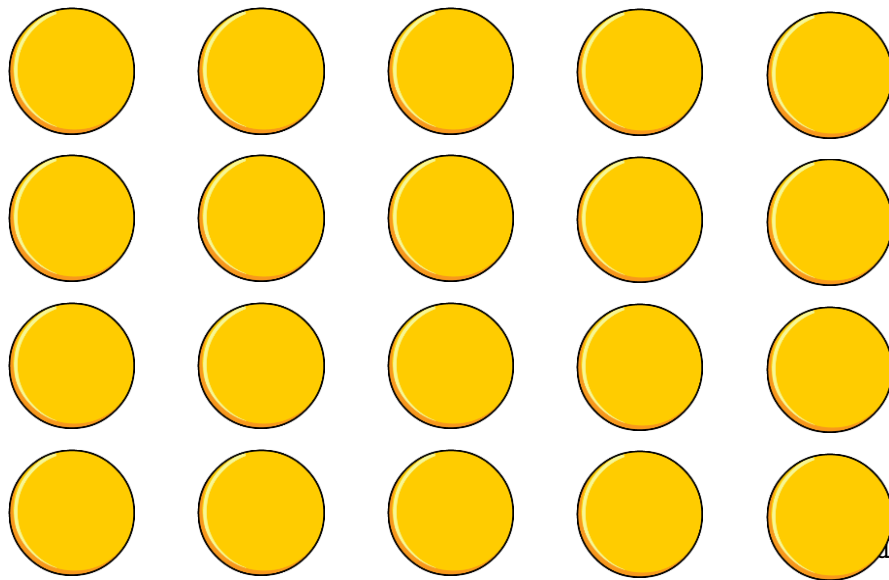
2 lots of 3 = 6



Multiplication is the inverse of division

$20 \div 5 = 4$ can be worked out because $5 \times 4 = 20$

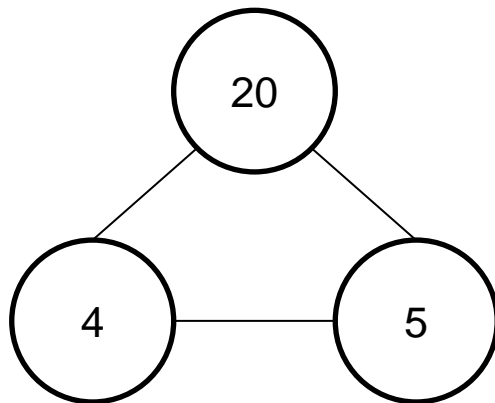
Using pictorial representations (such as arrays) is useful here for children to see the link between multiplication and division.



Number families

$$4 \times 5 = 20, 5 \times 4 = 20, 20 \div 5 = 4, 20 \div 4 = 5$$

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.



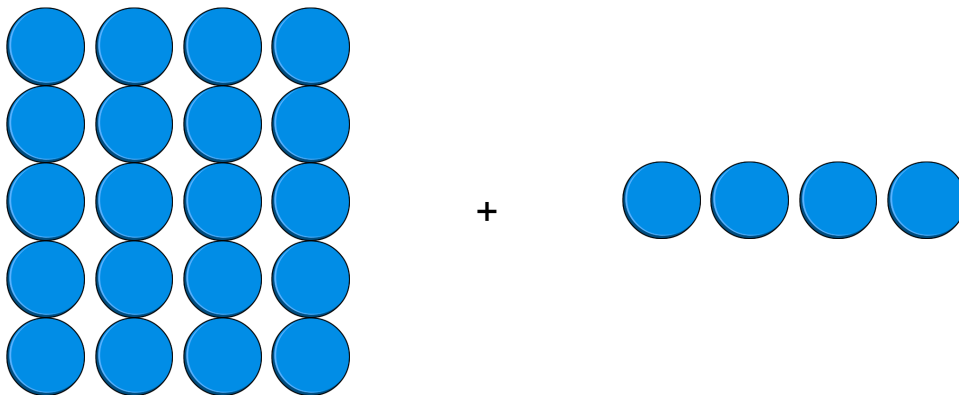
Using known facts

$$4 \times 6 = ?$$

I know $4 \times 5 = 20$

Therefore, $20 + 4 = 24$

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



How 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).
- If you're looking to support your child further with maths at home, there are lots of good websites with free resources.



Games to try:

- Climb the stairs counting in multiples
- Play time tables games verbally.
- Listen and sing along to times tables songs.
- Take it in turns to say times tables in funny voices.

- Play maths games online:

Hit the Button- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Snappy Maths <http://www.snappymaths.com/multiplication/multiplication.htm>

Time table games: <https://www.timestables.co.uk/games/>

Maths frame: <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

TT Rockstars: <https://ttrackstars.com/>



We really thank you for your support with this matter and wish our Y4 pupils all the best for the upcoming MTC in June 2023.

Thank for taking the time to read this information.

