

Thursday 5th November 2026

A GUIDE TO THE MTC



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO COVER?

- What is the MTC?
- MTC key facts.
- Preparing pupils for the MTC.
- Q & A time.

INTRODUCTION

- The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) needn’t be daunting!
- For many pupils, it’s a fantastic opportunity for pupils to show off their fluency with their tables, which they’ve been practicing for years.

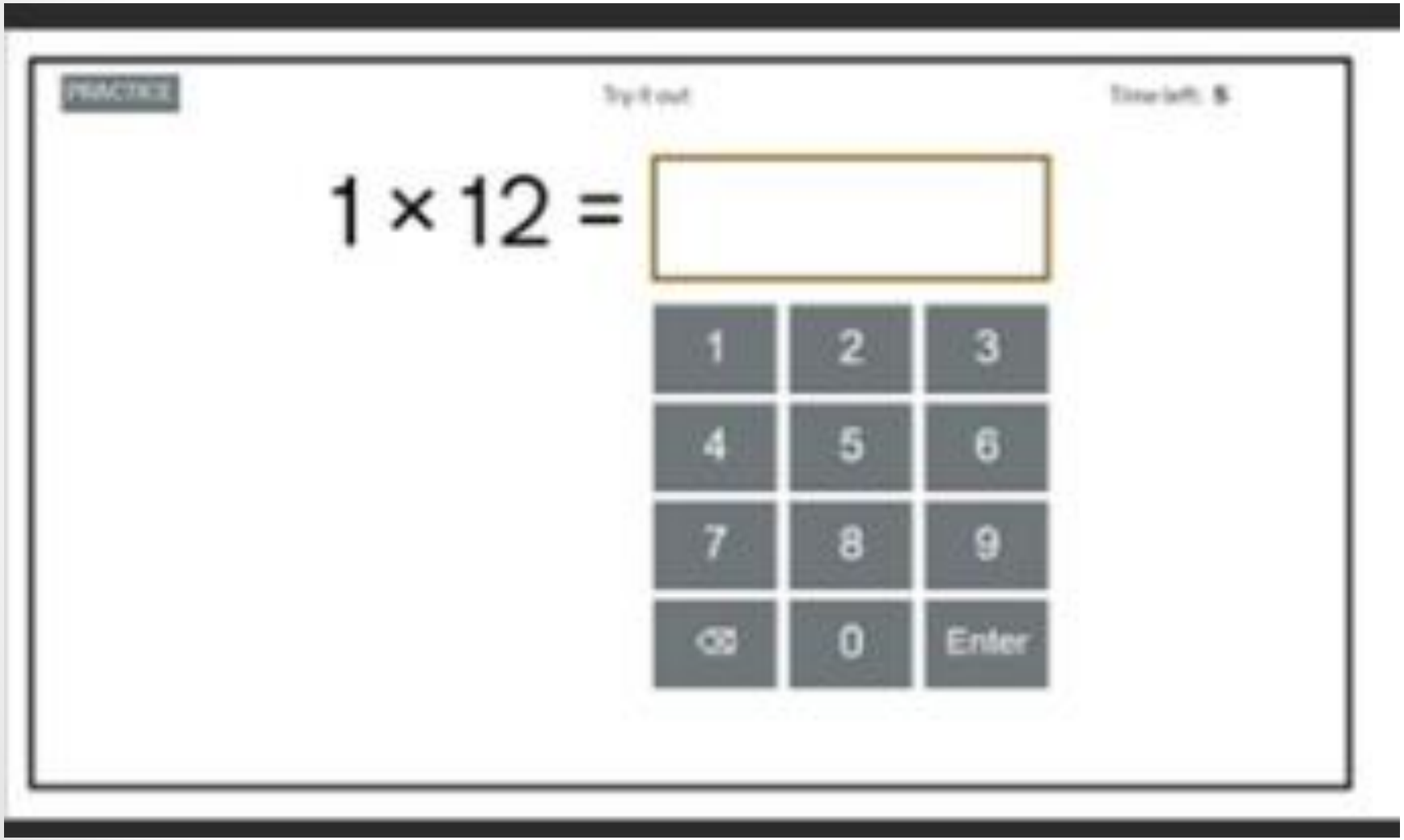
WHAT IS THE MTC?

- The MTC stands for Multiplication Tables Check.
- Set by the government, the MTC is an on-screen assessment designed to determine whether pupils are able to fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of timed questions.

MTC KEY FACTS.

- There is a 2-week check window starting Monday 7th June 2027 during which schools will complete the MTC with pupils in Year 4.
- Pupils will have 3 practice questions before the check begins.

MTC



MTC KEY FACTS

- The MTC will ask the pupil 25 random multiplication questions- they will not be asked division questions.
- Pupils will have 6 seconds to read the question, understand it, and enter a response. They will then receive a 3 second pause before the next question is shown.

MTC KEY FACTS.

- Pupils will take the test on a tablet. There is no option to complete the test on paper.
- Teachers will administer the check to individual pupils or small groups.
- There is no pass mark for the MTC.

MTC RESULTS

- After the MTC window closes, schools will be able to compare their school average, with their Local Authority and National average.
- How will we share your child's results with you?

Heatmaps

	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

Heatmaps

	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

PREPARING PUPILS : SCHOOL

- Maths meetings
- TT Rockstars.
- Class tournaments and time to play regularly on Times Tables Rock Stars. We recommend around 15 minutes a week.

Ways school can support:

- Increased access to iPad if your child does not have this at home.

- Paper copies of multiplications if this is your child's preferred method.

- An invite to multiplication club.

- Half termly heat-maps sent home

- Daily maths meetings where multiplication will be a focus (Year 4)

PREPARING PUPILS : OUT OF SCHOOL

- Regular verbal times tables practice.
- Download the TTRS free app on to a home device.
- Play Times Tables Rock Stars 3 minutes a day.

Maths Champions suggested links

Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds (topmarks.co.uk)

https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in

Beat the Clock! (mathsbot.com)

Times tables games - Learn them all here!

KS2 Maths: The 8 Times Table with Filbert Fox - BBC Teach

https://ttrockstars.com/

Q & A



Thursday 5th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may know, the Multiplication Tables Check for year 4 children is happening between Monday 7th June and Friday 18th June 2027.

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. Fractions is the most obvious area where learning times tables well is essential. However, every multiplication, division, long multiplication method and short division and long division method require speed and instant recall of times tables while at primary school. At secondary school the needs become even greater.

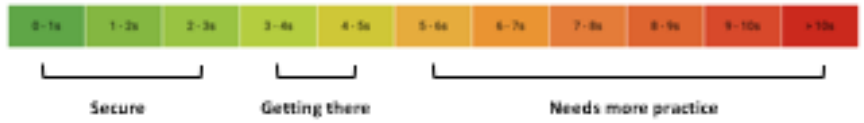
Furthermore, having the tables secure frees up their working memory for newer, more challenging tasks at hand.

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?

Attached to this letter is your child's heatmap (which can also be accessed by logging in to your child's account> 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.

Spend some time with your child identifying which tables they need to practise, and celebrating the ones they already know.



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 daily 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. This way they can double-check facts they are not sure about
- Sing times tables songs. There are hundreds available! Put them on in the car, bathtime or any 'free' time where you have a few spare minutes.
- Chanting the old-fashioned way- rehearse the tables forwards and backwards, gradually increasing in speed.
- Plenty of praise- When encouraging children to pursue something important, like timetables, there's no harm in heightening their enthusiasm with plenty of praise. 'You got this!' 'Look at your heatmap now!'
- 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 are important, but it should be an enjoyable experience learning them!

If you have any further questions regarding the multiplication check, please get in touch with either Mrs Hirst or Miss Naylor.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Hirst