

# Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Year 4 parents information

# Why are times tables important?

- Knowing your times tables facts fluently is key to excelling in maths.
- The National Curriculum explicitly states what times tables should be taught in each year group:
  - Year 2: 2, 5 and 10 times tables
  - Year 3: 3, 4 and 8 times tables
  - Year 4: Know and recall multiplication and division facts for 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 (therefore fluent in all tables to  $12 \times 12$ ).
- However, the knowledge of times tables is then used and applied to all areas of maths in subsequent years. Here are a few examples:

# Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

- The MTC is a statutory KS2 assessment to be taken by all pupils at the end of Year 4.
- The MTC is focussed on the fluent recall of multiplication facts (e.g.  $4 \times 9 = 36$ ).
- The MTC is delivered as an online digital assessment and should take no less than 5 minutes to complete.
- It will be taken in school on either a desktop computer or a tablet.

# Year 5 use of times tables:

- Know and recall squared and cubed numbers e.g.  $4 \times 4$  or  $3 \times 3 \times 3$
- Applying their tables knowledge to larger mental multiplications e.g. I know  $5 \times 9 = 45$  therefore  $5 \times 90 = 450$
- Applying their tables knowledge to finding equivalent fractions e.g.  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{4}{8}$  etc
- Applying related division facts to calculate with fractions e.g. what is one twelfth of 36 ( $36$  divided by  $12 = 3$ )
- Dividing larger numbers using multiplication facts e.g.  $4728$  divided by  $8$

# Year 6 use of times tables:

- Applying related division facts to calculate with fractions e.g. what is nine tenths of 70 (70 divided by 10 = 7;  $7 \times 9 = 63$ )
- Applying multiplication and division facts to percentage questions e.g. 60% of 300; 71% of 1800
- Multiplying larger numbers e.g.  $3624 \times 32$
- Dividing larger numbers using multiplication facts e.g. 3624 divided by 24
- Applying multiplication and division facts to ratio problems e.g. 1000 beads are split into two piles in the ratio of 6:4. How many beads in each pile?
- Applying multiplication and division facts to area and volume e.g. A cuboid has sides of 10cm, 20mm and 1m. What is the volume of the cuboid?

# What does the MTC check look like?


- The assessment will take place over a 3 week window between 5<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.
- The children will be expected to answer 25 multiplication questions based on all tables up to 12 x12.
- The children will be expected to answer each question in 6 seconds or less, meaning that quick recall of tables rather than working them out is essential.
- The test will be scored automatically and will be marked out of 25. Data will be reported back to school, parents and pupils as a score out of 25.

- The test screen itself will look similar to this.

$6 \times 5 =$

7	8	9
4	5	6
1	2	3
0	C	

Enter



Question  
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# Priors Hall alc teachers are not worried...

- Teachers are not worried about the MTC checks.
- The National Curriculum has a very clear progression of tables embedded in each year group that teachers have been following and including in many of their lessons. They will continue to do this as part of their daily lessons.
- Teachers will provide plenty of time to practise and improve your child's knowledge of the times tables throughout the year as well as plenty of practise using the online format of the check.
- Teachers will not refer to the MTC checks regularly in class as they do not want the children to feel undue pressure. The practise and regular MTC checks will become part of their weekly timetable and will feel a completely natural part of their lesson.



# What if my child does not achieve full marks in the MTC?

- The MTC will serve as a measure of how well children understand and can recall their times tables knowledge.
- Times tables are vital to the year 5 and 6 curriculum and beyond.
- In Priors Hall, children who produce low scores in the MTC will receive further additional support in the form of various interventions in their maths class to plug any gaps in their times table knowledge in Year 5.
- The MTC will serve as a useful tool for teachers in identifying children with gaps in this area of mathematics.

# What are we doing to prepare children in school?

- Times tables are taught every day as part of your child's maths lessons. This has been an integral part of maths lessons both in KS1 and throughout year 3. It will continue to be a part of year 4 lessons this year.
- All children have access to a Times Table Rockstars account. This is an excellent online game where children are encouraged to practise their times tables in a competitive way against their peers, themselves or other members of school. There is a section on TTRS called "Soundcheck". This has been specifically designed to mimic the MTC check and is a useful way to familiarise your child with the check as well as seeing their progress throughout the year.
- Teachers in year 4 complete weekly timetables tests to check where the children are and identify gaps in their knowledge.

# How can you help at home?

- Encourage your child to actively use Times Tables Rockstars. The Soundcheck on TTRS is very similar to the MTC. They can access this from a desktop computer or an iPad.
- Quiz your children regularly and at random on their times tables. This could be done whilst cooking tea together, during car journeys or on a walk to school.
- Show your children some fun tricks for remembering the trickier times tables, like your nines.
- Use times tables wall charts at home.

# How can you help at home?

- Create flashcards with your child for each times table and play games like snap or matching them up in a specific time. This works well as a competition between siblings, parents or other family members!
- Challenge your child to “beat Siri (or Alexa)” in their times tables. Ask Siri a question, “Hey Siri. What’s  $6 \times 4$ ?” and see if your child can answer correctly before Siri does.
- Support school in any times tables practice we send home.
- Chant each table with your child or use songs to help them remember the facts.

# Thank you

- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher.