



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

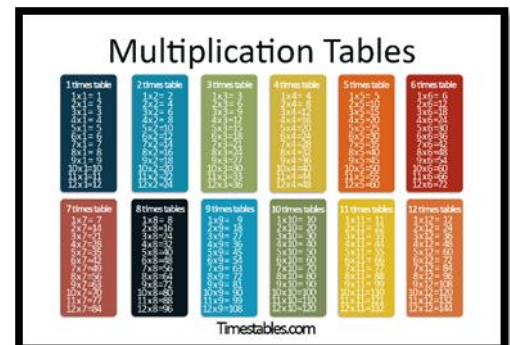
### Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check – June 2022

As you may be aware, the government has introduced a times table test for pupils in Year 4, to be taken in June each year.

Although in previous years, this test was postponed as a result of the pandemic. This academic year the assessment will be mandatory for all schools in England.

For pupils, the first thing to know about the test is that it is nothing to worry about!

However, it would be lovely if children could show their full ability in the test in June 2022. Over the next few months the Year 4 teachers (Miss Dodd and Mrs Quirk) will continue to have a strong focus on times tables in maths lessons and ensuring that children are prepared to take the MTC with confidence. Hopefully, this letter and the attached leaflet will provide all the information you need about the MTC.



**Why has the government introduced the MTC?** The National Curriculum states that by the end of Year 4, pupils should know their times table facts up to 12 x 12. The assessment has been introduced to make sure that schools have a strong focus on this objective, and to help schools identify children who are finding their times tables tricky.

**What will the assessment look like?** The MTC is an online assessment, to be taken on a computer or tablet. Children are presented with questions, one after the other, for example

$$6 \times 4 = \square$$

$$\text{There will be no inverse questions such as } 6 \times \square = 24$$

### How many questions are there?

There are 25 questions in total. Children get 6 seconds to type in their answer; there is then a 3 second pause before the next question. The test should take no longer than 5 minutes. There will be no questions from the 1x table. The test will have an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12x tables, as these are judged to be the harder times tables.

### How and when will the MTC be carried out?

In June, there is a 3-week window, when children can take the assessment in school. Schools should administer this within the 3-week period from Monday 6 June 2022.

We are planning to use the first week to administer the test, using our iPads in school. Children will not take the test all at the same time in the classroom; they will either take the test in small groups or individually or in a quiet environment.



**Can the MTC be adapted for children who may need extra support?** Children cannot be given extra time to complete the test. However, changes can be made which may help some pupils, such as altering the colour contrast and increasing the font size. We will make sure that all children find the test accessible. If you feel that your child may benefit from these changes, this can be discussed at parents' evening, or please feel free to contact us through the office as normal.

**Can pupils practice the MTC before June?** In school, we will be able practice the MTC in a 'try it out' area, provided by the government, from March. Soundcheck mode on TT Rock Stars also mimics the layout and format of the multiplication check and therefore is an excellent resource to use. There is no expectation for children to do lots of extra work at home for the MTC. However, as always, we encourage parents to practice times tables with children at home.

**How will the results be reported?**

Children's results will be given to schools once the 3-week window has closed; these will then be reported to parents before the end of term in July. Children will not see their result when they finish the assessment. There is no 'expected standard' or pass mark for the MTC, and no major judgement will be made about a child using the results. The assessment results will also not be used in school league tables or reported on the DFE Performance Website.

**How likely is it that this assessment will go ahead, given that others in 2021 have been cancelled?**

The Government has not issued any new update to schools about the assessment so far this year, although the assessment is listed on the government's test dates website for 2021/22. We are therefore working under the assumption that it will go ahead. I hope that this will not cause any stress for children or parents (or staff!).

If you have any queries about the MTC, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself through the school office.

Kind Regards,

Mrs L Leonard.

**Aspire, Believe, Succeed**