

Information for parents:

2021 multiplication tables check



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Multiplication tables check

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, they will have the opportunity to take the optional multiplication tables check (MTC), in June 2021.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify pupils who may need additional support.

What is the MTC?

The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Your child will answer 3 practice questions before moving on to the official check and will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for schools to use, and teachers will be able to ensure that these are appropriate for your child prior to the check window in June.

There are, however, some circumstances in which it may not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check. If you have any concerns about your child being able to access the MTC, you should talk to your child's headteacher.

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

No. You do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practice times tables with your child, as they would with spelling.

In terms of preparing pupils for the on-screen nature of the MTC, schools will have access to a 'try it out' area from 22 March. They will be able to use this to familiarise pupils with the check and try out any access arrangements that may be required

How will the results be used?

Schools will be able to view their results once all participating pupils have taken the check. Schools will then share each child's score with their parents.

Statistics from the MTC may be published on GOV.UK depending on the number of schools that participate. This would be at a local authority and national level to help schools understand how they are performing. School and pupil-level data will not be published.

Do not worry if your child is not working at the expected standard.

It is important to remember that these results will help teachers identify where your child may need extra help. If you have any questions about your child's results and what support they might need, you should speak to their teacher.





Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the multiplication tables check.

For further details you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

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