



St Peter's Eaton Square  
CofE Primary School

# Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check 2024 Presentation for Parents, Carers & Guardians



## What is the purpose?

- The MTC determines if Year 4 children can **fluently** recall their multiplication tables.
- They are designed to help the school and teachers 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.
- The Department for Education (DfE) will create a report about the overall results across all schools in England, not individual schools.



## When the check will take place?

- There will be a **2 week window** from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024** for schools to administer the check.
- There is **no set day** to administer the check
- Children will complete the check in small groups, and it does not have to be all at the same time or day.
- All eligible Year 4 children in England will be **required** to take the check.



## How does it work?

- The check will be **fully digital**. This is why TTRS is such a great practice tool, for both quick recall and becoming familiar with the keyboard.
- 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. This means children will need to be able to read, recall and enter their answer within that time.
  - Whatever has been entered in that time will be taken 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.
  - We will also be able to practice through the portal before the test

ie.  $12 \times 12 = 14$



## Are there 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.

Schools do not need to request permission to use access arrangements. The support should be based on the support provided in school and should not advantage or disadvantage individual children.  
A child can be assigned more than one access arrangement, if required. **There is no opportunity for additional time.**



## How are the questions given?

- 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.
- Reversal of questions (e.g.  $8 \times 6$  and  $6 \times 8$ ) will not be asked in the same check.
- Children will not see their individual results when they complete the check.



## How can you support your child?

- 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 fact families.

Use different representations to represent multiplication, such as:

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



GAMES! Games are always a fun way to practice recall. You can use a deck of card and have a multiplication race, or you can use dice!

## More information about the questions

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) state that they are classifying the multiplication tables by the first number (multiplier) in the question. For example,  $8 \times 3$  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





## Counting and looking for patterns

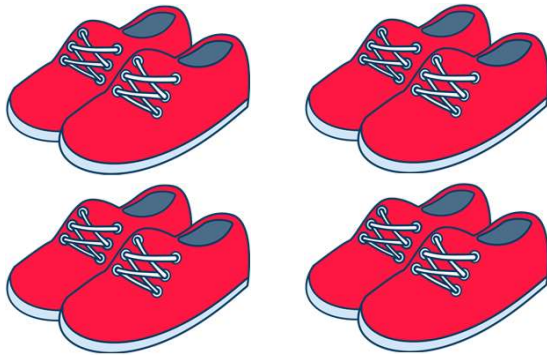
Example: Counting in 2s  
2, 4, 6, 8, 10...

- Ensure children have a strong understanding of counting in groups first.
- When children are secure with counting, they can then look for patterns.

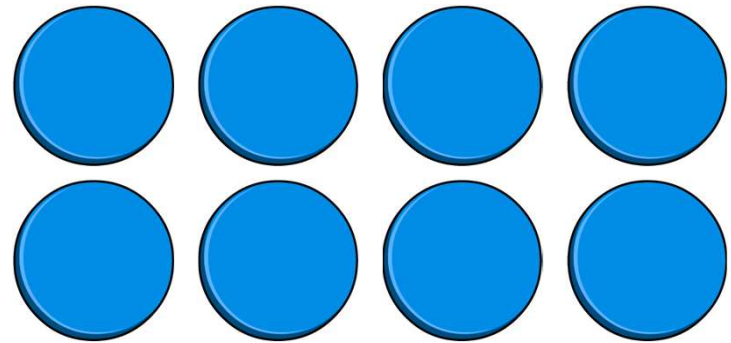


## Repeated addition

Knowing that  $2 \times 4$  is the same as  $2 + 2 + 2 + 2$



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



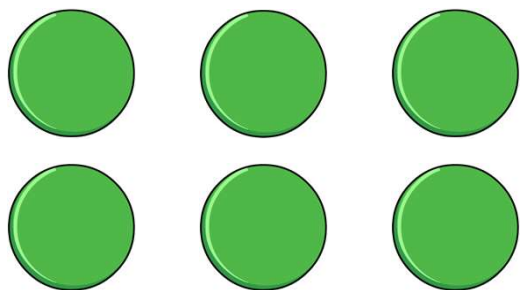
$$2 \times 4 = ?$$



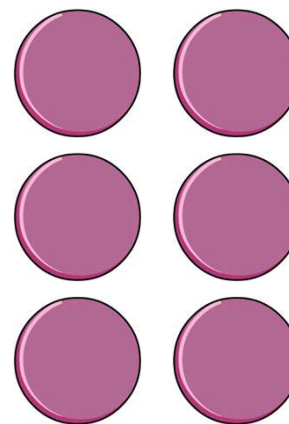
## Multiplication is commutative

$3 \times 2$  is the same as  $2 \times 3$

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



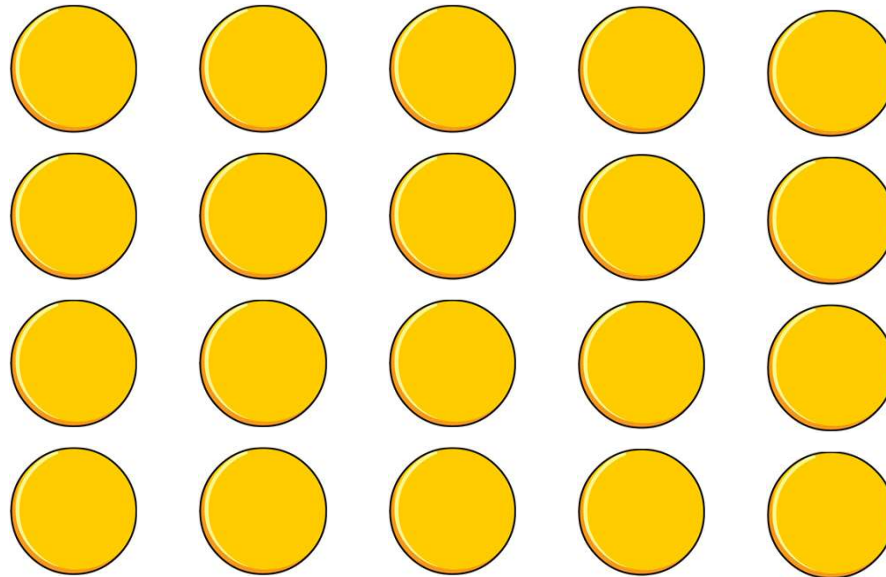
2 lots of 3 = 6



## Multiplication is the inverse of division

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

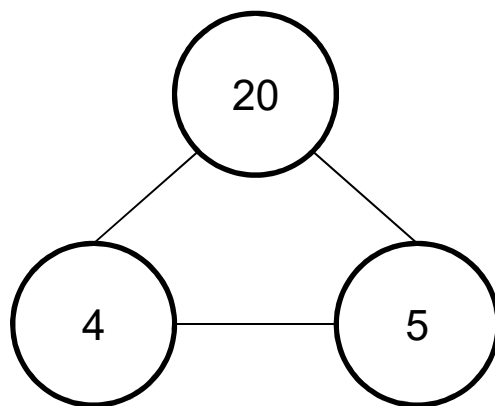
Using pictorial representations (such as arrays) is useful here for children to see the link between multiplication and division.



## Fact 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.



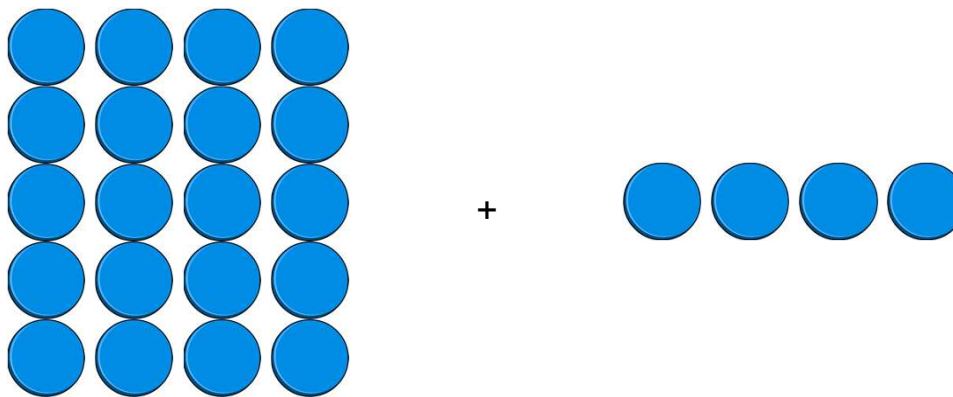
## Using known facts

$$4 \times 6 = ?$$

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 can you help prepare your child?

- 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.
  - [thirdspacelearning.com/blog/category/for-parents/](https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/category/for-parents/) or register free for the Third Space Learning Maths Hub ([mathshub.thirdspacelearning.com](https://mathshub.thirdspacelearning.com))
  - TTRS

