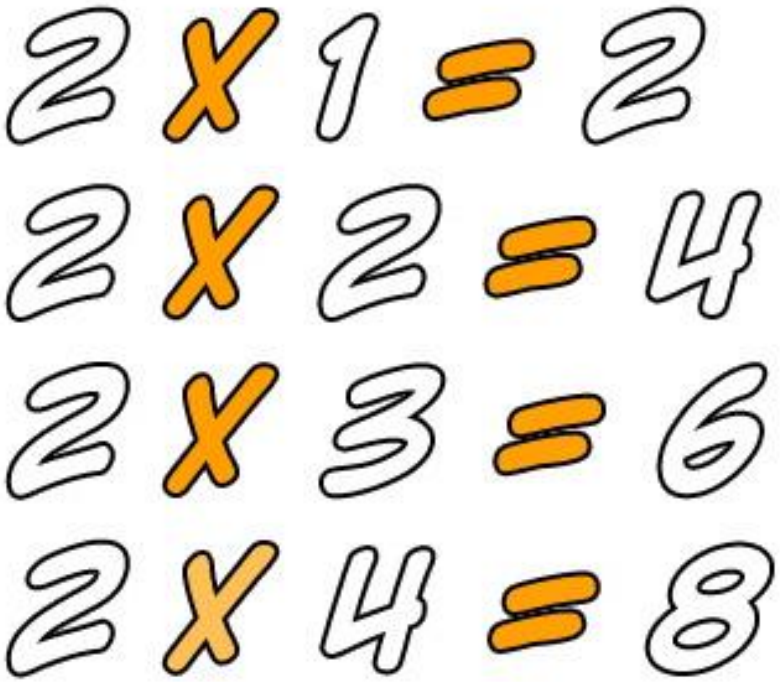
Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)



15 Key Points about the MTC

Key Point 1: The check becomes statutory in June 2020

The Multiplication Tables Check will not be statutory until June 2020.

Key Point 2: Schools are able to voluntarily administer the MTC in June 2019

Current Year 4 pupils at Staples Road will complete the MTC between June 10th and 28th 2019.

Why are we doing it in 2019 if it's not statutory?

- Will help us to identify children who need additional support
- Allows us to see the format of the test
- Enables us to become more prepared for the statutory roll out in 2020

Key Point 3: The MTC will only present children with multiplication statements

It has been confirmed that children will only face multiplication statements in the check.

Related division facts will not be tested as part of the check.

Key Point 4: The MTC will be online and on-screen

The MTC will be fully digital and available on laptops, desktops and tablets.

Children at Staples Road will be using iPads to complete the MTC.

Key Point 5: The MTC will take place in June each year

There will be a three-week window in June each year for pupils to complete the check.

Children may be tested on different days.

Key Point 6: Children can practise before completing the MTC

Before the test window opens each year, children can access a practice area to become familiar with the style of the MTC.

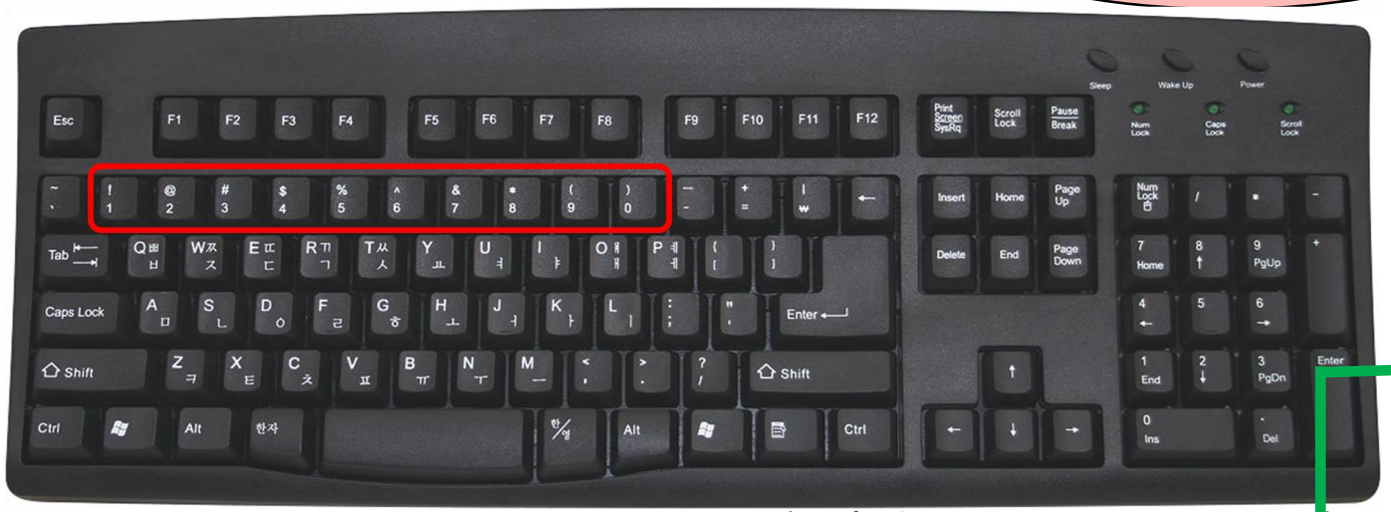
Key Point 7: The MTC will take less than 5 minutes per pupil

Key Point 8: Children will have 6 seconds to answer each question

From the time the question appears, children will have 6 seconds to read, recall and enter their response.

It is vital for children to recall facts instantaneously (e.g. answer 6 x 7 without having to count up in sixes from zero).

Key Point 9: Children can answer questions by using the keyboard or pressing digits on an on-screen number pad



We are encouraging children to use the numerical keypad on the right side if using a keyboard.

Key Point 10: Whatever is in the answer box at the end of the 6 seconds will be counted as the answer

If a child is mid-way through entering a two-digit answer (e.g. they only enter the '7' out of '72' when answering 8 x 9), they will be recorded as having answered 8 x 9 as 7.

Key Point 11: Children will face 25 questions

There will be a 3-second pause between each question, before the next question appears.

Each child will randomly be assigned a set of 25 questions. If a child's test is interrupted and they need to restart, they will face a different set of questions.

Key Point 12: There will <u>not</u> be an equal spread of each multiplication table

The MTC will focus mostly on tables within the KS2 curriculum.

The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are more likely to be asked than the 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 or 11 times tables.

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

There will be no questions from the 1 times table (e.g. 1 x 8 or 8 x 1).

There will be a maximum of 7 questions from the 2, 5 and 10 times tables (KS1 curriculum).

Key Point 13: Commutativity is really important

Children must understand the commutative property of multiplication (e.g. 8 x 3 is the same as 3 x 8).

If they have made this conceptual understanding, it reduces the number of facts they need to remember.

Key Point 14: Results will be available at the end of the three-week window

The child and teacher will not be shown the total score on the screen. Teachers will have access to the results at the end of the three-week window.

The voluntary MTC closes on June 28th and teachers will have access from June 29th. Results will be reported to parents the following week as a score out of 25.

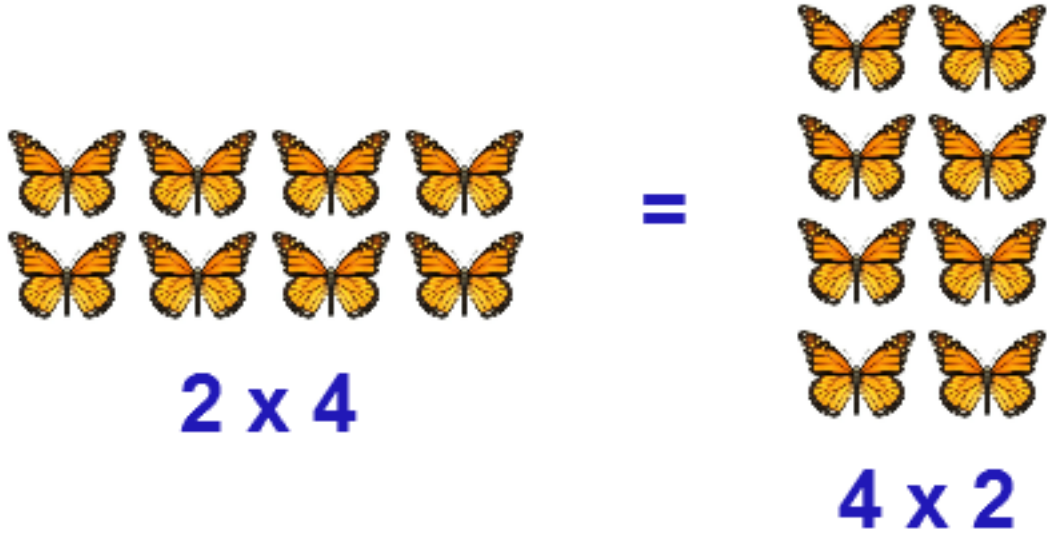
Key Point 15: There is no pass rate or threshold

There are no current plans to use results to judge what percentage of pupils have 'Met the expected standard' in the way KS1 and KS2 SATs do.

Unlike the Phonics Screening Check, pupils will not be expected to re-sit the check if they don't meet a set threshold (e.g. 22 correct questions).

How to Support Your Child

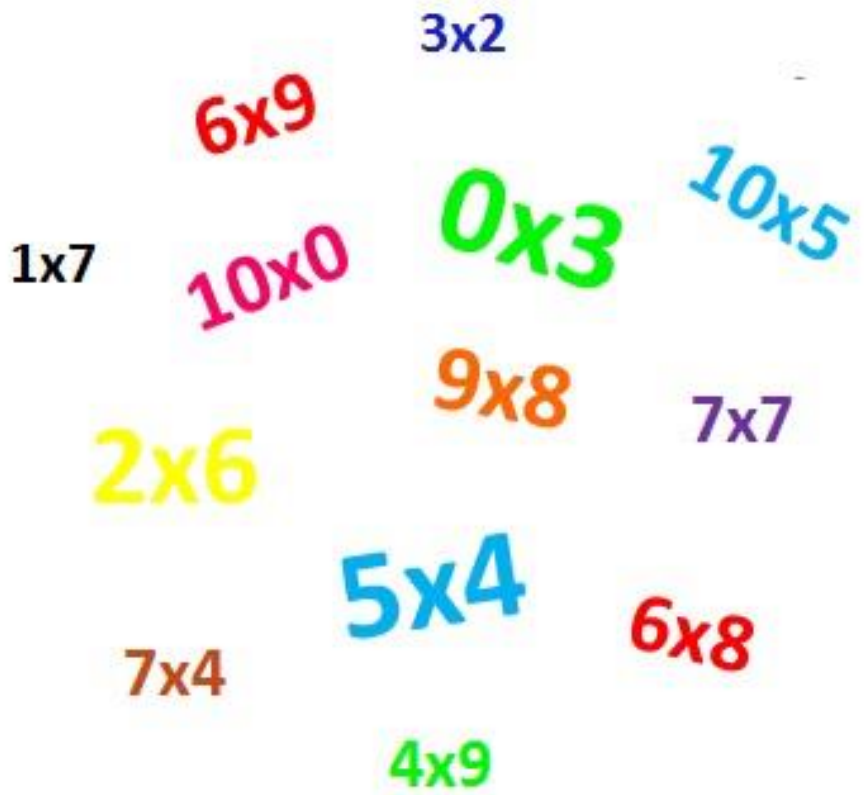
Ensure they understand commutative law (e.g. 2 x 4 = 4 x 2).



Every multiplication table has a twin, which may be easier to remember.

How to Support Your Child

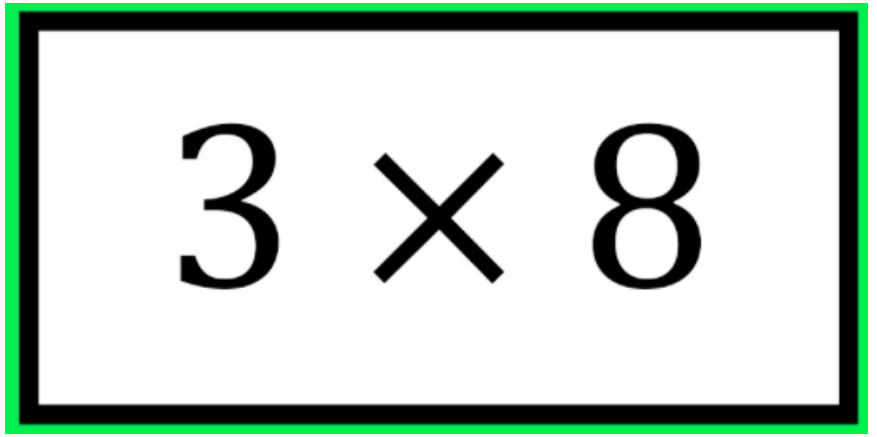
Avoid rote learning (e.g. chanting times tables in order) and instead drill children with questions in a random order.



An exception to this is chanting the square numbers (e.g. 1 x 1 is 1, 2 x 2 is 4, 3 x 3 is 9).

How to Support Your Child

Flashcards are excellent because they require children to read the question.



As we now know, the MTC requires children to read a question, recall the response and submit it, so it is important for children to become familiar with written questions.

- This is the best practice tool
- 'Sound Check Mode' is an emulator of the MTC
- 'Studio Mode' tests pupils on all tables (1-12) in random order

TTRS have created a version that is in line with the format that will be used for the MTC.