

# Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Parent/Carer Meeting  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# Introduction

- From the 2019/20 academic year onwards (children currently in Year 3), schools in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check (MTC) to year 4 pupils.

# When?

- A national voluntary pilot will take place between 10th June and 28th June 2019.
- South Borough Primary School will use this to familiarise ourselves with the check before it becomes statutory in June 2020.
- The [national curriculum](#) specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including  $12 \times 12$  by the end of year 4.

# Why?

- The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.
- It will help South Borough to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.
- MTC will not change the overall outcome of your child's attainment in mathematics. Not passing the test, for example, will not mean a child is not working at the expected standard for maths. The attainment of every child at the end of Year 4 is judged through teacher assessment.

# How?

- We will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, in small groups or a whole class at the same time.
- We will cater to the needs of the children in each class as we already do as part of normal classroom practice.
- Children will have a chance to practice before the live test takes place so that they are familiar with the format.

# How will the test be presented to the children?

- The MTC will be delivered as an online, on-screen digital assessment.
- Under administration (by the class teacher), the check will take each pupil less than 5 minutes to complete.
- Pupils will have 6 seconds to answer each question.
- Each test consists of 25 questions- each worth one mark each.
- Questions are not ordered according to difficulty and all questions will follow the same format e.g.  $6 \times 7 =$  ,  $12 \times 4 =$  ,  $9 \times 8 =$  . Pupils will have 6 seconds to enter a response to the question. The 6 seconds starts as soon as the question appears.

$$n1 \times n2 =$$

Pupils will have 6 seconds to enter a response to the question. The 6 seconds start as soon as the question appears. Pupils will be able to input their response using the computer keyboard, a mouse (or equivalent) and the on-screen number pad, or a touchscreen device and the on-screen number pad. Once the pupil has input their answer, they can press enter to proceed, or wait until the time expires. Once the question is answered, there will be a 3 second pause before the next question appears.

Pupils and schools will be able to access a practice area prior to the check window opening, in order to become familiar with the MTC format.

## 5.2 Assessment content

Items will be selected from the 121 items that make up the 2 to 12 multiplication tables. The one multiplication table is not included in the check, although questions from the one multiplication table may be included as practice questions.

In order to check if pupils have fluent recall of the multiplication tables, a breadth of items will be included in each check. This will include items of different difficulties and representation from the different multiplication tables, with an emphasis on multiplication tables taught at KS2. Tables 1 and 2 set out the maximum and minimum number of items in each check form from each multiplication table<sup>5</sup>.

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



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12	2	4

Table 1 shows the upper and lower limits for the number of items from each multiplication table that can be included in each check form.

There is an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables because these have been determined to be the most difficult multiplication tables.

<b>Key Stage</b>	<b>Items available</b>	<b>Minimum number of items in each form</b>	<b>Maximum number of items in each form</b>
<b>KS1</b>	33	3	7
<b>KS2</b>	88	18	22

Table 2 shows the upper and lower limits for the number of KS1 items (the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables) and KS2 items to be included in each check form. As a KS2 assessment of multiplication tables mastery, the majority of the items in each form will be drawn from the KS2 curriculum. Multiplication tables taught at KS1 will be minimised, but are included to ensure an appropriate breadth of coverage.

# Scoring

The system will automatically score the MTC. Only numeric inputs will register as a response, and every numeric input made by a pupil is shown on-screen. When a pupil presses 'enter', or the time runs out, the numbers displayed on-screen are accepted as the pupil's response and scored accordingly.

# Results and Reporting

At the end of the assessment window, a total score out of 25 will be reported to each school for all of their pupils who took the check.

There will be no expected standard threshold for the MTC.

# How can I help my child at home?

- Mathematics is a great way of helping your child improve their fluency, especially when playing 'Live'.
- Children can also access a free resource which we think will be similar to the live test in June. This can be found by clicking on the link [Test Simulator](#) or by searching 'Collins times table test simulator'. When on the page you can click on settings and adjust the tables to be tested.
- The Department for Education has stated that there will be an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables. The children will not be tested on their 1 times table.
- Booklet for parents and carers (hard copies available from the office or the school website).