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Standards & Testing Agency

Guidance

Multiplication tables check: information for parents

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

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check (MTC) in June.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child 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 if your child may need additional support.

What is the multiplication tables check?

It is an onscreen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They 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 the check, which can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check has been designed to be inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements.

If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child's school.

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 practise times tables with your child.

Schools will have unlimited access to a ‘try it out’ area from April. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils’ results, to allow them to identify pupils who need additional support.

Will I receive feedback on my child’s check?

Yes. Your child’s teacher will share your child’s score with you. There is no pass mark for the check.

Further information

Your child’s teacher will be able to answer any questions about the MTC.

For more details, you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA (http://www.gov.uk/STA).

Further information about the personal data we collect, process and store for the MTC is available in the department’s personal information charter (http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-privacy-notice).

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