



Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) at Downsway

Information for Year 4 Parents and Carers
2020-2021

The Test

- **Why was this check created?**

The MTC was set up by government to determine how quickly Year 4 children could fluently recall their 12x12 times tables. They argue that knowledge of the multiplication tables is critical to everyday life as well as allowing pupils to tackle continued complex mathematical problems quickly and flexibly for their remaining school life.

- **When was the MTC first introduced?**

A pilot scheme was launched in 2019, which we completed at Downsway. It allowed us to support pupils in preparation for the check. It also gave us an insight as to how well children learnt the 6,7,8,9 and 12 tables, as these are deemed the most difficult tables.

How the MTC works

- The test will take place during a three week window starting **6th June 2022**. There is no set day to complete the test, so if your child is absent they will still have time to sit it. *You will be informed prior to these dates.*
- At Downsway, we will complete the test via touchscreen using an on-screen number pad. However, it can be entered using a keyboard or by pressing digits using a mouse.
- The MTC will consist of multiple, equivalent forms and each pupil will be randomly assigned one of the available forms. If, for any reason, a pupil needs to restart the check, they will be randomly assigned a different form.

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. This is completed at school.

How the MTC works

- On the day, children are given 3 practice questions to refamiliarise themselves with the system.
- They are given 6 seconds to answer each question and have a 3 second pause between each question. They will only be given multiplication statements.
- Each form consists of 3 practice questions and a further **25 questions** worth one mark each. Items are not ordered according to difficulty. Questions will all follow the same format:

$$N1 \times N2 = \boxed{}$$

At the end of the MTC

- The school are provided with a score out of 25 for each pupil who sat the test
- There is **no expected threshold**. It will focus on the children's fluency, the main reason for the MTC.
- The results will be sent out with the children's end of year reports.

Which tables are more likely to be there?

- There will always be questions from the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 multiplication tables in each check.
- There will be no questions from the 1 times table (i.e 1×8 or 8×1).
- The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are more likely to be asked.
- **There will only be a maximum of 7 questions from the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.**
- Reversal of questions will not feature in the same check. For example 8×3 and 3×8 .

Which tables are more likely to be there?

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 |

What are Downsway doing to prepare?

- Times table rockstars 3-4 times a week
- Weekly recaps, verbal maths starters and games
- Focused interventions
- Half termly tests to see which tables are still lacking understanding

How can I help my child prepare?

- Keep it visible – make a display together, put a different one up each week to focus on, colour helps some children remember
- Frequent practice – 10mins daily or 3x a week helps keep it memorable
- Sing the tables to songs – Supermovers on BBC, YouTube songs/raps, covers of popular songs
- Games – make the tables into games, play like snap or finding the pairs, online sources (shown on website)

How can I help my child prepare?

1. Encourage them to play Times Table Rockstars as much as possible. ***The soundcheck area is a very close match to the layout and timing of the MTC.***
2. Play **number hunt:**

Make a set of times table cards with your child. One side should be a question and the other have the answer. Around the house, garden or open space have another set of answer cards hidden. Set them off from 'base' to find the answer. Once they have found the correct answer they come back to 'base' to collect a new question. The children aren't cheating if they have to check the answer, they are just reassuring themselves and building their confidence. Make it a competition with siblings to help motivate!

Other useful areas:

- 1. Topmarks** – a large array of interactive games focused on recall skills
- 2. Mathsframe** – a close replica of the check itself
<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>
- 3. Timestables.co.uk** – lots of resources available and another replica check
<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>
- 4. Maths Shed** – free app where they have games similar to spelling shed based around Times Tables

If you can't access online, please do let us know so we can provide some useful resources

Important to remember

- 1. Don't panic.** We have plenty of time and the children shouldn't see times tables as a scary thing!
- 2. Take some time.** We understand you all have things on outside of school. We are just encouraging you to practise as much as possible, twice a week for 10 minutes is better than no time at all.
- 3. We can help.** If you have concerns, please do email the office and let us know. We will do all we can to help.

We will keep you informed with any changes!