

# MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK

Information Session for Year 3 and Year 4 Families

# WHY DO CHILDREN HAVE A MULTIPLICATION CHECK?

- The multiplication tables check is statutory for primary schools in England in the 2021/22 academic year.
- In previous years the check has been optional for schools to complete due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently as this is an essential skill for their future success in mathematics.
- The check will support the school to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables so that additional support can be provided.

# HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD IN PREPARING FOR THEIR MTC

Firstly, a positive attitude goes a long way – so as much encouragement and support as possible

Some further tips:

- Make times tables fun – climb stairs counting in multiples, play verbal times tables games, listen to and learn times tables songs, take it in turns to say different times tables in a funny voice, play online maths games such as Times Tables Rock Stars or Hit the Button
- Talk directly to your child's class teacher if you have any worries
- Encourage your child to talk to yourself, their teacher or another adult they trust if they express persisting anxiety about the check. Remember that a small amount of anxiety is normal and not harmful

# HOW THE SCHOOL TEACHES TIMES TABLES SO PUPILS LEARN INSTANT RECALL

- Teaching times tables facts first:
  - Counting and looking for patterns
  - Repeated addition
  - Multiplication is commutative
  - Multiplication is the inverse of division
  - Number families
- Use of different representations
  - Concrete resources such as counters or cubes
  - Pictorial representations such as arrays

## BEFORE THE CHECK

- Children can practise before taking the check

There will be a 'try it out' area the children can use to become familiar with the timings and layout of the check.

## DURING THE CHECK

- 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.  $1 \times 8$  or  $8 \times 1$ )
- 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

## QUESTIONS MORE LIKELY TO APPEAR

- The following 11 multiplication questions are more likely to be asked:
  - $6 \times 6, 6 \times 7, 6 \times 8, 6 \times 9, 6 \times 12$
  - $7 \times 8, 7 \times 9, 7 \times 12$
  - $8 \times 9, 8 \times 12$
  - $12 \times 12$

# THE QUESTIONS

- Each pupil will be **randomly assigned** a set of questions
- There will be repeated questions across different checks each year but no more than 30% of questions will be repeated in any two checks
- Children will **only face multiplication statements** in the check (not related division facts)
- Pupils will not see their individual results when they complete the check



## HOW THE CHECK IS CARRIED OUT

- Under standard administration (i.e. for the majority of pupils) the multiplication check will take **less than 5 minutes per pupil**
- Children will get **6 seconds** from the time the question appears on the screen to input their answer
- There will be **25 questions** with a 3 second pause in-between questions
- The check will be fully digital and take place on a screen
- Children will be able to use laptops, desktops and tablets
- Answers will be entered using a keyboard or by pressing digits using a mouse or touchscreen using an on-screen number pad

# THE MULTIPLICATION CHECK IN CONTEXT

- It is important to remember that:
- **The check will focus on what the children know about times tables** It won't reflect their understanding of wider mathematical topics
- **The check is only 5 minutes long.** For most children, the check will last for a maximum of 5 minutes. When they have finished, they will not need to repeat the check, regardless of their final score.

## WHEN WILL THE CHECK TAKE PLACE?

- There will be a **3-week window in June** for the administration of the check
- There is **no set day** to administer the check
- Children are not expected to take the check at the same time
- All eligible Year 4 pupils in England will be required to take the check