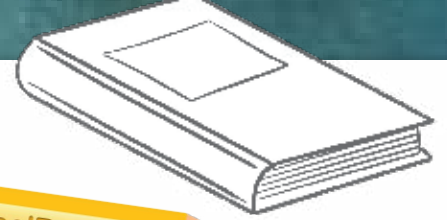


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Multiplication tables check: a parents' guide

All Y4 children will have their multiplication skills formally tested from 2020. We explain what parents need to know.



Primary-school children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12×12 . Under the current National Curriculum, children are supposed to know their times tables by the end of Y4, but they are not formally tested on them other than through multiplication questions in the Year 6 maths SATs.

Who will sit the times tables check?

The check will be introduced in English schools only. It will be taken by children in Year 4, in the summer term (in June). In June 2019 the multiplication

check will be voluntary (schools will be able to decide whether to administer it or not). In June 2020 it will become compulsory for all English schools.

How will children be tested?

Children will be tested using an on-screen check, where they will have to answer multiplication questions against the clock on a computer. The test will last no longer than 5 minutes and is similar to other tests already used by primary schools. Children's answers will be marked instantly. This will be the first time that the Department for Education (DfE) has used computerised tests in primary schools.

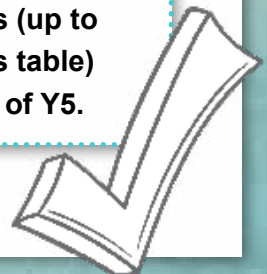
What if a child doesn't do well in the check?

There will be no "pass mark" and no child will "fail" the test. At the moment we don't know how

Times tables learning in primary school

- Year 1 children are taught counting up in 2s, 5s and 10s (the simplest form of multiplication).
- Year 2 children are introduced to multiplication, division facts and repeated addition for numbers 2, 5 and 10.
- Year 3 is a crucial year for times tables learning. Children learn multiplication facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.
- Year 4 is a 'completing' year for all multiplication facts up to 12×12 .
- Children are expected to be really confident in all their times tables (up to the 12 times table) by the start of Y5.

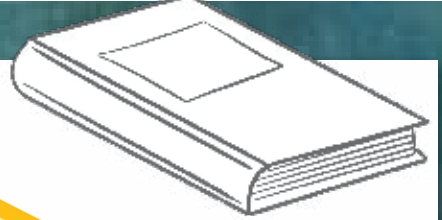
Year 5 children are expected to be confident in all multiplication tables up to 12×12



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Find lots more tips and resources for parents at <https://www.theschoolrun.com/maths/times-tables>

many questions children will be asked, but it's likely to be 20 or 25, all on the multiplication tables up to 12x12. Multiplication facts will be the only things tested (there will be no problem-solving in the check). The DfE says the purpose of the check is to help teachers identify which children are falling behind and target areas where they're not being given a chance to succeed. School-level results won't be made publicly available or be used in league tables.

How can you help your child practise their times tables?

Because the National Curriculum for maths is so extensive, there is an expectation that parents will

help their children learn their times tables at home and not rely exclusively on schools to bring them up to speed. Some of the techniques you can use include:

- Practising times tables by rote (old-fashioned chanting of each multiplication table).
- Asking your child times tables questions out of order – such as 'What's 11x12? What's 5x6?'

- Asking your child the related division facts: 'What's $8 \div 4$? What's $9 \div 6$?'

- Using arrays to help your child memorise times tables – you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.
- Using apps and games to help build speed.
- Singing times tables songs (there are loads online).



Why do we learn times tables?

In primary school, times-tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in KS2 (division, fractions, percentages). In secondary school, good multiplication skills are a great help when starting to learn algebra, as well as chemistry, physics, biology and ICT, all of which depend heavily on maths knowledge.

www.theschoolrun.com

Will all children take the multiplication check?

The check will be compulsory in English schools from 2020 but teachers are likely to administer it in a very low-key way, as part of lessons. Some children won't even be aware they've taken an official test!

