



*Year 4 Multiplication Check
Information Booklet for
Parents/Carers*

Academic Year 2019-2020

The Year 4 Multiplication Check Information for Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may already be aware, from the 2019/20 academic year onwards, all state-funded maintained schools and academies (including free schools) in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check to year 4 pupils. The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

The national curriculum states: 'By the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work'. The year 4 programme of study for mathematics also states, 'Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 '.

The check itself

The check will take place over a 3 week window in June and schools can choose to administer the check at any time within this window. The assessment will consist of multiple, equivalent tests and each pupil will be randomly assigned one of the available tests. Each test consists of 25 questions worth one mark each (questions are not ordered according to difficulty). 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 entered 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.

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

Teaching and Learning

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School we have introduced the 'Multiples Marathon' and Big Maths 'Learn Its' tests as a way of motivating and encouraging the children to improve their times tables and number bonds knowledge, as well as to prepare the children in Year 4 for the multiplication check.

On a Tuesday afternoon the children sit a timed test, based on the stage of the 'Multiples Marathon' that they are currently on. Every child must successfully **complete each stage of the Multiples Marathon 100% in the given time** (according to the set criteria) before they are able to move on to the next stage.

If a child completes their challenge during the given time and gets all of their questions correct, they move onto the next stage of the Marathon. At certain points in the Marathon the children sit colour tests. If they complete the tests correctly in the given time, they earn a colour badge, which they are presented with in assembly.

Currently, the children in Mulberry Class practice a different times table weekly and are tested on their knowledge of that times table on almost a daily basis. In addition to this, it is also an expectation that they practice the times tables for the stage of the Multiples Marathon they are on as part of their weekly homework.

In order to help the children to prepare for the multiplication check, and to improve their current times table knowledge, a pack of the different Multiples Marathon tests have been attached to this document, as well as some useful websites and tricks to help the children practice their times tables at home. Also attached is a copy of the Multiples Marathon testing sequence with your child's current stage highlighted, so you are aware of which times tables they need to work on.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the check or the Multiples Marathon tests then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Causebrook
Mathematics & PE Coordinator
Year 4/5 Class Teacher

Multiplication and division facts teaching and testing sequence:

	STAGE	TIMES TABLE	TEST	AWARD
1	2x straight	2x	13 Qs in 1 min	
2	10x straight	10x	13 Qs in 1 min	
3	10x shuffle	2x 10x	20 Qs in 1 min	
4	5x straight	5x	13 Qs in 1 min	
5	5x shuffle	2x 10x 5x	20 Qs in 1 min	
6	Yellow Challenge	2 5 10 x ÷	40 Qs in 2 mins	Yellow Badge
7	3x straight	3x	13 Qs in 1 min	
8	3x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x	40 Qs in 2 mins	
9	4x straight	4x	13 Qs in 1 min	
10	4x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x	40 Qs in 2 mins	
11	Red Challenge	2 3 4 5 10 x ÷	60 Qs in 3 mins	Red Badge
12	8x straight	8x	13 Qs in 1 min	
13	8x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x	40 Qs in 2 mins	
14	6x straight	6x	13 Qs in 1 min	
15	6x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x 6x	40 Qs in 2 mins	
16	Green Challenge	2 3 4 5 6 8 10 x ÷	80 Qs in 4 mins	
17	9x straight	9x	13 Qs in 1 min	
18	9x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x 6x 9x	60 Qs in 3 mins	
19	7x straight	7x	13 Qs in 1 min	
20	7x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x 6x 9x 7x	60 Qs in 3 mins	
21	Blue Challenge	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 x ÷	80 Qs in 4 mins	Blue Badge
22	11x straight	11x	13 Qs in 1 min	
23	11x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x 6x 9x 7x 11x	60 Qs in 3 mins	
24	12x straight	12x	13 Qs in 1 min	
25	12x shuffle	2x 10x 5x 3x 4x 8x 6x 9x 7x 11x 12x	60 Qs in 3 mins	
26	Purple Challenge	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 x ÷	100 Qs in 5 mins	
27	The 100 Mix	Multiples of 10/ decimals	100 Qs in 5 mins	The 100 Club

Support for learning times tables

There are a variety of ways to help your child prepare for the multiplication table check, but not all work for every child. However, I have suggested some which might help below:

1. **Use times table wall charts**—Use wall charts which show all the answers for a particular times table. Stick them up somewhere they'll be seen often.
2. **Learn the tricks for difficult times tables**—There are clever tricks for remembering several of the times tables.
3. **Play times tables games**— Why not play snap with some times tables flashcards, matching the questions to the answers as fast as you can? Or you could surprise your child by asking times tables questions at random times during the day and seeing how quickly they can respond (this works particularly well as a competition between siblings or friends).
4. **Make it real**—If your child can't see any point in learning their times tables, try showing them how this knowledge is useful in everyday life. Try to create opportunities for your child to use multiplication in problem solving. For example, ask them to scale up a recipe or calculate whether they have enough money to buy more of their favourite things (such as sweets or football cards).
5. **Practise on the computer**—Help your child become comfortable reading and answering questions on a screen.
6. **Chanting and writing out the times table they are learning**—practise chanting or writing out the times table numerous times (it is still widely accepted as the best way of committing them to the long term memory).
7. **Purple Mash**—Your child can use their Purple Mash login to access a number of fun games and challenges to help them learn their times tables.

