

Re: Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) - Summer 2021

Dear parent,

Every academic year, children in Year 4 are required to take part in a compulsory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). Although the government have decided that due to COVID-19 this will not be a statutory reported test this year, Outwood Primary Academies will still be conducting these assessments during the usual timeframe in June.

The trust's decision to continue to prepare children for this test in 2021 has been made due to our firmly-held belief in the importance of children having a fluent ability to recall all times table facts up to 12×12 . Knowledge of these facts impacts on so much of the Maths curriculum during primary and secondary phases and into adult life. We therefore see multiplication tables as a clear priority for your son / daughter this academic year.

The MTC is an on-screen test that takes about five minutes to complete. Children are given 25 multiplication questions, each one having a six-second timeframe in which to type in an answer. As such, the expected standard for Year 4 children is that they will be able to recall any times table up to 12×12 within a six-second window.

Miss Willoughby continues to give children a broad range of opportunities to practice these skills during the school day, and the expectation is that children will be consolidating their fluent recall at home as part of the weekly homework requirements. The best resource to use is the excellent Times Table Rock Stars website. (Your son / daughter has a log in for this and should use it regularly.) There are several games and challenges on the website, but the 'Soundcheck' game is an exact replication of the MTC – 25 questions with a six-second limit.

I am often asked by parents about how they can support their children at home. Sitting with your son / daughter while they complete a 'Soundcheck' assessment will give you an idea of their ability to meet the afore-mentioned expected standard. After this, regular, random short bursts of questions around the house can help to refine skills. The answers to all times table facts can be found in the school planner. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any further support.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Spinks
Maths Co-ordinator