

**YEAR 4**  
**MULTIPLICATION**  
**TABLES CHECK**

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

# WHAT IS THE YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK?

- In June 2020, the Year 4 multiplication tables check became statutory. In June 2022, your child will need to take a short online test to make sure their times tables knowledge is at the expected level.
- The multiplication tables check is an **online test** for pupils in Year 4. Pupils are asked to answer **25 questions** on times tables from **two to 12**. They are given **six seconds per question**, with three seconds rest between each question, so the test should last less than five minutes.
- Questions about the **six, seven, eight, nine, and 12 times tables** are likely to come up most often, as these are the hardest for most children to learn. It's a good idea to focus on these tricky times tables with your child.
- First and foremost, the check is about finding out which children are struggling with their times tables so that they can get extra support. It is not a judgement on what your child can do, but a way for the school to know how their teaching is going and to adjust their focus if needed.

# WHEN IS THE CHECK GOING TO HAPPEN?

- In **June 2022**, every school will be required by law to take part in the check.
- **There Is No 'Pass' Rate Or Threshold**
- The guidance is clear that there is no expected pass rate or threshold. This means that, unlike the KSI Phonics Screening check, children will not be expected to re-sit the check if they do not meet a set threshold in this KS2 Times Tables Test.
- School and individual pupil-level reports will be made available to schools- in a similar way to the results from the KSI Phonics Check are reported. This will mean that schools can target support and intervention where needed.

# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE?

- The best way to keep the test stress-free is to work some times tables practice into your daily routine well in advance. With regular practice, your child will get used to tackling these kind of questions with confidence.
- If your child is feeling nervous in the approach to the check, don't panic. Our top five tips for helping your child learn their times tables will get them up to speed:

# 1. USE TIMES TABLE WALL CHARTS

- Wall charts show all the answers for a particular times table. You could download a free [times table wall charts \[PDF\]](#) using this link from Oxford Owl and stick them up somewhere they'll be seen often. For instance, you could put them over the sink so that your child will see them when they're brushing their teeth. You'll be amazed how quickly they learn when they see these number facts every day!

# 2. LEARN THE TRICKS FOR DIFFICULT TIMES TABLES

- There are clever tricks for remembering several of the times tables. For instance, watch Andrew Jeffrey's method for tackling the seven times table below:



For more ideas, download this free [times tables booklet \[PDF\]](#), which is bursting with tips and hints for overcoming some of the harder times tables.

Find more times tables tricks on this [YouTube channel](#).

# 3. PLAY TIMES TABLES GAMES

- Games and challenges are a great way to support learning, and a few minutes a day will make all the difference.
- School subscribes to Times Tables Rockstars (ttrockstars) which is a fantastic and motivational resource to help your child learn the times tables.
- Why not play snap with some [times tables flashcards](#), matching the sums 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).
- Using games keeps practice short and sweet, and makes the process much less of a chore for you and your child. You can find a collection of times tables games and activity sheets on the Oxford Owl [Help with times tables page](#).

# 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. Instead of just rote learning their times tables, 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). This will help your child see the value of their learning.



# 5. PRACTISE ON THE COMPUTER

- Using ttrackstars
- Help your child become comfortable reading and answering questions on a screen. Oxford Owl [activities page for ages 7–9](#) has lots of interactive activities to help your child practise

# MORE FROM OXFORD OWL

- [Times tables tips blog post](#)
- [Free downloadable times tables activity sheets](#)
- [Free interactive times tables games](#)
- [Free times tables booklet \[PDF\]](#)
- [Free times table wall charts \[PDF\]](#)