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The Key Stage 2 Multiplication Tables Check

Information for Parents

Friday 20th May 2022



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The Background

Under the current National Curriculum, primary school-age children are required to know all their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.

A nationalised, standardized, formal test on times tables was to be introduced for the Summer Term of 2020.

Covid disruption meant that tests in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled.



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When is the check and who will take it?

Following Covid-enforced delays, the new multiplication check will take place for the first time in June of this year.

All eligible Year 4 pupils who are registered at maintained schools, special schools or academies (including free schools) in England will be required to take the check.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>



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What is the format of the check?

- The check takes the form of a digital, online test.
- There will be a three-week timeframe, between 6th and 24th June for pupils to take the test.
- Pupils are asked to answer **25 questions** on times tables from **two to 12**.
- Children will enter their answer using a keyboard or by pressing digits using a mouse or touchscreen on an on-screen number pad.



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What is the format of the check?

- Children are given **six seconds per question**.
- This means that children must be able to **read, recall and enter their response** within six seconds
- There is a **three seconds rest** between each question.
- The test should last less than five minutes.
- The test will only focus on multiplication. Related division questions (e.g. $5 \times 3 = 15$ so $15 \div 3 = 5$) will not be included.
- **Whatever Is In The Answer Box At The End Of The 6 Seconds Will Be Counted As The Answer.** This means that if a child is mid-way into entering a two digit answer (e.g. they only enter the 7 out of 72 when answering 8×9) they will be recorded as having answered 8×9 as 7.



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What is the format of the check?

- The check will test all tables from 2 to 12.
- The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are more likely to be asked than the 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 or 11 multiplication tables. The Standards and Testing Agency state that there is a focus on these as these are the 'most difficult' multiplication tables.



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What does this mean for my child?

- Your child will need to be fluent in all times tables to 12 x 12.
- Due to the 'six second' timeframe, your child will need to be able to rapidly recall multiplication facts, 'out of sequence' (for example, be able to answer 6 x 7 without having to count in 6's from 0).
- Your child will need to be able to answer multiplication tables in a written format (displayed as a number sentence as opposed to having the calculation read to them verbally).
- Commutativity will be very important. For example, if a child knows their 4 x table, and knows 4 x 8, then they will also know 8 x 4.



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What have we been doing in school?

- An increased focus on times tables during daily arithmetic sessions.
- Allocated extra time each week on each class timetable for times tables practice, including using the laptops and/or tablets.
- Times table focus each week for homework
- Formal testing and monitoring of results using the same format as the MTC (25 mixed questions with six seconds per question)



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How can I support my child between now and the time of the test?

- Practise times tables daily at home.
- Encourage your child to rapidly recall facts such as 9×4 , 6×8 .
- Learn the tricks for difficult times tables:
 - 7 x table trick https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=6TWuOvN-4jk.
 - 9 x table trick (fingers).
- Play times tables games:
 - Random, quick-fire questions at random moments.
 - Online games.



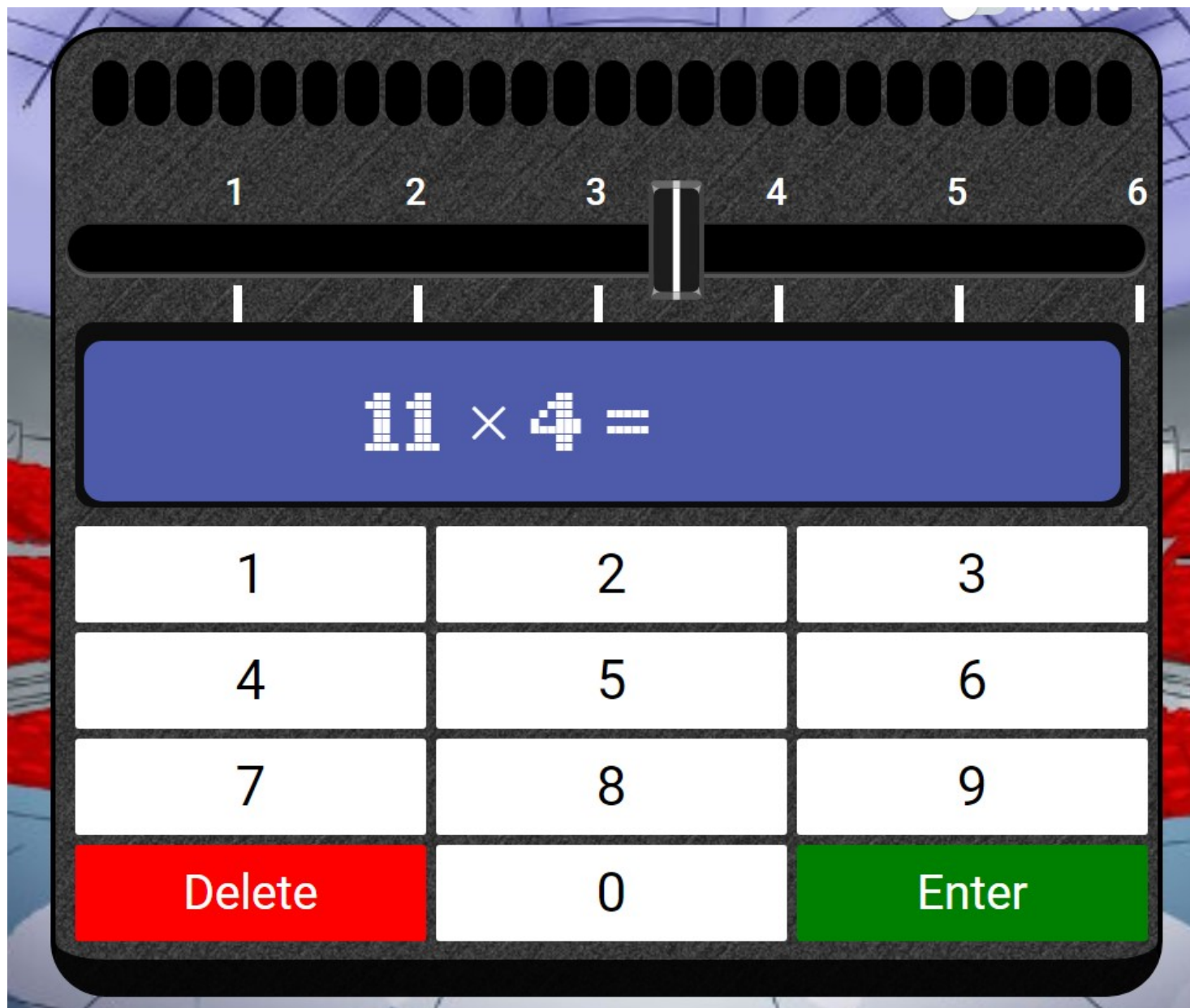
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Each child has a login for TTRS and should be using it regularly at home.

The 'Soundcheck' is in the format of the test.

We would like children to complete a soundcheck at home each day between now and the time of the test.

Times Table Rockstars





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<https://play.ttrockstars.com/play/soundcheck>