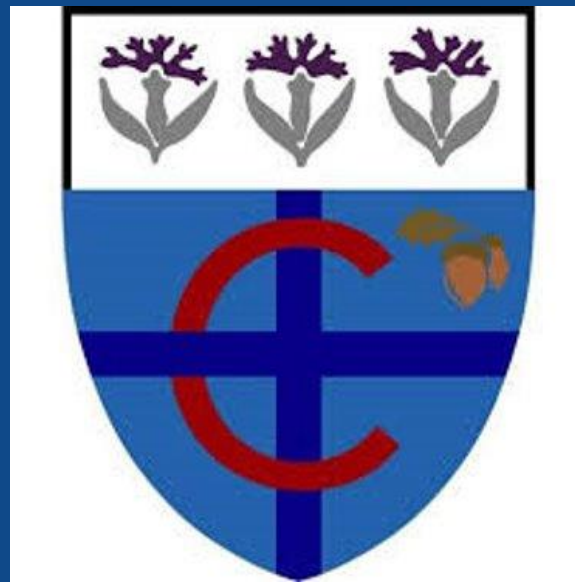


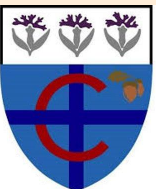
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check 2026

Information for Parents, Carers &
Guardians



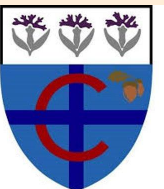
The importance of times tables

- Maths is a core subject and a lot of the rich, interesting areas of maths is all about the multiplicative relationships, but these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables.
- For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental - they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top.
- A fluent recall of times table facts facilitates a quicker understanding of other topics within maths such as fractions, decimals, percentages algebra, ratio and proportion.
- The checks are all about remembering the multiplication facts, but this goes hand in hand with the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication and this is included in how we teach them - we will share some of these ways later.



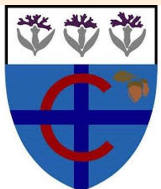
How are the tests conducted at Bishop Chavasse School?

- The checks are administered in the same way as one of the ways we practise the times tables, so when the children do the actual check, it won't seem very different to them.
- Tests in themselves don't cause anxiety. It's the perception of not doing well. For that reason, we will downplay the checks with the pupils.
- We are focused on times tables for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests!



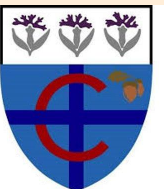
Important information about multiplication tables check (MTC)

- The MTC determines if Year 4 children can **fluently** recall their multiplication tables.
- They are designed to help schools identify which children require more support to learn their times tables.
- There is no 'pass' rate or threshold which means that children will not be expected to re-sit the check.
- The Department for Education (DfE) will create a report about the overall results across all schools in England, not individual schools.



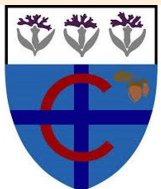
When the check will take place

- There will be a **2 week window** from Monday 1st June and Friday 12th June 2026 for schools to administer the check.
- There is **no set day** to administer the check and children are not expected to take the check at the same time.
- This is a statutory check and therefore all eligible Year 4 children in England will be required to take the check.



How the check is carried out

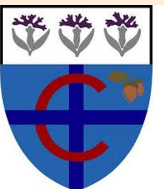
- The check will be **fully digital**.
- Answers will be entered using a keyboard, by pressing digits using a mouse or using an on-screen number pad.
- Usually, the check will take less than **5 minutes** for each child.
- The children will have **6 seconds** from the time the question appears to input their answer.
- There will be a total of **25 questions** with a **3 second pause** in-between questions.
- There will be **3 practice questions** before the check begins.



Specific arrangements for the check

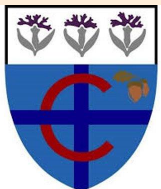
Some children will be eligible for specific arrangements:

- Colour contrast;
- Font size adjustment;
- 'Next' button (alternative to 3-second pause);
- Removing on-screen number pad;
- An adult to input answers;
- Audio version;
- Audible time alert.



The check questions

- Each child will be **randomly assigned** a set of questions
- There will only be **multiplication** questions in the check, not division facts.
- The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are **more likely** to be asked.
- Reversal of questions (e.g. 8×6 and 6×8) will not be asked in the same check.
- Children will not see their individual results when they complete the check.

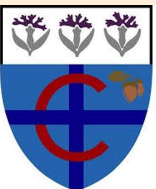


Ways to support times table knowledge

- Count and look for patterns.
- Understand that multiplication is repeated addition.
- Remember that multiplication is commutative.
- Remember that multiplication is the inverse of division.
- Recall and utilise number fact families.

Use different representations to represent multiplication, such as:

- Concrete manipulatives such as multilink cubes or counters.
- Create pictorial representations such as arrays.

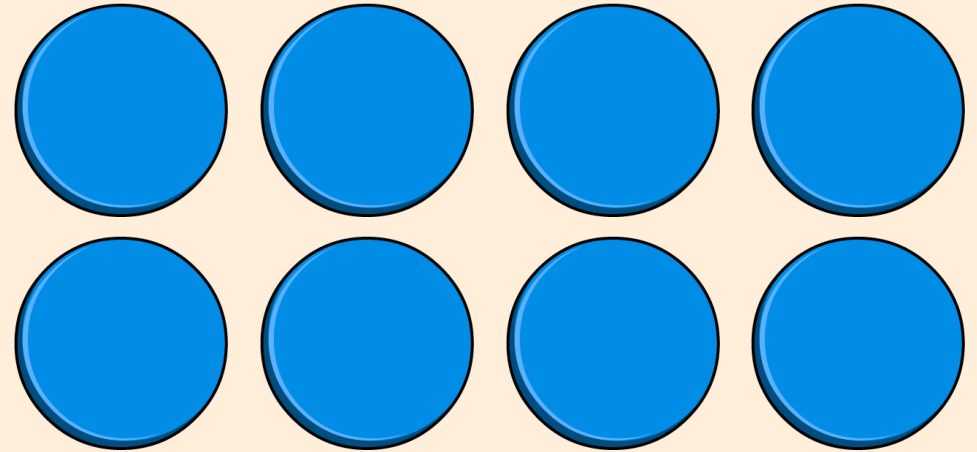


Repeated addition

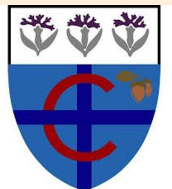
Knowing that 2×4 is the same as $2 + 2 + 2 + 2$



$$2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = ?$$



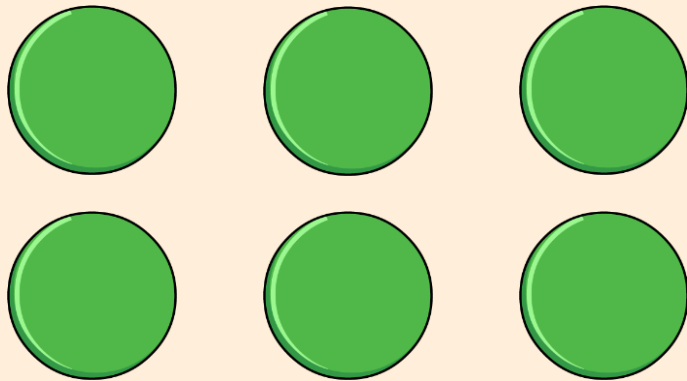
$$2 \times 4 = ?$$



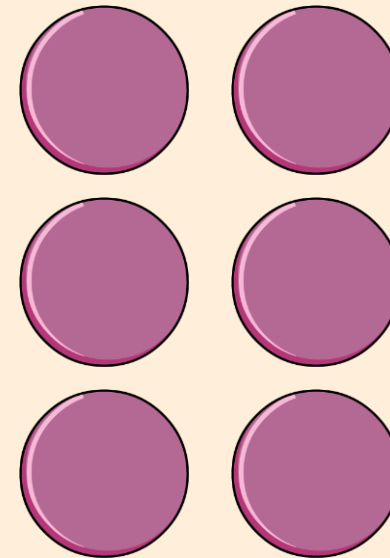
Multiplication is commutative

3×2 is the same as 2×3

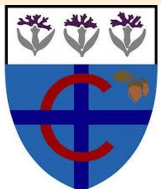
Children need to understand that multiplication can be completed in any order to produce the same answer. Sometimes this link needs to be made explicit.



3 lots of 2 = 6



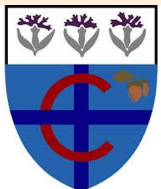
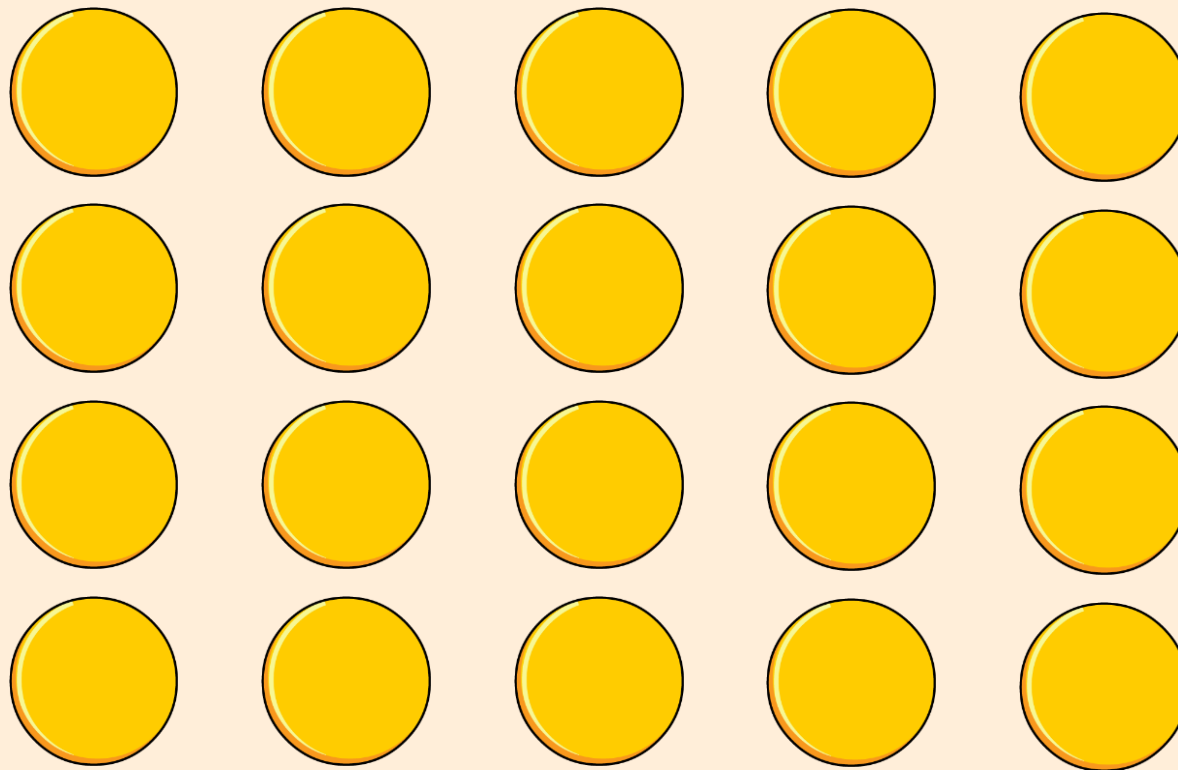
2 lots of 3 = 6



Multiplication is the inverse of division

$20 \div 5 = 4$ can be worked out because $5 \times 4 = 20$

Using pictorial representations (such as arrays) is useful here for children to see the link between multiplication and division.



Number fact families

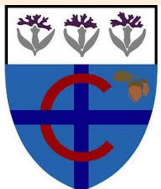
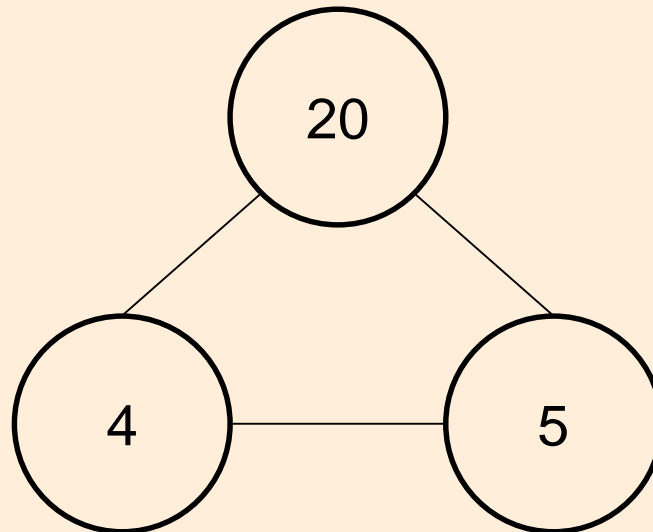
$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$5 \times 4 = 20$$

$$20 \div 5 = 4$$

$$20 \div 4 = 5$$

Due to their commutative understanding, children should also be able to see whole number families. For many children this will need to be pointed out and discussed.



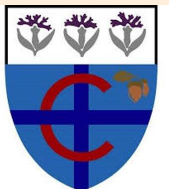
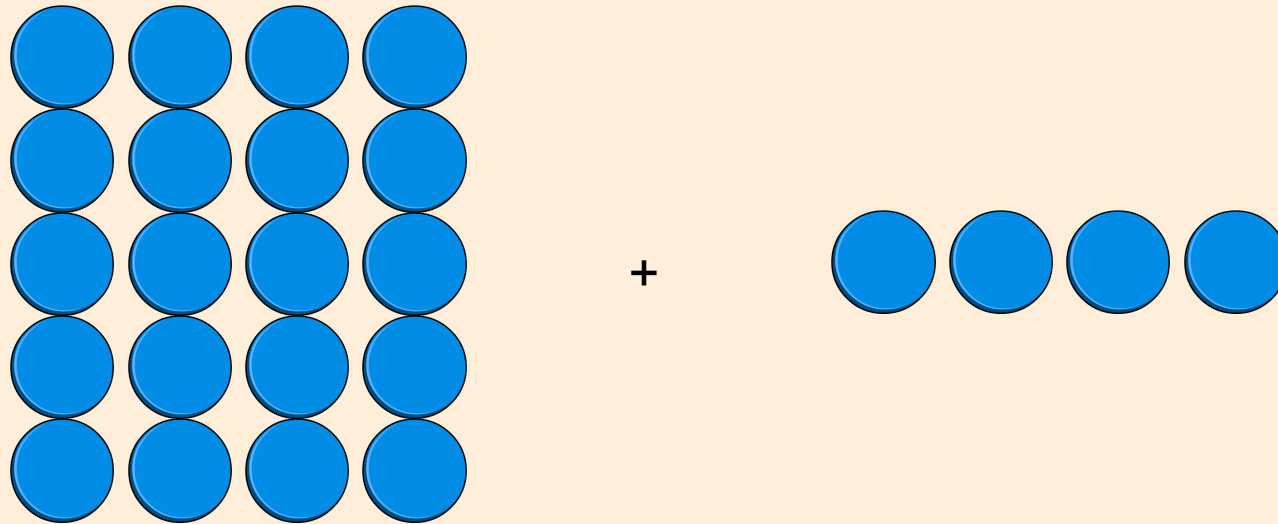
Using known facts

$$4 \times 6 = ?$$

$$\text{I know } 4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$\text{Therefore, } 20 + 4 = 24$$

By using known facts from 'easier' times tables, children should be able to find answers with increasing speed.



What we do at school to help prepare the children:

- Every morning, the children have Maths fluency exercises that they complete independently. These are varied day to day to ensure both engagement and challenge across the year group.
- The children have access to iPads throughout the week to practice Times Table Rockstars and checks using other websites too.
- Rolling tables - this is a fun fluency song that the children sing to help them remember their tables.

How to help at home:

Times table games

[Times tables check:](https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/)

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

[Hit the button](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

[Purple Mash](https://www.purplemash.com/#app/games/timestables_assessment)

https://www.purplemash.com/#app/games/timestables_assessment

Times Table Rockstars

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

Rolling tables

https://youtu.be/jf2BHUSbt_Y

The image displays four screenshots of educational apps used for practicing multiplication tables. The top-left screenshot shows a calculator interface with the equation $2 \times 11 =$. The top-right screenshot shows a multiplication table grid for 10×12 with numbers 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96, 108, 120, 132, and 144. The bottom-left screenshot shows a 'Multiplication tables check' interface with the equation $2 \times 7 =$. The bottom-right screenshot shows a calculator interface with the equation $4 \times 12 =$. A small circular timer icon with '4 secs' and '1 / 25 Questions' is also visible.



How best to prepare your child for the check

- If you want to go over times tables, make them fun.
- If you have any concerns, talk to your child's teacher.
- If your child has any concerns, encourage them to talk to a trusted adult (for example, yourself, their teacher).
- If you're looking to support your child further with maths at home, there are lots of good websites with free resources, we have put these links on the school website!

