



# Mark First C of E Academy

Creating a Love of Learning

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), a government assessment that all Year 4 children in England are required to complete. The purpose of the MTC is to ensure that children have secure and fluent recall of multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$ , which is essential for success in upper Key Stage 2 and beyond.

Although the MTC takes place when your child is in year 4, children are taught the essential skills of being able to multiply from year 2 onwards. The sooner children understand the concept of multiplication and division, the sooner they become fluent at recalling number facts for these mathematical operations. A secure understanding of multiplication and division is also essential for children to be able to make sense of other areas of maths, including fractions and decimals and solving a wide range of mathematical problems.

## What is the Multiplication Tables Check?

The MTC is an online assessment completed in school in June. Children answer 25 multiplication questions, each with 6 seconds to respond. The check is not a test of problem-solving or written calculations—it focuses purely on rapid recall of multiplication facts. The check involves children not only recalling multiplication facts quickly, but the ability to type in the numbers using either a handheld keypad, numbers on the computer keyboard or using a keypad on the iPad screen.

## How we are preparing pupils at school

- Practising multiplication facts twice a day using our times tables booklets.
- Checking children on their '77 Club' cards as and when they are ready to be assessed.
- Using online learning tools (e.g., Times Tables Rock Stars) to build confidence and speed.
- Embedding multiplication facts into lessons so children understand their importance in wider maths topics.
- Providing targeted support for children who would benefit from extra practise e.g. TT Jedi, TTRockstars lunchtime club.
- Half termly MTC checks to track the progress your child is making (year 4 only).

### Mark First C of E Academy

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Part of the  
**Wessex Learning Trust**

Our aim is to make practising multiplication fun, engaging, and low-stress while helping every child feel confident.

### How you can help at home

Regular short bursts of practise make a big difference. Here are some simple ways to support your child:

- Daily quick practice (5 minutes) using websites such as Times Tables Rock Stars, White Rose Hub 1 Minute Maths app, or Hit the Button.
- Support your child when practising their '77 Club Card'.
- Ask quick questions during everyday activities (e.g. in the car, walking to school).
- Focus especially on the 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 times tables, as these are often the trickiest.
- Celebrate effort and progress—confidence helps with speed!
- Remember to ask the children to solve the facts by saying the **biggest factor first**. E.g when presented with  $5 \times 6$ , say 'six fives are...' We are training the children to understand that multiplication can be solved either way, ( $5 \times 6 = 30$  and  $6 \times 5 = 30$ ) but if we focus on seeing them with the biggest factor first, the children only have to learn half the facts!

For families who prefer offline resources, flashcards or multiplication bingo can be helpful, and we are happy to provide printed materials if needed—just let us know.

We appreciate your support in helping your child gain confidence with their multiplication facts. If you have any questions or would like tips on how to practise at home, please speak with your child's class teacher.

If you are able to offer your help in coming into school for an hour/ half an hour a week to assist in supporting children with their learning, please let your child's class teacher know. We would be very grateful.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Mrs K Smyth

Year 4 Class Teacher and Maths Lead