From the 2019/20 academic year onwards, all primary schools in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check (MTC) to Year 4 pupils. Crossdale will be taking part in the initial trial tests this year, which will be conducted in June.

The [national curriculum](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-mathematics-programmes-of-study) specifies that pupils should be taught to recall their multiplication tables up to and including 12 × 12 by the end of Year 4. The official guidance states that there will be an emphasis on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables because these have been determined to be the most difficult multiplication tables. These are therefore the tables to practise the most with your child!

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

The test will be conducted online, and children will have six seconds to answer each question. The test is composed of 25 questions, and there will be a rest of three seconds between each question.

To help support your child’s practice of their multiplication tables, please ensure that they are regularly using the studio area of Times Tables Rockstars to improve the speed and accuracy of their recall. To support the work being done in school, we recommend working regularly with your child at home on their tables so that they are as prepared as possible for the test. Some activities that you can do with your child include:

* Times tables chanting: “6, 12, 18, 24…”;
* Times tables chanting in reverse order: “108, 99, 90, 81…”;
* Using times tables songs, like Schoolhouse Rock’s[‘3 is A Magic Number’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU4pyiB-kq0);
* Using free online games, like those on [Maths Frame](https://mathsframe.co.uk/);
* Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: “What is 4 x 7? What is 9 x 5? What is 6 x 11?”;
* Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show 3 x 4 = 12;
* Asking your child related short division questions, like “What is 12 divided by 4? What is 55 divided by 11?”;
* Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: “If five friends have £3 each, how much money do they have in total?”;
* Trying out active ways of learning times tables, like playing times tables hopscotch by drawing a grid on the ground with pavement chalk
* Making times tables flash cards and matching the question to the answer in a game of pairs.

A whole range of other ideas for fun games and activities can be found online too. If you have any that you would like to share with us in school, then do let us know!