



Year 4

A guide for parents and carers

September 2026

In Year 4, children become more confident, independent readers and writers, learn all their times tables up to 12×12 , and work with larger numbers, decimals and fractions. In June, every Year 4 child takes the national multiplication tables check. This guide explains what your child will learn and how you can help at home.

Reading every day and practising times tables for a few minutes at a time make the biggest difference this year.

The year ahead

What to expect

Multiplication tables check

What happens in June

Reading

Fluency and good questions

Spelling

Year 3–4 patterns and word list

Writing and grammar

Paragraphs, speech, fronted adverbials

Maths

Times tables, decimals, measures

Useful websites

Including online safety

The year ahead

In Year 4, children study all the national curriculum subjects, with a strong daily focus on reading, writing and maths. They complete the Year 3–4 English curriculum they began last year.

Children learn English, maths, science, history, geography, design and technology, art and design, music, physical education, computing and a modern foreign language, alongside relationships and health education and religious education.

Key dates

June 2027: the national multiplication tables check, taken within the two weeks from Monday 7 June 2027. See the next section for what to expect.

Summer term: your child's teacher will share their check score with you, and your child's end-of-year report will tell you how they are getting on.

How you can help most

- **Keep reading together.** Listen to your child read, and keep reading to them too. Sharing books a little above their own reading level builds vocabulary and understanding.
- **Talk about books.** Ask what your child thinks about characters' choices, and what evidence in the text supports their view.
- **Practise times tables little and often.** A few minutes a day, especially the 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables.
- **Use maths in real life.** Money, cooking, timetables and journeys are full of useful practice.
- **Talk to us.** Your child's class teacher is always happy to help.

The multiplication tables check

All Year 4 children in England take the multiplication tables check (MTC) in June. It checks whether your child can recall their times tables up to 12×12 quickly and accurately.

25

on-screen times tables questions

6 secs

to answer each question

5 mins

on average to complete the whole check

7 June

2027: the two-week check window begins

What is it for?

Knowing times tables fluently is essential for future success in maths. The check helps us see whether your child can recall their times tables up to 12 fluently, and identify any child who needs extra support.

What happens?

Your child answers the questions on a computer or tablet at school. They first answer 3 practice questions, then 25 real questions, with 6 seconds to type each answer. On average, the check takes no longer than 5 minutes.

From April, schools can use a "try it out" area so children become familiar with the check and any access arrangements they need. The check is designed to be accessible for as many children as possible, including children with SEND or who speak English as an additional language. There are access arrangements to support children with particular needs. If you have any concerns about your child taking the check, please speak to us.

How can I help my child prepare?

You do not need to do anything extra to prepare your child. The best support is the everyday times tables practice we will ask you to do throughout the year.

- **Little and often.** Five minutes a day is far better than an hour at the weekend.
- **Mix them up.** Once your child can say a table in order, ask questions out of order.
- **Focus on the tricky ones.** Many children find 6×8 , 7×8 , 7×9 and 12×7 hardest.
- **Use the patterns.** 9×7 is 10×7 minus 7. The 12 times table is the 10 times table plus the 2 times table.
- **Keep it positive.** There is no pass mark, so there is no need to worry your child about the check.

Results

Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you. There is no pass mark. We use the results to plan teaching and to identify children who need more support.

You can read the Department for Education's leaflet for parents on GOV.UK: [Multiplication tables check: information for parents](#).

Reading

In Year 4, children read longer and more challenging books, and learn to explain their ideas about what they read with evidence from the text.

What Year 4 readers learn to do

Reading the words

- Use what they know about root words, prefixes and suffixes to read and understand new words.
- Read the Year 3 and 4 words that have unusual spellings.
- Read aloud with fluency, expression and accuracy.

Enjoying a range of books

- Read and discuss fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books.
- Know a wide range of fairy stories, myths and legends, and retell some aloud.
- Spot themes and conventions across different books.
- Prepare poems and play scripts to perform, using tone, volume and action.
- Recognise different forms of poetry, such as free verse and narrative poetry.

Understanding what they read

- Check the text makes sense and explain the meaning of words in context.
- Ask questions to deepen their understanding.
- Infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justify this with evidence.
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.
- Identify and summarise the main ideas across more than one paragraph.
- Explain how language, structure and presentation help create meaning.
- Find and record information from non-fiction.

Building reading fluency

Fluent readers read accurately, at a good pace and with expression, which frees up their thinking for understanding. Two routines help at every age.

Echo reading

1. Choose a passage just above your child's current level. Poetry and dialogue work well.
2. Read a short section aloud with expression while your child follows the text.
3. Your child reads the same section back, matching your phrasing, pace and tone.
4. Don't correct them; model the line again and let them echo it.
5. Talk about what the passage meant and how the reading helped show that.

Paired reading

1. Your child reads aloud for about a minute.
2. You say what went well, then give one thing to improve, such as "slow down for the exciting part".
3. Your child re-reads the passage, trying the improvement.
4. Praise the difference, then talk about the reading together.

Good questions to ask

- What message is this story trying to tell us?
- Have you spotted a theme in this story?
- Why do you think the author has used... in the story?
- How do you think... is feeling? What makes you think that?
- Why did they make that choice, do you think?
- If you're not sure what a word means, how could we find out?
- Can you find the part of the story that shows...?
- What genre is this? What kind of poem is this?
- Do you know any myths? How is this one similar?
- Can you sum up that chapter in one or two sentences?
- What would you like to read next?
- Who else do you think would enjoy this book? Why?

Looking for book ideas? Our separate Year 4 Reading List has books linked to every topic this year, plus favourite stories, myths and legends chosen by our teachers.

Spelling

Year 4 completes the Year 3–4 spelling curriculum. By the end of the year, children are expected to spell all 100 words on the Year 3 and 4 word list, and to use the spelling patterns below.

Year 3 and 4 spelling patterns

Pattern	What it means	Examples
Doubling before a suffix	In longer words, double the last letter if the last syllable is stressed	forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, preferred (but gardening, limited)
y for the /i/ sound	The short /i/ sound spelt y in the middle of a word	myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery
ou for the /u/ sound	The short /u/ sound spelt ou	young, touch, double, trouble, country
Prefixes	dis-, mis-, in-, il-, im-, ir-, re-, sub-, inter-, super-, anti-, auto-	disappear, misbehave, incorrect, illegal, impossible, irregular, redo, submarine, international, supermarket, antiseptic, autograph
-ation	Adding -ation to verbs to make nouns	information, sensation, preparation, admiration
-ly	Adding -ly to make adverbs, with some spelling changes	sadly, usually, gently, happily, basically
-sure, -ture	Endings that sound like /zhuh/ and /chuh/	measure, treasure, pleasure; creature, picture, nature, adventure
-sion	The /zhun/ ending	division, invasion, confusion, decision, television
-ous	Adding -ous to make adjectives	poisonous, dangerous, famous, enormous, jealous, serious, curious
-tion, -sion, -ssion, -cian	Different spellings of the /shun/ ending	invention, action; tension, extension; discussion, permission; musician, magician
ch	The /k/ sound (from Greek) and /sh/ sound (from French)	scheme, chorus, echo, character; chef, machine, brochure
-gue, -que	Endings from French	league, tongue, antique, unique
sc	The /s/ sound spelt sc	science, scene, fascinate, crescent
ei, eigh, ey	The /ay/ sound	vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
Plural possession	Apostrophes with plural words	the girls' coats, the boys' football, the children's toys, the men's shirts
Homophones	Words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings	accept/except, brake/break, grate/great, here/hear, knot/not, meat/meet, peace/piece, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's

The Year 3 and 4 word list

These are the 100 words children are expected to spell by the end of Year 4. Why not test yourselves? How many can your child already spell?

accident(ally)	actual(ly)	address	answer
appear	arrive	believe	bicycle
breath	breathe	build	busy/business
calendar	caught	centre	century
certain	circle	complete	consider
continue	decide	describe	different
difficult	disappear	early	earth
eight/eighth	enough	exercise	experience
experiment	extreme	famous	favourite
February	forward(s)	fruit	grammar
group	guard	guide	heard
heart	height	history	imagine
increase	important	interest	island
knowledge	learn	length	library
material	medicine	mention	minute
natural	naughty	notice	occasion(ally)
often	opposite	ordinary	particular
peculiar	perhaps	popular	position
possess(ion)	possible	potatoes	pressure
probably	promise	purpose	quarter
question	recent	regular	reign
remember	sentence	separate	special
straight	strange	strength	suppose
surprise	therefore	though/although	thought
through	various	weight	woman/women

Check the Year 2 words too. Make sure your child can confidently spell the Year 2 common exception words, such as *because, could, would, people, water, again* and *beautiful*, as these appear in almost everything they write.

Helping with spelling at home

- **Little and often.** Practise five words a few times a week.
- **Look, say, cover, write, check.** A simple routine for tricky words.
- **Spot the tricky part.** Ask which bit of a word catches your child out, such as the *s* in *island* or the *a* in *separate*.
- **Build word families.** From *possess*: *possession, possessive, possessor*.
- **Use a dictionary.** Show your child how to use the first two or three letters to find a word and check its spelling.

Writing and grammar

In Year 4, children write longer, well-organised pieces for different purposes, using paragraphs, a wider vocabulary and more varied sentences. They learn to evaluate and improve their own writing and each other's.

Handwriting

Children use joined handwriting consistently and work on legibility, consistency and quality, so that their writing is neat and easy to read at speed.

Plan, draft, edit, proofread

- 1. Plan.** Look at examples of the kind of writing they are going to do, and note down ideas and useful vocabulary.
- 2. Draft.** Rehearse sentences aloud, including dialogue, and organise paragraphs around a theme. Build settings, characters and plot in stories; use headings in information writing.
- 3. Edit.** Assess how well the writing works and suggest changes, including accurate use of pronouns.
- 4. Proofread.** Check spelling and punctuation, then read the writing aloud to others with appropriate intonation, tone and volume.

Grammar and punctuation in Year 4

This is what the national curriculum sets out for Year 4. Children continue to use everything they learnt in Year 3, including conjunctions, paragraphs, the present perfect and speech marks.

Area	What your child learns	Example
Words	The difference between plural -s and possessive -s	the trees swayed; the tree's leaves; the trees' leaves
Words	Standard English verb forms instead of local spoken forms	we were (not we was); I did (not I done)
Sentences	Expanded noun phrases using adjectives, nouns and prepositional phrases	the teacher → the strict maths teacher with curly hair
Sentences	Fronted adverbials, followed by a comma	Later that day, I heard the bad news.
Texts	Paragraphs organised around a theme	One paragraph about where Vikings lived, another about what they ate
Texts	Choosing a noun or pronoun to make writing clear and avoid repetition	Tom picked up the ball. He threw it to Sam.
Punctuation	Inverted commas with a comma after the reporting clause and end punctuation inside	The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"
Punctuation	Apostrophes for plural possession	the girl's name, the girls' names, the children's coats
Punctuation	Commas after fronted adverbials	As quick as a flash, he raced across the pitch.

Words your child will learn to use: determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial.

Helping with writing at home

- Encourage real writing: a diary, emails or letters to relatives, reviews, instructions or a family newsletter.
- Play “front it”: move the time or place to the start of a sentence (“After tea, we walked the dog.”) and remember the comma.
- When reading together, look at how authors punctuate speech.
- Praise what works well before pointing out one thing to improve.

Maths

In Year 4, children work with numbers beyond 1,000, learn all their times tables up to 12×12 , and are introduced to decimals, area, coordinates and more work with fractions.

Our year at a glance

Autumn 1

- Place value
- Addition and subtraction

Autumn 2

- Area
- Multiplication and division

Spring 1

- Multiplication and division
- Length and perimeter
- Fractions

Spring 2

- Fractions
- Decimals

Summer 1

- Decimals
- Money
- Time

Summer 2

- Statistics
- Properties of shape
- Position and direction

Times tables

By the end of Year 4, children should know **all their multiplication and division facts up to 12×12** . They already know the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables. This year they add the **6, 7, 9, 11 and 12** times tables.

The 6 times table

- $1 \times 6 = 6$
- $2 \times 6 = 12$
- $3 \times 6 = 18$
- $4 \times 6 = 24$
- $5 \times 6 = 30$
- $6 \times 6 = 36$
- $7 \times 6 = 42$
- $8 \times 6 = 48$
- $9 \times 6 = 54$
- $10 \times 6 = 60$
- $11 \times 6 = 66$
- $12 \times 6 = 72$

The 7 times table

- $1 \times 7 = 7$
- $2 \times 7 = 14$
- $3 \times 7 = 21$
- $4 \times 7 = 28$
- $5 \times 7 = 35$
- $6 \times 7 = 42$
- $7 \times 7 = 49$
- $8 \times 7 = 56$
- $9 \times 7 = 63$
- $10 \times 7 = 70$
- $11 \times 7 = 77$
- $12 \times 7 = 84$

The 9 times table

- $1 \times 9 = 9$
- $2 \times 9 = 18$
- $3 \times 9 = 27$
- $4 \times 9 = 36$
- $5 \times 9 = 45$
- $6 \times 9 = 54$
- $7 \times 9 = 63$
- $8 \times 9 = 72$
- $9 \times 9 = 81$
- $10 \times 9 = 90$
- $11 \times 9 = 99$
- $12 \times 9 = 108$

The 11 times table

- $1 \times 11 = 11$
- $2 \times 11 = 22$
- $3 \times 11 = 33$
- $4 \times 11 = 44$
- $5 \times 11 = 55$
- $6 \times 11 = 66$
- $7 \times 11 = 77$
- $8 \times 11 = 88$
- $9 \times 11 = 99$
- $10 \times 11 = 110$
- $11 \times 11 = 121$
- $12 \times 11 = 132$

The 12 times table

- $1 \times 12 = 12$
- $2 \times 12 = 24$
- $3 \times 12 = 36$
- $4 \times 12 = 48$
- $5 \times 12 = 60$
- $6 \times 12 = 72$
- $7 \times 12 = 84$
- $8 \times 12 = 96$
- $9 \times 12 = 108$
- $10 \times 12 = 120$
- $11 \times 12 = 132$
- $12 \times 12 = 144$

Use what you know. The 6 times table is double the 3 times table. The 12 times table is double the 6. And every fact your child knows gives them a second one free: if they know $7 \times 6 = 42$, they also know $6 \times 7 = 42$, $42 \div 6 = 7$ and $42 \div 7 = 6$.

By the end of Year 4, your child should be able to...

Number and place value

- Count in 6s, 7s, 9s, 25s and 1,000s, and find 1,000 more or less than a number.
- Count backwards through zero to include negative numbers.
- Know the value of each digit in a four-digit number, and order and compare numbers beyond 1,000.
- Round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000.
- Read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C).

Addition and subtraction

- Add and subtract numbers with up to four digits using column methods.
- Estimate and use the inverse to check answers, and solve two-step problems.

Multiplication and division

- Recall multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12×12 .
- Multiply and divide mentally, including by 0 and 1, and multiply three numbers together.
- Recognise and use factor pairs.
- Multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using a written method.

Fractions and decimals

- Recognise families of equivalent fractions, and add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.
- Count in hundredths, and write tenths and hundredths as decimals.
- Know the decimal equivalents of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Divide one- and two-digit numbers by 10 and 100.
- Round decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number, and compare decimals with up to two places.

Measurement

- Convert between units, such as kilometres to metres and hours to minutes.
- Find the perimeter of rectilinear shapes in cm and m, and find area by counting squares.
- Estimate, compare and calculate measures, including money in pounds and pence.
- Read, write and convert times between analogue and digital 12-hour and 24-hour clocks.
- Solve problems converting hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, years to months and weeks to days.

Shape, position and direction

- Compare and classify shapes, including quadrilaterals and triangles.
- Identify acute and obtuse angles, and order angles up to two right angles.
- Identify lines of symmetry and complete symmetrical figures.
- Plot coordinates in the first quadrant and describe translations.

Statistics

- Read and present data using bar charts and time graphs, and solve problems using charts and tables.

Maths at home

Shape walk

Spot different kinds of triangles and quadrilaterals, and look for shapes with more sides, such as a heptagon with 7 sides (look closely at a 50p coin) or an octagon with 8.

Budget shopper

Put your child in charge of part of the shopping list with a budget. "I need 4 packets of sugar at £1.30 each. How much is that? How much change from £10?"

Timetables and time

Use TV guides, bus and train timetables to calculate durations and convert between 12-hour and 24-hour times: "Which programme lasts 45 minutes?"

Kitchen maths

Cooking is perfect for reading scales accurately and converting between grams and kilograms, millilitres and litres.

Times tables on the go

Quick-fire questions on car journeys or while waiting. Your child can also use the PiXL Times Tables app with their school login.

Everyday questions

"You have 38 cards and your brother has 23. How many altogether?" "40 books, 9 in each box: how many boxes?" "It's 170 miles to London and we've done 53. How far is left?"

Board games are a great way to practise number skills, and children often enjoy inventing their own.

Useful websites

A small number of free, reliable sites and the apps we provide. Screen time is best kept short and shared, and nothing replaces reading and talking together.

GOV.UK: Multiplication tables check information for parents – the Department for Education's leaflet about the June check.

gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents

PiXL Times Tables and PiXL Unlock apps – times tables practice and vocabulary building. Your child has a school username and password that works for both apps; download them from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Topmarks – maths games sorted by age and topic, including times tables practice.

topmarks.co.uk

White Rose Education – short home maths practice, including the free 1-Minute Maths app.

whiteroseeducation.com

BookTrust – book recommendations by age and interest.

booktrust.org.uk

GOV.UK: The national curriculum – what children learn at each key stage.

gov.uk/national-curriculum

Staying safe online

As children use devices more independently, keep them in shared spaces with parental controls switched on. Talk regularly about what they do online, who they talk to, and what to do if something worries them.

UK Safer Internet Centre – advice for parents and carers.

saferinternet.org.uk

Internet Matters – step-by-step guides to setting up parental controls.

internetmatters.org

Learn, believe, achieve together

Thank you for your support this year. If you have any questions about your child's learning, please speak to their class teacher.

Birch Hill Primary School and Nursery, part of Maiden Erlegh Trust. September 2026.