



Year 6 SATs 13th – 16th May 2024

Information for Parents

Contents:

- **Introduction to Tests and Scores**
- **SATs Timetable**
- **About the Tests**
- **Tips on how you can help your child prepare**
- **Useful websites**
- **Handy hints**
- **How else you can help**



Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Tests

SATs, or Standard Assessment Tests, are the former, but still held to, name for National Curriculum Tests. These are statutory end of key stage tests in two core subjects of the National Curriculum; English and mathematics.

The Key Stage Two tests consists of:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
- English reading
- mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
- mathematics Paper 3: reasoning



On all test papers children are shown how many marks each question is worth: one, two or three. This should help them know how much effort to put into answering each one. For example: a 'one mark' answer in a reading paper often only requires one word, while a 'three mark' question may need two or three sentences.

Papers are sent away for independent online marking and the results returned to the school. The staff check marking for accuracy as mistakes have occasionally been found in the past.

National Curriculum scores are reported as *scaled scores* -

Scaled scores help test results to be reported consistently from one year to the next.

National curriculum tests are developed each year to the same specification. However, because the questions are different the difficulty of the tests may vary slightly each year.

Scaled scores maintain their meaning over time so that 2 pupils achieving the same scaled score in different years will have demonstrated a similar level of attainment.

A pupil's scaled score is based on their raw score. The raw score is the total number of marks a pupil receives in a test, based on the number of questions they answer correctly. The pupil's raw score is translated into a scaled score using a conversion table. A scaled score of 100 will always represent the expected standard on the KS2 test.

On leaving primary school, most of our children will move onto secondary school and the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Children who have achieved the Expected Standard (a scaled score of 100) at Key Stage 2 will have built a good foundation on which to continue their learning.

All parents/carers receive a report that states what scores their children achieved in each of the three core subjects, in both the results of the tests and the Teacher assessments.

Using this information, the secondary schools will be able to provide for continuity in each child's education in Year 7.

Timetable

The Year 6 SATs will take place during the week of 13th – 16th May 2024.

MONDAY 13 th	TUESDAY 14 th	WEDNESDAY 15 th	THURSDAY 16 th
9:15am English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: Questions 11am English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: Spelling	9:15am English Reading	9:15am Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic 11am Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning	9:15am Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning

Access Arrangements

Provision will be made to enable all children to achieve as highly as possible. Some children may have:

- A reader (for any test except the reading test)
- A prompter
- A scribe
- Extra time
- “Brain breaks”
- Children who need questions read to them will be assigned a reader and/or a scribe depending on their needs.
- If a child’s writing is hard to read, work (or parts of it) will be transcribed.

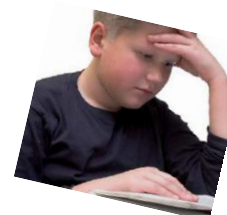
These arrangements are based on the children’s prior attainment, needs and current provision. If applicable, we will inform you of the access arrangements for your child.

English

• Reading

The children have an hour to read three different texts and answer questions on each text before progressing to the next one. The least demanding text will come first and the following texts will gradually increase in difficulty. Answers can be in phrases and often don’t have to be in full sentences.

The questions range from the literal (who does what, when) to the deductive (where, for example, they have to work out how someone is feeling from what is written). Your child will be encouraged to say which parts of the text contained the answer and will need to include examples.



- **Grammar, punctuation and spelling**

Children will complete two tests:

- The grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test which lasts 45 minutes.
- The spelling test which lasts about 20 minutes.



- **Writing**

There are no tests in writing. Writing, including handwriting, is teacher assessed based on children's writing skills throughout the year.

Results for writing are teacher assessed and reported as:

Pre Key Stage 2 attainment

Foundations for the expected standard

Early development of the expected standard

Growing development of the expected standard

Key stage 2 attainment

Working towards the expected standard

Working at the expected standard

Working at greater depth within the expected standard

Science

Science sampling tests are carried out every other year in some schools with a sample of five children. They will sit the tests during June. The test results will only be reported as national data and individual children or schools will not be identified. Schools will be notified during April / May if they are to take part in the science sampling for this year. Science is teacher assessed on their day-to-day work in class.

Maths

There are three maths papers. The papers include calculating skills, understanding of shapes, symmetry and problem solving across all areas of maths taught in the Key Stage 2 curriculum. The children are not allowed to use calculators

The first paper is an arithmetic paper. The questions are written as numbers and symbols (eg: $27 \times 4 =$ / $372 \div 3 =$). The questions get progressively harder throughout the paper. A few questions (usually 4) are worth 2 marks but most questions are worth 1 mark. There are 40 marks available on this paper.

The second and third papers are reasoning papers with a range of word, number and shape problems for the children to solve.

In both of these papers, children are encouraged to show how they arrived at an answer. For some questions marks are awarded for showing an accurate method of working out, even if the answer is wrong. Children will also be expected to show an understanding of how to use and apply their mathematical knowledge in a variety of ways or 'to think like a mathematician'.

End of year results

At the end of Year 6 you will receive:

- Teacher assessment (for English, Reading, Writing, Maths and Science)
- SATs results (for Maths, Reading and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling)
- The normal end of year report.

Tips on how you can help your child prepare

- **Practice papers**

The biggest single influence on your child's SATs marks will be their reading ability. Good readers can read questions quickly and understand what they need to do. Continue to encourage your child to read every day, looking at both stories and non-fiction.

To help your child prepare for SATs, use the CGP books and websites listed below. Your child has also taken part in and may bring home some practice papers and questions as part of their homework preparation for the SATs.

<https://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/revision/index.html> (general revision)

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/resources/ks2-sats-online-10-minute-tests> (interactive revision activities)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> (science, literacy, numeracy)

<https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/key-stages/ks2/subjects> (100s of free videos with teachers explaining specific areas of maths and English)

Handy Hints

- Look through a practice paper together and talk about how you would answer the questions.
- Agree on what the question is actually asking you to do.
- The number of marks each question is worth is printed at the side:
 - ✓ 1 mark answers can be brief, one word or number.
 - ✓ 2 mark answers will require at least two bits of information, like two different phrases, or an answer complete with method.
 - ✓ 3 mark answers need to be thorough. Encourage your child to look for this information, and not to waste time agonising over the 1 mark answers.

- Some questions are multiple-choice. If they don't know the answer, your child can guess – and may still get a mark. Children are not used to doing this!
- If they get stuck on a question, tell them to move on rather than waste time on it.
- Practice spending five minutes checking a paper to make sure all the questions are answered as fully as necessary.



How else can you help?

SATs can be a worrying time for your child and can lead to nervousness as the tests approach. On Thursday 2nd May, we will be participating in a student webinar. This will give effective coping strategies and empowering tools for exam success to help your child cope with any anxiety they may have around the tests. You can also help promote good coping strategies which include:

- Reassure them that they just have to try their best on the day.
- Encourage them to spend 10-20 minutes a day on revision or practice.
- Remind them that in most parts of the SAT papers, children do not have to write in sentences: often, phrases or even single words will be enough.
- Teach them how to relax by breathing deeply and closing their eyes to picture a calm scene like a green field by a river.
- Keep an early and regular bedtime routine in the days leading up to and including the test week – ideally, no later than 8.30 p.m.
- Ensure your child has breakfast every day or encourage them to come to the year 6 SAT's breakfast club that week. Research shows that children who miss breakfast perform worse in late morning.
- Check your child can tell the time accurately so they will know how long there is to go in the test.

The tests are carried out in familiar surroundings with as much sensitivity as it is possible, mainly in the classroom or other familiar learning area for your child. Everything will be done to help your child feel at ease and to allow them to give of their best.