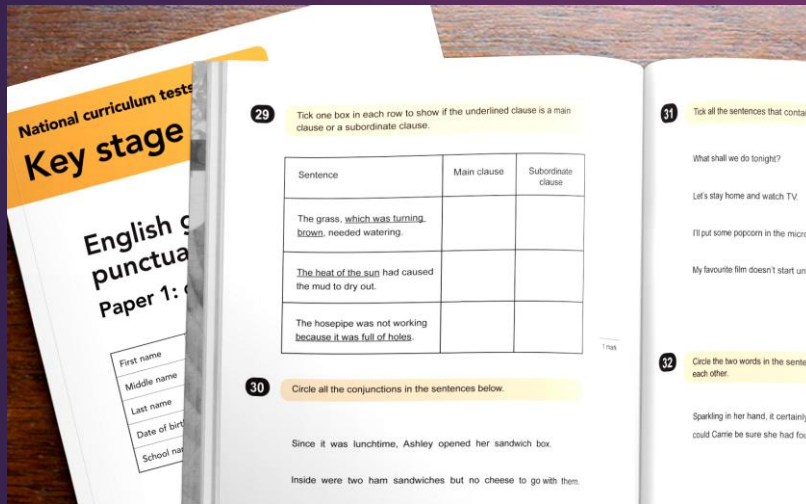
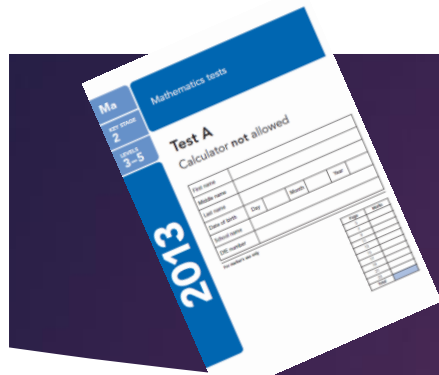


Year 6 SATs and Pizza Party!



April 2016



What are the SATs tests?



SATs = Standard Assessment Tests

The SATs tests are compulsory national tests for primary school pupils who are coming towards the end of Year 6 (age 11). They were introduced as Key Stage 2 tests in 1995 by the Conservative Government and, alongside Teacher Assessment, are currently one of the main means of assessing pupil attainment and progress at the end of their primary school education.

These are formal tests and **all** children in Year 6 (unless they are working at a level below that being assessed) are required to complete the tests.

The theory behind these tests is that they are accessible to all Year 6 pupils regardless of their place of education or their teacher. They are a means of assessing pupil performance nationwide.

The tests are all marked externally and results are usually returned to school in June. SATs results are usually reported on in your child's end-of-year report, alongside Teacher Assessment.

Which subjects is my child tested on?



During the SATs week, pupils will take a minimum of 6 tests.

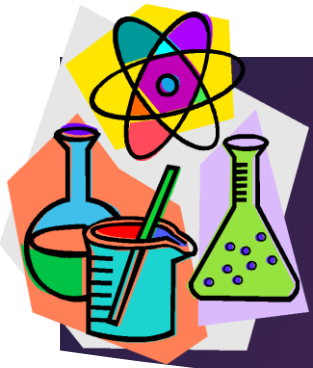
Pupils will be tested in the following subjects:

- Maths (2 separate reasoning papers and an Arithmetic test)
- Reading (this is a single paper which tests pupils' comprehension of three unrelated texts).
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (2 separate papers; one grammar and punctuation test followed by one spelling test)

The tests are to be taken by children who are working at or above Key Stage 2 standard.

Pupils who are working below this are not required to take the tests.

In the current Year 6 cohort, all pupils are entered to take the test.



What about Writing and Science?



Writing

Since 2013, writing has no longer been assessed with a SATs test. Instead, writing is assessed through rigorous Teacher Assessment throughout the school year. The writing test has since been replaced with the English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test. Speaking and listening skills are also assessed using Teacher Assessment statements.

Science

Although there are no formal science SATs, 'science sampling' was reintroduced in 2014. Under this system, 9,500 children - five children from 1,500 schools - are randomly selected to take a science test. Schools that are selected will be notified by mid-May, and are legally obliged to participate at some point in June if chosen.

Children will also be awarded a level for science based on their teacher's assessment.



When are the SATs tests held?

The SATs week begins on Monday 9th May. The week is timetabled as follows.

Monday 9 th May	English Reading Test (1 hour)
Tuesday 10 th May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: Short answers (45 mins) Paper 2: Spellings (untimed - approximately 15 mins)
Wednesday 11 th May	Maths - Paper 1: Arithmetic (30 mins) Paper 2: Reasoning 1 (40 mins)
Thursday 12 th May	Maths - Paper 3: Reasoning2 (40 mins)



What are the test arrangements?

Most of the children will take the tests in the Year 6 classroom.

Tables will be rearranged into single tables, with a pupil seated at either end of the table. These arrangements will ensure there is plenty of space between pupils, will give adequate privacy and will avoid the opportunity for pupils to look at the work of others.

All displays in the classroom are covered up/removed.

Some pupils will benefit from working in a smaller group. These will work in the ICT suite or the study.

For each group, there will be at least 2 adult supervisors/test administrators.

All staff and pupils in school will be aware of the need to avoid disturbances during the test week.

2016 is a year of change...



The 'shake up' of this year's SATs tests has been greatly publicised, with much opposition! The tests are based, for the first time, on the new 2014 Curriculum.

One major change is in the Maths tests.

The Arithmetic test focuses on understanding of number, the 4 operations, fractions, decimals and percentages. A much longer test than in previous years.

The Reasoning tests gives pupils the opportunity to apply their understanding to a range of problems. Calculators can not be used for any of the Maths tests.

The Grammar and Spelling test has become much harder than in previous years.

The way SATs and teacher assessment results will be reported has also changed.

Levels are no longer used. No Level 6 tests - the last few questions test the more able.

Instead, a scaled score will be given for the SATs tests.

Teacher assessment will indicate whether your child is 'working at' or 'towards expected standard'.

What is a scaled score?



Scaled scores will be given as a test result for the first time this year.

These give a supposed greater consistency when reporting test results, as the scores maintain their meaning over time.

A scaled score of 100 will represent a national average. This will be determined by a raw score (actual mark from the test eg: 25/50). However, the raw score that equates to the national average might change each year.

The raw score that will decide the national average will be determined once the tests have been marked.

Pupils who receive a scaled score of a margin around 100 would be deemed working at an expected (average) standard.

Pupils with less than this would be working towards this standard (below average).

Pupils with more than this would be working above the expected standard (above average).

How far above or below average can be determined by how far away from 100 they are!

How has school helped my child to prepare for these tests?

All pupils have been well prepared for the SATs tests this year. They have completed numerous practice tests under test conditions and - as such - are very familiar with the test conditions, the style and format of the tests and are aware of what is expected of them.

Practice test results have been analysed and used to set individual targets for improvements in future tests. Pupils are fully aware of how to achieve their potential in the tests - a positive manner is needed by all! 'Growth Mindset' is helping pupils to become emotionally ready to take the tests.

Miss Hickman has joined us from South Craven to develop Maths skills and help us to improve our reasoning skills.

Basic skills are being revised every day - including mathematical vocabulary, understanding of number and formal methods for the 4 operations.

'BIG SHEET MATHS' allows pupils to use reasoning skills and apply their learning to problem solving.

How can I help my child through SATs week?

Parents can help their child to achieve their potential in the test week by:

- Ensuring their child attends school everyday and arrives promptly at the start of the school day. Children should not be kept at home for minor illness such as colds. Arrangements are made if children are especially ill, but parents should make every effort to make sure their child attends school during this week.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep by going to bed at a suitable time.
- All children should have a good breakfast before attending school. It is important that all pupils feel comfortable and relaxed whilst taking the tests. Having a rumbling tummy and feeling hungry prevents child (and others) from being able to concentrate!
- Encourage your child to appreciate the seriousness of these tests. Remind them that you expect them to do their very best...
- ...but do make sure they don't worry about them! Yes - they are important tests! Yes - they DO need to do their very best in them! No - they aren't worth losing sleep over or getting hysterically upset about! They need to remember that they are actually very well prepared for them!



Common issues and concerns...

Here are some of the mistakes and errors (often 'careless') which prevent children from doing their best in the tests...

- 'Carelessness costs!'
- 'Key words are the key to success!'
- 'READ carefully - it MATTERS!'
- 'CHECK IT - or lose it!'
- 'Question your question!'
- 'No sense = nonsense!'
- 'Presentation helps communication!'
- 'SPELLings are MAGIC!'
- 'CAPITALS! FULL STOP!'
- 'TIME NEVER STANDS STILL...so neither should you!'
- 'What YOU do is important...what someone else does doesn't matter!'



Have a go!

Now for the fun part!

Have a look at some sample papers from each of the 3 SATs tests - the Maths papers, the Reading test and the English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test.

There are around 10 minutes worth of questions from each test to work through...whilst munching pizza of course!

Remember Year 6s...this is not a test for you...but is maybe a chance to catch your parents out and show them just how fabulous you are! Have a go together and show them what these SATs tests are really like!

And, of course, please ask if you have any questions!