

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) Information Evening

10th October 2017

Background Information

In 2016, to align with the changes to the National Curriculum, the Government made significant changes to the end of Key Stage 2 assessments - they have become more rigorous, with 'tougher' content and results are no longer reported as levels.

This evening, we will go through the changes that were made to the tests (what the SATs look like now), how results are now reported, teacher assessment and how the testing week is organised.



What will the SATs look like in 2018?

In May 2018, children in Year 6 will sit tests in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) and Maths.

Reading - 1 hour. Children will be given a reading booklet with 3 or 4 texts in that increase in complexity. They will have a question booklet to answer questions about each text. There is no allocated reading time anymore - this is now part of the test.

GPS

Paper 1 - 45 minutes. Children will answer grammar and punctuation questions that will be taken from across the KS2 grammar and punctuation curriculum.

Paper 2 - approx. 20 minutes. Children will be tested on 20 words that will be taken from across the KS2 spelling curriculum.

Maths

Paper 1 - 30 minutes. Arithmetic. Children will answer 36 'pure' arithmetic questions i.e. no worded problems. This is instead of a mental maths test.

Papers 2 and 3 - 40 minutes each. Reasoning. Children will answer a range of different types of questions from across the KS2 maths curriculum. Includes shape, statistics etc.



What will the SATs look like in 2018?

Monday 14th May - GPS Papers 1 and 2. The first paper is the 'short answer' paper, which consists of a variety of questions that usually fall into two categories: questions that require children to select the correct answer e.g. circle the adjectives in the sentence, tick the sentence that uses inverted commas correctly; and questions that require the children to construct answers e.g. rewrite the sentence, inserting a relative clause, identify where the apostrophe is missing in the sentence and explain why it needs one.

Tuesday 15th May - Reading. The reading test consists of a selection of different question types: short answers, where one word or a short sentence is needed (often find and retrieve); several line answers, where a more detailed answer is needed e.g. a sentence or two; longer answers, where there is a bigger space for a more detailed answer, and usually an opinion is needed to be shown; and other types of question where the children will need to follow the instructions, such as ordering, labelling, ticking or circling answers and drawing lines to link answers.

Wednesday 16th May - Maths Papers 1 and 2. Paper 1 consists of a range of arithmetic questions including long division and multiplication. Papers 2 and 3 focus on using and applying mathematics through worded problems. Questions types include: true or false, multiple choice, constrained questions e.g. drawing a shape or completing a chart, and unconstrained questions where a reasoned explanation may be required.

Thursday 17th May - Maths Paper 3.

How will SATs attainment be reported?

The SATs tests are externally marked. We will receive the results at the beginning of July 2018.

Parents will receive the raw score that your child has achieved in each of the tests (reading, maths, spelling punctuation and grammar).

This raw score is then converted into a scaled score, which will enable parents to see how their child's attainment compares to children nationally.

Parents will also be told whether their child has met the 'national standard' in each subject.

How will SATs attainment be measured?

A scaled score has now been introduced in place of levels. This scaled score ranges between 80 and 120.

A scaled score of '100' or above will indicate that the pupil has met the expected standard of attainment in Year 6.

A scaled score of '110' or above will indicate that the pupil has met the higher standard of attainment (there is no 'higher level' paper to take)

A scaled score of '99' or less will indicate that the pupil is working below the expected standard of attainment in Year 6.

Teacher Assessment

Teacher assessments are reported at the same time as the test results.

Writing

There is no formal SATs paper for writing. Writing is teacher assessed, using the writing the children have completed throughout the year.

The assessment framework for writing at the end of Key Stage 2 comprises of three standards, each containing a number of statements. A pupil's writing should meet all the statements within a standard to be assessed at that standard. Spelling is a key statement.

The three standards are: working towards the expected standard, working at the expect standard, and working at greater depth within the expected standard.

Reading, Maths and Science

Teacher assessments are also required for reading, maths and science. Unlike writing, there is only one standard the children are assessed against - working at the expected standard. Pupil's work in these subjects should meet all the statements in this standard.

This year, there will be Science sampling tests, however we do not know if we will be selected to complete these. If we are, these will take place in the weeks commencing Monday 4 June 2018 and Monday 11 June 2018.

SATs week organisation

We begin each day with our SATs breakfast! This is always a highlight of the week, and further builds up our classroom community.

The tests take place in the morning.

Children are seated at least 1m apart from each other. The majority of children sit in Elder classroom, where we arrange the tables to the children's preferences. Mrs. Ayres and Mrs. Moore invigilate.

Children sit in the same place each day. All equipment is provided, but children prepare their tables and arrange their equipment, which gives them a feeling of preparedness and ownership.

Children who are identified as needing more support, either academically or emotionally, take their tests in other areas of the school, such as the Music Room, the Hub, the Library. Some support aspects need to be applied for, and strict criteria met. The school applies for this and we will discuss individual needs with parents as appropriate.

There will be a minimum of two adults in these other areas, one to provide the support and the other to invigilate.

The rest of the school work in silence and do not leave their classrooms until we are finished.

How will we support the children?

Homework in the Autumn term will be increasingly focused towards knowledge and skills that the children will need for the SATs tests.

From the Spring term, we will be using CGP revision guides for our homework. These are extremely useful books, as they structure the questions in a similar way to the tests.

We will complete targeted lessons to revise content required for the tests.

Personalised writing targets linked to the end of Key Stage 2 assessment statements.

Personalised interventions will take place in smaller groups, to ensure gaps in knowledge are filled. This will include gaps from previous years, as the SATs tests take content from across Key Stage 2.

Mathletics and Spellodrome activities.

Continued work on resilience, self-belief, and personal bests.

We do not want SATs to take over Year 6, but we want to give the children the best opportunity to achieve their best. We will do practice questions, and we will complete mock SATs weeks (the first of these will be after half term). These mock tests are to give the children the chance to become used to the time restraints, the stamina needed, and the style of questions that are asked. They are not to be worried about.

How can you support your child?

Throughout the Year

Please check your child's spellings and homework. Accurate spelling, especially of the Year 3/4 and 5/6 spelling words is crucial. Each week your child will have up to 5 spellings from their own writing, or from one of these lists - this is to support this area of writing.

Ensure your child is reading independently for at least 15 minutes each night. At least once a week, ask your child questions about what they have read, especially questions that require children to use inference. This will help them to prepare for the reading test.

Help them to learn their times tables, related division facts, and questions that times tables can be used to answer e.g. 60×50 (can use 6×5 to help); lots of mental maths. This will help with the arithmetic paper, as well as the mathematics needed in the reasoning papers.

Make sure they have a quiet, organised place to complete their homework and revise.

Ensure they complete the required amount of pages in their revision books and any practice papers that are sent home (Spring).

No holidays during term time.

During SATs week

Reassure your child that as long as they do **their** best, that is all that matters, emphasis that the SATs are simply a way for them to show what they know.

Ensure they have plenty of sleep and a good breakfast (this can be through our SATs breakfast!)

Encourage them to ask any adult in school if they are unsure of anything - no pressure!