

The 2016 National Tests – A Parent’s Guide Key Stage 2

In the Summer term of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATs papers. These tests in English and Maths will reflect the new national curriculum, and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

These tests will be both set and marked externally, and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

Key Stage 2 Reading

The reading test will be a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. **Your child will have one hour, including reading time, to complete the test.**

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- **Ranking/ordering**, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- **Labelling**, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- **Find and copy**, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- **Short constructed response**, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- **Open-ended response**, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins *Once upon a time*. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

Key Stage 2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test

The grammar, punctuation and spelling test will consist of two parts: a **grammar and punctuation paper** requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes, and an **aural spelling test of 20 words**, lasting around 15 minutes.

The grammar and punctuation test will include two sub-types of questions:

- **Selected response**, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives in the sentence below'
- **Constructed response**, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'

Key Stage 2 Maths

Children will sit three papers in Maths:

- Paper 1: **arithmetic**, 30 minutes

- Papers 2 and 3: **reasoning**, 40 minutes per paper

Paper 1 will consist of fixed response questions, where children have to give the correct answer to calculations, including long multiplication and division. Papers 2 and 3 will involve a number of question types, including:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Constrained questions, e.g. giving the answer to a calculation, drawing a shape or completing a table or chart
- Less constrained questions, where children will have to explain their approach for solving a problem

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will be administered in the week commencing 9 May 2016

Marking and Results

All of the tests will be carried out in school and organised by your child's teachers. Following this, they will be sent to be marked by a central agency and then returned shortly before the end of the Summer term. Once the results are returned to the school, they will be reported to you, as part of a wider school report at the end of the school year.

The way this is done has changed significantly from the national curriculum levels used in the past. Your child's score will be converted to a scaled score to allow it to be compared to others'. Scaled scores will normally range between 80 and 130. The scale will be set so that reaching a score of 100 will indicate that your child is working at the expected standard for the end of Key Stage 2.

Higher scores indicate more advanced attainment, with lower scores suggesting that your child may need some additional support to catch up with his or her peers. Scores will be provided for reading, mathematics, and grammar, punctuation and spelling. These scores will be used by High Schools as part of their assessment in order to group your child into the appropriate sets.

Alongside these scores, we will report on other subjects such as writing, as well as the more general report comments.

How Can You Help

Please continue to support your child by ensuring they complete their homework now and over the Easter holiday. This reinforces and supports the work which has been done in class and is crucial at this stage in order for your child to be ready for the forthcoming tests and ultimately High School.