

Year Two SATs
Information for Parents
What happens when it's SATs time?

Overview

During May, all 7 and 11 year olds take the end of Key Stage national tests (often called 'SATs'). These tests are designed to check that children in all schools are making progress. This leaflet looks at what actually happens during the testing period and how you can help your child.

The law says:

- All children must take the national tests at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- Testing must take place in May. Key Stage 1 children have the whole month to do the tests.
- 7-year-olds are tested on reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar and maths.
- Key Stage 1 teachers mark the tests themselves, with their marking checked by the authority's advisors or inspectors. This is to make sure that all results are absolutely fair.

None of the tests have a set time limit and children can take as long as they need within reason. The children have been completing practice tests throughout the year and these tests are nothing different. They are completed in a structured yet relaxed and informal manner in order to minimise any pressure on the children.

Reading

During May, all pupils will be tested in written comprehension. The children will have a booklet containing a story and some information or non-fiction writing, which they will read and then answer questions about.

They will then be tested with a higher level comprehension booklet. This one will be a harder text to read and have more complicated questions to answer.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Children will have their spelling tested by writing missing words into 20 sentences. The teacher will read the sentences out to the children and they will have to fill in the missing word, spelling it correctly.

They will then have another booklet in which they will be tested on their knowledge of correct sentence punctuation and grammar. These questions often require one word answers, multiple choice selection or identifying errors.

Writing

Children's writing level will be assessed using all the independent work from their time in Year 2. This is a teacher assessment level and includes writing across all subjects: it does not just focus on the work in their English books.

Maths

Children work through booklets of maths questions covering all of the work they have been doing in their Maths lessons including number, shape, measuring, simple fractions, data handling and problem solving. Your child is allowed to use some equipment, such as a ruler, but, as in all the other tests, they are expected to work out the answers on their own. There may be questions for which

they will have to write an explanation of their 'working out'. Children can ask the teacher to read the questions to them and the written answers are not judged on spelling or handwriting.

There are two Maths papers: arithmetic and reasoning. The arithmetic paper tests children's ability with simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division questions whilst the reasoning paper will test their problem solving skills and application of their mathematical understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my child have to do the tests?

Yes, unless you can give a very good reason why they shouldn't. Severe learning difficulties, total lack of English or serious illness are the kinds of reasons accepted.

Unfortunately, you can't withdraw your child because you don't agree with testing or because you think it might upset them.

In fact, only a tiny fraction of children in state schools miss the national tests.

What happens if my child misses a test?

At Key Stage 1, teachers will arrange for your child to take it at another time.

When will I find out my child's results?

Your child's results will be included in their end-of-year report. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's results at a parent drop in session after the reports have been sent home.

How you can help

- Please don't take your child on holiday during term time.
- You do not need buy any commercially produced revision materials, although you may choose to do so. The important thing is to continue to share stories, practise children's words and complete homework. This will be of great benefit to the children.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep during the SATs period. The SATs month can be tiring for 7-year-olds, and they will need a chance to relax and get some fresh air and exercise when the school day is over.
- Try not to make a big thing of it. Not every child deals with tests well. These tests are used to inform the teacher assessments which take account of your child's work over the whole year. This helps to give a balanced picture of what they can do.

To sum up

National tests are an important milestone in school life. They give useful information to your child's teachers and to the government. But it's important to get them in proportion. They are just one of the ways the school works out how well your child is doing. They shouldn't be stressful, and in fact many children enjoy the change in routine, as long as they know they have your support and understanding.

If you have any further questions about SATs or Y2 in general, please do not hesitate to speak to