

SATs Year 6 – A guide for parents Bearwood Primary and Nursery School

In the summer term of 2016, children in Y2 and Y6 were the first to take new SATs tests. The current SATs for English and Maths reflect the updated national curriculum (National Curriculum 2014), and are more rigorous than previous years' tests. There is also a completely new SATs marking scheme and grading system which has replaced national curriculum levels.

What are SATs?

At the end of Y6, English schoolchildren sit national tests in Reading, Maths and Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG). These tests are both set and marked externally, and the results are 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, which you will receive in their end of year reports. Your child's SATs scores will also be used by their secondary schools; their GCSE predictions will be based on these results, and they may also be used to help with setting/streaming, depending on the school's procedures.

KS2 reading

The reading test is a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have an hour, including reading time, to complete the test. There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, for example, 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy a word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, for example: 'What does the bear eat?'
- Evidence based opinions, for example: "Why do you think her grandmother asked her not to look back?"
- Language based, for example: 'Why has the author used the phrase "unusual blanket" to describe the ash covering the town?'

KS2 grammar, spelling and punctuation

The SPAG test consists 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 includes different types of questions, such as:

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

The questions test the children's understanding and application of all punctuation, as well as challenging their understanding of spelling rules and vocabulary.

KS2 maths

Children sit three papers in maths: Paper 1 (arithmetic, 30 minutes), Papers 2 and 3 (reasoning, 40 minutes each). Paper 1 consists of fixed response questions (children have to give correct answers to calculations). Papers 2 and 3 involve question types including multiple choice, word problems and 'explain your reasoning'. The questions are based on all curricular objectives from Primary School Years in the National Curriculum although a heavy weighting has been placed upon fractions in the past few years. Knowing their tables will improve children's chances greatly in many Mathematical areas.

Do all children have to take SATs?

In England, the tests are compulsory for all seven year olds (KS1 SATs at the end of Year 2) and 11 year olds (KS2 SATs at the end of Y6).

When are the SATs?

Key stage 2

Date	Activity
Monday 8 May 2023	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 9 May 2023	English reading
Wednesday 10 May 2023	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 11 May 2023	Mathematics paper 3

What can we do to support our child during SATs week?

Firstly, please put the dates for SATs in your diaries so that you keep them clear! It is really important that children are at school on time as we start the tests first thing in the morning. We suggest that children have a decent breakfast to help them concentrate although each year we offer breakfast for all Year 6 pupils to support the nerves! In the morning simply reciting times tables to get their brains warmed up will help. Please also give your child lots of praise and encouragement, as will we!

How are SATs marked?

Instead of national curriculum levels, children are given scaled scores and details of whether they've reached the expected standard 'NS' means that the standard was not achieved (not achieved standard); 'AS' means it was (achieved standard). The scaled scores for the KS2 test range between 80 (the lowest possible scaled score) and 120 (the highest possible scaled score). The expected standard for each test is a scaled score of 100 or more.

At Bearwood Primary and Nursery School, we report both SATs results and teacher assessment in our end of year reports. Sometimes these grades don't match up – this could be for a variety of reasons, and if you are unsure about these please always get in touch for a discussion. Please note that Bearwood reports pupils as Emerging (working towards the expected standard); Expected (working at the expected standard); and Exceeding (working above the expected standard), whereas the SATs do not report on exceeding.

Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with example SATS questions which you will find on the website. Please do get in contact again if you have any questions.