

The 2026 KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

W/C Monday 11th May

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you will be aware your child will be carrying out their Year 6 SATs tests from Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May.

Over the course of the week, there are six tests altogether covering the various areas of English and Mathematics. Tests are stored securely and staff do not have access to the content before the children do. After the tests, they are again returned to secure storage and collected by the DfE and marked by external markers. Below is a timetable of when which tests will be carried out:

2026 Timetable of tests

Date	Test
Monday 11th May 2026	Grammar & Punctuation test - 45 minutes Spelling Test - 20 minutes
Tuesday 12th May 2026	English Reading Test - 60 minutes
Wednesday 13th May 2026	Mathematics Arithmetics (Paper 1) - 30 minutes Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2) - 40 minutes
Thursday 14th May 2026	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3) - 40 minutes

The Maths Tests

Paper 1 – Arithmetic (30 mins only)

The first is an arithmetic paper that will test your child's number and calculation skills. The test has approximately **36 questions** and is worth 40 marks, making up just over one third of the total marks available for mathematics. Some of the questions will require children to know some number facts, such as multiplication tables (and the related division facts); others test the use of calculation methods. There are calculations relating to fractions and percentages and examples of calculations with larger numbers. For long multiplication and long division questions, 2 marks are available. If your child's final answer is incorrect, they may still earn 1 mark for showing correct use of the formal long multiplication or long division methods. This 'method mark' is not available if they use any other calculation method other than the expected formal one.

Papers 2 & 3 – Mathematical Reasoning (40 mins each paper)

The reasoning questions often include some background information, such as solving problems to do with purchasing things in a shop or dealing with measurements such as weight or area. These test papers cover the wider areas of mathematics such as geometry and statistics, as well as using arithmetic and number knowledge to solve problems. Several questions are likely to involve more than one step and so will be worth 2 marks. Overall, each reasoning paper is worth 35 marks.

The English tests

There are two tests for English: Reading; and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). The reading test has one paper and the grammar, punctuation and spelling test has two papers.

The Reading test

Paper 1 – Reading test

The reading test lasts for 1 hour. During this time your child will be given around three different texts to read – often a mix of fiction, non-fiction and poetry – and a separate booklet of questions to answer about the texts. Your child's teacher will teach them strategies for tackling this paper, such as reading the questions before reading the text so you know what you are looking for in the text. Several of the questions in this test will involve ticking the correct box or picking out a single word from the text. These often require finding straightforward information directly from the text. However, in more complex questions – such as those asking for an explanation of the author's choices – there will be several lines for free text, and up to 3 marks may be available for more detailed answers which use evidence given in the texts. Many of the questions are testing a child's knowledge of vocabulary also.

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test

Paper 1 – Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

Paper 1 assesses grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. This is an area that has changed significantly in the new curriculum and questions will refer to both children's knowledge of grammatical terms (such as pronoun and conjunction) and use of language in the right context. Some questions will also require children to put in the appropriate punctuation marks or to use a particular sentence structure.

Paper 2 - Spelling test

Paper 2 assesses spelling and requires children to spell 20 random words. Each word is read out as part of a sentence that is printed in the answer booklet. Your child will be asked to write the missing word into the gap. There are 70 marks altogether, made up of the scores from both papers to achieve an overall score for grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Does my child have to take the tests?

In England, the tests are compulsory for all 11-year-olds. It is essential your child attends school on the days of the tests.

What level should my child achieve in their SATs?

Children are expected to reach the national standard in both Year 2 and Year 6. This is a particular score that reflects where the Department for Education thinks children should be by that stage of their education.

The national standard score for KS1 SATs and KS2 SATs is 100 and the government expects 85 per cent of children to reach it.

When will I know the results?

As part of your child's Summer Term end of year report, you will be given a separate report telling you your child's scaled score (a conversion score that allows results to be compared year on year) and whether or not they have achieved the national standard. Teacher assessments will also be used to build up a picture of your child's learning and achievements in class (not tests) and these will be reported on their EVPS school report.

How can you help your child before the tests?

The children are ready! They have been practising throughout the year and understand the layout of the week. They have all worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of how far they have come.

The most important thing now is that they get as good a night's sleep and as much rest as possible before the SATs week. It is also incredibly important that the children are in school for 8:50 at the very latest so that they can feel ready and have time to settle in before we begin.

From Monday 11th May- Thursday 14th May we will open our classroom doors from 8:30 for the children to arrive early and have some toast and a drink with us if they would like to. This is not compulsory and is not replacing breakfast club, but a chance for the children to relax in school before the tests begin.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns that you wish to discuss, and we will be more than happy to help in whatever way we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6 Team

EVPS