

Year 6 SATs 2026 Information for Parents and Carers

What are the SATs?

SATs are the Standardised Assessment Tests that are given to children at the end of Key Stage 2.

The SATs take place over four days, starting on Monday 11th May ending on Thursday 14th May.

The SATs papers consist of:

- Monday 11th May - SPaG Paper 1: Grammar/ Punctuation – 45 minutes
- Monday 11th May - SPaG Paper 2: Spelling test – 15 minutes
- Tuesday 12th May - Reading – 60 minutes
- Wednesday 13th May - Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic – 30 minutes
- Wednesday 13th May - Maths Paper 2: Reasoning – 40 minutes
- Thursday 14th May - Maths Paper 3: Reasoning – 40 minutes

Writing is assessed using evidence collected throughout Year 6. There is no Year 6 SATs writing test.

When and how the SATs are completed

The tests take place during normal school hours, under exam conditions.

Children are not allowed to talk to each other from the moment the assessments are handed out until they are collected at the end of the test.

After the tests are completed, the papers are sent away to be marked externally.

The results are then sent to the school in July. Tests are marked externally. Once marked, the tests will be given the following scores:

- A raw score (total number of marks achieved for each paper);
- A scaled score (see below);
- A judgement on if the National Standard has been met.

After marking each test, the external marker will convert the raw score to a scaled score. Even though the tests are made to the same standard each year, the questions must be different. This means the difficulty of the tests may vary. Scaled scores ensures an accurate comparison of performance over time.

Scaled scores range from 80 to 120.

A scaled score of 100 or more shows the pupil is meeting the National Standard.

Things to remember about SATs

SATs focus on what children know about Maths and English.

They will not reflect how talented they are at science, geography, art, PE…, and they certainly won't highlight all of their amazing personal characteristics.

SATs don't tell the whole story.

Their results will say if they did or did not meet a certain standard but not necessarily by what margin. These thresholds change each year according to the overall national performance, so what was classed as 'meeting the expected standard' this year might not be the same as last year.

SATs are only four days out of a whole Primary School career.

In reality, there's one or two papers each day that last 30 to 60 minutes.

Specific arrangements for SATs

Children with additional needs (who have similar support as part of day-to-day learning in school) may be allotted specific arrangements, including:

- Additional (extra) time;
- Tests being opened early to be modified;
- An adult to scribe (write) for them;
- Using word processors independently;
- An adult to read for them (including a translator);
- The use of prompts or rest breaks;
- Arrangements for children who are ill or injured at the time of the tests.
- Pupils with an EHCP are automatically allowed up to 25% additional time (except for the spelling paper, which is not strictly timed).

Supporting your child in preparing for the SATs

Firstly, a positive attitude goes a long way. Give them as much encouragement and support as you can (but we don't need to tell you that)! Of course SATs may induce a certain degree of worry or anxiety, and while we cannot remove the reality of SATs we can think about equipping your 10 or 11 year old with the ability to better cope with the situation.

Tips:

- Ensure your child is eating and drinking well and getting a good amount of sleep.
- Give your child a quiet, distraction free space to complete homework or study.
- Create a revision timetable that works for you and your child. For some families, 10 to 20 minute activities over a few days works best. For others, a longer study session one day a week might be better. Talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns rather than worry your child.
- Keep revision light. Going over key skills (times tables, real world mental maths as you are shopping or cooking) is a good way to keep revision light. Encourage your child to talk to their teacher or a trusted adult (including yourself) about their anxieties. Don't forget that a small amount of anxiety is normal and not harmful.
- Give your child time to go outside and reduce screen time.
- Plan something nice and fun for the weekends before and after SATs. This will help them to relax before the SATs and give them something to look forward to after.
- Don't use past papers as they are used in school to prepare the children. There are plenty of free or inexpensive SATs practice materials for parents available.

Advice for Year 6 children

- Listen to your teacher.
- The adults you work with all want you to do your best.
- Get plenty of sleep and eat well, this will help your brain.
- Read all the questions carefully. This can help you to avoid silly mistakes.
- Don’t panic. There may be questions you think you can’t answer. Take a deep breath. Read it again. You can always move on and go back to it later. It’s often better to write something rather than nothing.
- Remember that the Year 6 SATs last for 4 days out of your whole life!

“Stay focused in class so you don’t have loads of extra studying to do at home!” – Year 7 pupil’s advice.

What to do if you are worried about your child

Talk to the school

Sometimes concerns present at home and not at school. If you notice a change in your child, talk to the school so that everyone concerned can offer the support needed.

Talk to your child

Talk to your child about what aspect of SATs concerns them the most. If you can help them pinpoint what is bothering them the most, you can take specific steps to help reassure them.

Encourage your child to talk to their teacher

SATs are obviously linked to school. Don’t be surprised if your child would prefer seek reassurance from teachers over family members.

Try not to project your own anxieties or views about the SATs

Children can be very intuitive. If they see that you are anxious, this could add to their own anxieties. Similarly, if you don’t believe in SATs, your child may reflect this view.