



Year 6 SATs 2026  
Presentation for Parents, Carers &  
Guardians

## What are SATs?

- SATs stands for Standardised Assessment Tests
- Children undertake 6 papers over four days, starting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** ending on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**.
- The SATs papers consist of:
  - Grammar, punctuation and spelling (paper 1: GPS) – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May
  - Grammar, punctuation and spelling (paper 2: Spelling) – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May
  - Reading – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May
  - Maths (paper 1: Arithmetic) – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May
  - Maths (paper 2: Reasoning) – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May
  - Maths (paper 3: Reasoning) – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- Writing is assessed using evidence collected throughout Year 6. There is no Year 6 SATs writing test.



# KS2 SATs

2026  
KS2  
Year 6

## A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

	Date	Test	Duration	Marks	Details
ENGLISH	Monday 11th May	Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary Paper 1 – Short Answer Questions	45 Minutes	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A written test with a mixture of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary questions.</li><li>20 words read aloud by the teacher.</li><li>The score is added to the Paper 1 score to give a combined total.</li></ul>
		Spelling – Paper 2	Approx. 15 mins (set time)	20	
	Tuesday 12th May	English Reading	60 Minutes	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Three tests each increasing in challenge (Fiction &amp; non-fiction).</li><li>A mixture of short and longer written responses.</li></ul>
MATHS	Wednesday 13th May	Maths Paper 1 – Arithmetic	30 Minutes	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Involves mathematical calculations covering all four operations (+, -, ×, ÷) including fractions, decimals and percentages.</li><li>Both of these papers assess reasoning and problem-solving, including word problems.</li><li>All three maths papers' scores are added together to give a total mark (out of 100).</li></ul>
		Maths Paper 2 – Reasoning	40 Minutes	35	
	Thursday 14th May	Maths Paper 3 – Reasoning			

- There are six tests over four days (three English and three maths).
- Writing is not a test – it is teacher assessed (using work from across the year).
- Children do not sit a science SATs test: science is assessed by teachers in class instead.
- Schools can administer the tests between 7am and 7pm on the scheduled day.
- All test papers are externally marked.
- KS2 test results are expected to be available online on Tuesday 7 July 2026.

### LOOKING AT THE WHOLE CHILD

SATs are just one moment in your child's learning journey. Teachers look at your child's progress, effort and achievements across the whole year – not just their test results.

## 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.
- Each test lasts no longer than 60 minutes:
  - Spelling, punctuation and grammar (paper 1: Grammar/ Punctuation) – 45 minutes
  - Spelling, punctuation and grammar (paper 2: Spelling) – 15 minutes
  - Reading – 60 minutes
  - Maths (paper 1: Arithmetic) – 30 minutes
  - Maths (paper 2: Reasoning) – 40 minutes
  - Maths (paper 3: Reasoning) – 40 minutes



## Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Grammar, punctuation and spelling consists of two papers.

- Paper 1 focuses on all three elements (grammar, punctuation and spelling or GPS). The paper lasts for 45 minutes.
- Paper 2 consists of a spelling test only. It should take approximately 15 minutes, although this is not a set amount of time (pupils should be given as much time as they need to complete the test).



## Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Paper 1 (GPS)

This test focuses on:

- Grammatical terms/ word classes;
  - Functions of sentences;
  - Combining words, phrases and clauses;
  - Verb forms, tenses and consistency;
  - Punctuation;
  - Vocabulary;
  - Standard English and formality.
- This test requires a range of answer types, such as circling; drawing lines to connect; multiple choice questions (including ticking tables); one-word answers; short answer questions, but does not require longer formal answers.



## Reading: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May (60 minutes)

This test is designed to measure if the children's comprehension of age-appropriate reading material meets the national standard. There are three different set texts for children to read. These could be any combination of *non-fiction, fiction and/ or poetry*.

The test covers the following areas:

- Give/ explain the meaning of words in context;
- Retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non-fiction;
- Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph;
- Make inferences from the text/ explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text;
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied;
- Identify/ explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole;
- Identify/ explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases;
- Make comparisons within the text.



## Reading – How to help at home

Since the current testing formation for the SATs began in 2016, there has been a tendency for three types of questions to be the most popular.

In the 2025 Reading SATs paper,

- 12% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving giving and explaining the meaning of words in context;
- 30% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving retrieving and recording information or identifying key details from a text;
- 48% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving making inferences from a text and justifying inferences with text evidence.

When reading with your child at home try focusing on these types of questions.



## Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

The maths arithmetic paper has a total of 40 marks, made up of 1 mark and 2 mark questions, and lasts for 30 minutes.

The test covers the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, including order of operations requiring BIDMAS), percentages of amounts and calculating with decimals and fractions.

## Maths Papers 2 and 3 (Reasoning)

Paper 2 will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May and paper 3 will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. These tests have a total of 35 marks each and lasts for 40 minutes each.

These papers require children to demonstrate their mathematical knowledge and skills, as well as their ability to solve problems and their mathematical reasoning. They cover a wide range of mathematical topics from key stage 2 including,

- Number and place value (including Roman numerals);
- The four operations;
- Geometry (properties of shape, position and direction);
- Statistics;
- Measurement (length, perimeter, mass, volume, time, money);
- Algebra;
- Ratio and proportion;
- Fractions, decimals and percentages.

## Access arrangements for SATs

Access arrangements are designed to replicate the support that children with additional needs receive on a day-to-day basis. These can include one, or a combination, of the following:

- 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;
- Working in their own room;

Pupils with an EHCP are automatically allowed up to 25% additional time (except for the spelling paper, which is not strictly timed).

All access arrangements for pupils have already been applied for.



## Supporting your child

- A positive attitude goes a long way – lots of encouragement and a can-do attitude!
- If you have any concerns, please talk to us at school, rather than your child – this helps to reduce child anxieties.
- Encourage your child to talk to a trusted adult (including yourself, or an adult in school) about their worries. Don't forget that a small amount of anxiety is normal and not harmful.
- Reducing screen time and encouraging children to spend time outside.
- Ensure children are well-rested, are eating well and drinking plenty of fluids.
- Reading daily at home – questioning your child on inference, word meaning and retrieval.
- Practise weekly spellings!
- Keep revision light at home (10 – 20 minutes a day is plenty!) - go over key skills (times tables, real world mental maths with addition or subtraction as you are shopping or cooking)
- Remember to still have fun! SATs are not the be-all-and-end-all!



## SATs results

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.

