

Y6 SATs

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 6,

As you will know, all children in Y6 will take part in SATs the week beginning the 11th May. It is essential your child has 100% attendance and is punctual this week. We are writing to explain the process and the school's approach to these tests.

KS2 SATs are national tests that all schools in England are required to administer and are used to assess the school's progress and standards. They are used as part of inspection and review (e.g. Ofsted) and inform the school's position in national league tables. They are designed to assess whether or not children have achieved the expected Year 6 standard in reading, maths and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) by the time they leave primary school. Writing is assessed by teachers - these assessments are submitted in June and are included in our official data.

As a school we do not spend years preparing the children for tests – our focus is on a rich and broad curriculum, with the Learn Together curriculum woven into everything we do. We aim for high quality, focussed teaching in maths and English to ensure children achieve age-related expectations at every stage.

We do not want children to be unduly worried about these tests or feel under too much pressure. The results will have very little impact on the children's future – secondary schools may include them as part of their initial assessment, but they do not rely on them and quickly make adjustments using their own assessments as they know they are not a robust or complete reflection of children's capabilities.

They are important for the school because we are judged on the results and the consequences of consistently poor results would have serious implications for the school. We want our results to accurately reflect what our children are capable of and for this reason, some preparation is required.

There are some benefits to the children of preparing for the tests – it gives them experience of working towards very specific, time-limited goals; training their memory skills to recall information and processing complex instructions. These are all useful skills they will need throughout their lives.

We will be clear with the children about the goals – there are specific learning objectives to meet and there is an element of test technique to learn. We will encourage them to enjoy the process of working towards these goals and see their own improvement. There will not be any competitive element between the children, but a focus on individual endeavour and improvement while also establishing a sense of collective contribution to the school. We will be honest with them about why they matter and do what we can to minimise any anxiety about them.

English and maths teaching will be focussed on the specific Y6 standards that are assessed by the tests. There will be ongoing assessment of each learning point, using the usual classroom methods and a few practice tests through the year. We will be providing revision books to help consolidate their learning and will guide them through these. They would, of course, be entirely optional if we decided to run them and we would not put children under any pressure to attend. I have found in the past that children can become quite engaged in the process and really want to do well, which sometimes means they ask for extra help and practice, and we would respond to this if that were the case.

Here is a timetable for SATs which will take place in May:

Monday 11 th May	8:30 -9.00 Breakfast	9:20-10.00 English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: Questions 40 minutes	10.30- 10:50 English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: Spelling 30 minutes
Tuesday 12 th May	8:30 -9.00 Breakfast	9:15-10:15 English Reading Paper 60 minutes	
Wednesday 13 th May	8:30 -9.00 Breakfast	9:15-9:45 Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic 30 minutes	10.30-11.10 Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning 40 minutes
Thursday 14 th May	8:30 -9.00 Breakfast	9.20-10.00 Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning 40 minutes	

We have been discussing this with the children and do our best to reassure them and create a positive atmosphere in their preparations for these tests. **We will be offering children a SATs breakfast in the Y6 area from 8:30 Monday -Thursday** (free of charge) as a bit of a treat and to ensure they are in school on time. Please help us by ensuring your child has a good nights sleep, brings a water bottle into school, and is in school for the SATs breakfast. If you have any questions or if you would like additional information about any of the above or specifically relating to your child. Please contact us directly via class dojo.

With best wishes,

The Y6 team.