

Key Stage 1 SATs

Towards the end of Key Stage 1, Year 2 children take the KS1 SATs. (Statutory Assessment Tests). The children are assessed between the beginning of September and 4 weeks before the end of the summer term.

Tasks and Tests may be administered any time during the assessment period. Last year saw the introduction of a new assessment system so whilst SATs are still be taken by the pupils, results can also be obtained by teacher assessment, which will reflect children's everyday achievements and not just results obtained in a 'one-off' test.

English

There will be:

- A reading task, which will award level 1 it will provide grades C, B or A. The task assesses the child's ability to read a book aloud with accuracy, fluency and discuss his or her understanding of the text. Teachers will be required to use a book with which the child is not familiar.
- A reading test for level 2. Will consist of fiction and non fiction text with questions for children to answer on each page of a single booklet. The test will award level 2 and provide grades C-A at this level. The level 2 test provides additional and complementary information to the reading task. The test assesses the child's ability to read independently and respond in writing to comprehension questions.
- A reading test for level 3, which will be based on a story booklet and a separate information text, together with one question booklet for children to complete.

Mathematics

There will be:

- An optional task for mathematics at level 1, which can be used with children judged to be working towards or within level 1 in mathematics as a whole.
- There will be 2 separate tests for mathematics, one each for levels 2 and 3. Children deemed to be working in level 3 or achieving 2A on the level 2 test will take the level 3 test, if the teacher assesses this as appropriate. They will provide grades C-A at level 2 or 3.

Level 1 and W (working towards level 1) represent achievement below the nationally expected standards for most seven year olds.

Level 2 is divided into three sublevels for reading, writing and mathematics - 2C, 2B and 2A. Level 2B represents achievement at the nationally expected standard for most 7 year olds. Therefore 2A indicates working above and 2C slightly below the nationally expected standard.

A level of 3 or above represents achievement above the nationally expected standard for most seven year olds.

Key Stage 2 SATs

Towards the end of Key Stage 2, Year 6 children take the KS2 SATs. (Statutory Assessment Tests). The children are assessed during the middle of May. Unlike Key Stage 1 tests which do not have strict time limits, they Key Stage 2 tests are strictly timed.

The SATS date for 2011 is 9th – 12th May and the timetable is as follows:

Monday 9 th	Tuesday 10 th	Wednesday 11 th	Thursday 12 th
Reading test 45 minutes (plus 15 mins reading time)	Writing test (short) 20 minutes and Spelling test 10 minutes	Mental mathematics test 20 minutes	Mathematics Test B 45 minutes
	Writing test (long) 45 minutes	Mathematics Test A 45 minutes	

You should avoid taking your children out of school during this time and in the weeks leading up to the tests. Thank you.

The following advice is taken from the QCA web site which you can visit

<http://www.qca.org.uk/ca/tests>

Questions	7-year-olds	11-year-olds
What will the tests cover?	Reading and maths	Reading, writing (including handwriting), spelling, maths and mental arithmetic
When are the tests?	The tasks are spread between January and 4 weeks before the end of the summer term	The tests are on set days in the middle of May
How long are the tests?	Less than three hours altogether	Five and a half to six hours altogether
What will the teacher assessment cover?	English, maths and science	English and maths
How will I get my child's results?	The school will send you a report telling you what levels your child has reached.	The school will send you a report telling you what levels your child has reached.
What levels should most children achieve?	At least level 2	At least level 4

What is teacher assessment?

When children are 7, 11 and 14, teachers make formal National Curriculum assessments of their work in some subjects. This is called teacher assessment.

Of course, teachers also assess children's work informally almost every time they teach a class. For example, they mark sums, listen to children reading, or watch how they do scientific experiments. Knowing how children are doing in class helps teacher plan what the children should learn next.

Why are there tests as well as teacher assessment?

Tests and teacher assessment measure your child's achievement in different ways. The tests measure what all children can do when they are set the same questions. They help teachers identify strengths and weaknesses in children's understanding. Teacher assessment judges your child's performance across the whole subject over time. Tests and teacher assessment are equally important.

The results of the tests and teacher assessment may be different. For example, a teacher may feel your child is doing better (or not so well) in a subject as a whole rather than in the parts of the subject covered in the tests.

Are the tests stressful for children?

The tests only cover what children have been learning at school. Everybody involved in the tests takes great care to make sure that they are not stressful and are as fair as possible to all children. Teachers can arrange extra help for children who need it. For example, they can get large-print copies for children who cannot see well.

What do National Curriculum levels mean?

There are eight levels in the National Curriculum. Children are expected to work their way through one level every two years. At the end of Year 2 children are expected to achieve level 2. At the end of Year 6 children are expected to achieve level 4.

If a child has achieved the expected level it means they show knowledge and skills that are the same as, or slightly better than, most children of the same age. There are also optional national tests for 8, 9 and 10 year olds. We also use these to check children's progress.

What else will the report tell me?

The report will show your child's results which you should discuss with their teacher. The summary of the school's results for your child's age group as a whole will be published in the school's prospectus and the governors' annual report to parents.

How can I help my child?

Here are 7 ways you can help your child to do well at school

- make sure you encourage your child to do the homework that is set.
- At home, encourage your child to read quietly for 20 minutes each day. Or, if your child is under 9 spend 20 minutes each day reading with them.
- Find opportunities for your child to use numbers in everyday situations and encourage them to work out sums in their head.
- Encourage your child to follow up interests and talk to about them.
- Try to keep up to date with what your child is learning at school and talk about it with them.
- Help your child to be ready to learn and not tired when they go to school.
- Make sure your child does not miss any of the tests, unless they are ill.

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