

# SATs 2018 – Parents Guide

## Changes to KS2 SATs in 2018 – What parents need to know

KS2 SATs were overhauled to be in line with the new national curriculum in May 2016. In the summer term of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 were the first to take the new SATs papers. The new-style SATs for English and maths reflect the new national curriculum, and are more rigorous than previous years' tests. There is also a completely new SATs marking scheme and grading system which has replaced national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

These tests are both set and marked externally, and the results are used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

The timetable shows a list of tests and the dates they will be administered:

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	English Grammar Punctuation & Spelling Paper 1 (short answer questions) English Grammar Punctuation & Spelling Paper 2 (spelling)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	English Reading
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic Maths Paper 2: Reasoning
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Maths Paper 3: Reasoning

Most children will sit the tests in the hall, so that they can be spaced out appropriately. Tests must be administered in the order shown above. They usually take place in the morning and, where there is more than one test on the same day, children will have breaks in between.

**The Reading Test** is a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have one hour, including reading time, to complete the test.

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended response, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins Once upon a time. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

**The grammar, punctuation and spelling test** consists of two parts: a grammar and punctuation paper requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes, and an aural spelling test of 20 words, lasting around 15 minutes.

The grammar and punctuation test will include two sub-types of questions:

- Selected response, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives in the sentence below'
- Constructed response, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'

**The Maths Tests** consist of three papers:

- Paper 1: arithmetic, 30 minutes
- Papers 2 and 3: reasoning, 40 minutes per paper.

Paper 1 will consist of fixed response questions, where children have to give the correct answer to calculations, including long multiplication and division. Papers 2 and 3 will involve a number of question types, including:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Constrained questions, e.g. giving the answer to a calculation, drawing a shape or completing a table or chart.
- Less constrained questions, where children will have to explain their approach for solving a problem.

*During Mundford Junction, parents had opportunities to look at samples of each of the tests. If you would like examples sent home, then please speak to Miss Brown or Miss Beaumont.*

### **Science**

Not all children in Year 6 will take science SATs. However, a number of schools will be required to take part in science sampling: a test administered to a selected sample of children thought to be representative of the population as a whole. We will provide more information if our school is chosen.

### **The Results of the Tests**

You will be given your child's raw score (the actual number of marks they get), alongside their scaled score and whether they have reached the expected standard set by the Department for Education ('NS' means that the expected standard was not achieved and 'AS' means the expected standard was achieved).

The range of scaled scores available for each KS2 test is:

- 80 (the lowest scaled score that can be awarded)
- 120 (the highest scaled score)

The expected standard for each test is a scaled score of 100 or more. If a child is awarded a scaled score of 99 or less they won't have achieved the expected standard in the test.

### **Higher Attaining Pupils**

In the past, there were additional tests for pupils working at a higher level than expected for their age. Under the new system, there are not any separate tests for the most-able children. Instead, each test will have scope for higher-attaining pupils to show their strengths. This means that some questions towards the end of the tests may be more difficult for many children but they should be encouraged to attempt as much of the test as they are able to.

During the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> March, we will hold a 'Mock SATs'. We will practice all of the tests under the exact conditions they will be held during the real SATs. This will give the children a chance to experience exactly what the real test week will feel like.