



**Year 6 SATs
Parents briefing**

6:00 2026

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:
 - Grammar, punctuation and spelling (paper 1: GPS) – Monday 11th May
 - Grammar, punctuation and spelling (paper 2: Spelling) – Monday 11th May
 - Reading – Tuesday 12th May
 - Maths (paper 1: Arithmetic) – Wednesday 13th May
 - Maths (paper 2: Reasoning) – Wednesday 13th May
 - Maths (paper 3: Reasoning) – Thursday 14th May
- Writing is assessed using evidence collected throughout Year 6. There is no Year 6 SATs writing test.

The key stage 2 tests will be taken on set dates unless your child is absent, in which case they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.



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



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). Pupils who use the modified large print or braille versions of the tests are automatically allowed up to 100% additional time.



The 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.



Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Monday 11th 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)

The children will have been working hard with their class teacher on developing and securing their knowledge of the technical vocabulary needed in this test.

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 but does not require longer formal answers.



Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Paper 1 (GPS)

Example questions:

3

Tick **one** box to show where a **question mark** is needed in the sentence below.

“ Have you finished eating your lunch ” asked Hannah

1 mark

7

Circle the correct **verb form** in each underlined pair to complete the sentences below using **Standard English**.

We was / were going on a school trip to a concert.

The musicians did / done a sound check before the show.

1 mark

43

Rewrite the sentence below in the **active**.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The local park is maintained by the council.

The council maintain the local park.

1 mark

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Paper 2 (spelling)

Paper 2 is a shorter paper that focuses solely on spellings.

Example questions:

Spelling

1. There was a brave _____ in the story.
2. The children walked home _____ the park.
3. We were _____ for our hard work.
4. I enjoy reading _____ stories.

2025 Spelling script

Spelling 1: The word is **knight**.

There was a brave **knight** in the story.

The word is **knight**.

Spelling 2: The word is **through**.

The children walked home **through** the park.

The word is **through**.

Spelling 3: The word is **rewarded**.

We were **rewarded** for our hard work.

The word is **rewarded**.

Spelling 4: The word is **adventure**.

I enjoy reading **adventure** stories.

The word is **adventure**.



Reading: Tuesday 12th May

There is one reading test that lasts for **60 minutes**.

The 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 (known as Content Domains):

- 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

The reading SATs paper requires a range of answer styles.

Example questions:

2 *An intriguing game*

Which word is closest in meaning to *intriguing*?

Tick **one**.

exciting

popular

challenging

interesting

An intriguing game

One day in 2005, Phiona followed her brother Brian to see where he was going. Watching silently, out of view, Phiona saw that Brian had gone to a club where children had gathered to play a game with some small black and white pieces on a board. She was fascinated by what they were doing.

The game they were playing was chess. It was so unusual in Uganda at that time, there was no word for it in Phiona's language. Despite this, she was determined to play. She walked six kilometres every day to find out how. Within a year, it was clear that she had a special gift.



4

2	<p><i>An intriguing game</i></p> <p>Which word is closest in meaning to <i>intriguing</i>?</p> <p>Tick one.</p> <p>Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context</p> <p>Award 1 mark for:</p> <p>exciting <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>popular <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>challenging <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>interesting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
---	--	----

Reading

Example questions:

25 Look at the whole text.

Tick **one** box in each row to show what the text tells you about the lights.

	Yes	No
where they are placed		
what colour they are		
how many did not work		
what they are used for		

Qu.	Requirement	Mark															
25	<p>Look at the whole text.</p> <p>Tick one box in each row to show what the text tells you about the lights.</p> <p>Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction</p> <p>Award 1 mark for all four correct:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>where they are placed</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>what colour they are</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>how many did not work</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>what they are used for</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	where they are placed	✓		what colour they are	✓		how many did not work		✓	what they are used for		✓	1m
	Yes	No															
where they are placed	✓																
what colour they are	✓																
how many did not work		✓															
what they are used for		✓															

14 'It's just a rock. They're all rocks, you can...'

What made Tom realise that what he was looking at wasn't actually a rock?

Write **two** things.

- _____
- _____

2 marks

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
14	<p>'It's just a rock. They're all rocks, you can...'</p> <p>What made Tom realise that what he was looking at wasn't actually a rock?</p> <p>Write two things.</p> <p>Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction</p> <p>Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> its colour, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it was a different colour to other rocks it was red. its shape, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it had a different shape to other rocks it had a shape of a boat curious regular shape it was a weird shape. its texture, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it was smooth. the writing on it, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it had writing on it. <p>Also accept reference to its size, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it was large. 	Up to 2m

Reading

Example questions: 3 mark question

26 What impressions do you get of Tom's and Geoff's personalities?

Write **one** impression for **each** boy, using evidence from the text to support each answer.

	Impression	Evidence
Tom	_____	_____
Geoff	_____	_____

3 marks

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
26	<p>What impressions do you get of Tom's and Geoff's personalities?</p> <p>Write one impression for each boy, using evidence from the text to support each answer.</p> <p>Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text</p> <p>Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence. Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence. Award 1 mark for one acceptable point.</p>	Up to 3m
Tom is...		
Acceptable points (Impression)		Evidence
1. anxious / cautious / a worrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he peered nervously into the darkness • 'What did you do?' • he climbed silently into the machine • he didn't want to touch the buttons / lights • 'What are you doing?' • he didn't want Geoff to touch the lights / press the button • 'You can't do that!' • he stared at his friend in horror • 'You don't know what'll happen!' • 'At least let's think about it first' 	
2. sensible / responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he didn't want to touch the buttons / lights • he didn't want Geoff to touch the lights / press the button • 'You can't do that!' • 'You don't know what'll happen!' • 'At least let's think about it first' 	
3. curious / interested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he walked towards / went to look at the object • he leaned forwards to brush away the dust • he wanted to work out what the writing said • Tom came round to look • he questioned Geoff when the light came on / 'What did you • he got into the machine to sit with Geoff 	
4. observant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he noticed details about the rock • he spotted the writing on the machine • he became aware of a faint humming / inaudible vibration 	
Continued on the following p		

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
26 (cont.)	Geoff is...	
AP - Impression		Evidence
1. adventurous / brave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he climbed into the machine first • he ran a finger cautiously over one of the lights / buttons • 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' • he was going to / wanted to press the buttons • there was only one way to really know 	
2. reckless / careless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he climbed into the machine first • he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons • 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' • he was going to / wanted to press the button • his finger still hovered over the lights • there was only one way to really know 	
3. curious / interested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he walked towards the object • he got into the machine • he wanted to find out what the lights were / did • 'I wonder what it is?' • 'What do you think it is?' • 'What's it for?' • he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons • 'I wonder if we could find out?' • he stared intently at the surface • 'They're not just lights, are they?' / 'They're buttons, you see?' • 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' • he wanted to press the button / find out what would happen if he pressed the button • his finger hovered over the lights • there was only one way to really know 	
4. excitable / enthusiastic / impulsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he climbed into the machine first • he says 'Wow' when the machine pings • he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons • 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' • his finger hovered over the lights • he was going to / wanted to press the button • he didn't want to listen to Tom / he didn't want to think about it 	
5. stubborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his finger still hovered over the lights • reluctantly he sat back and thought about it • he didn't want to listen to Tom / he didn't want to think about it • he was going to / wanted to press the button even though Tom didn't want him to • there was only one way to really know 	
6. observant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he became aware of a faint humming / inaudible vibration • stared intently at the surface under his hand • 'They're not just lights, are they?' / 'They're buttons, you see?' 	

Reading

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: Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May

The maths assessments consist of three tests.

- Paper 1: Arithmetic (30 minutes) – Wednesday 13th May
- Paper 2: Reasoning (40 minutes) – Wednesday 13th May
- Paper 3: Reasoning (40 minutes) – Thursday 14th May



Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)

Example 1 mark questions:

25	5% of 860 =		
	Using known fact of 10% of 860 = 86 And 5% is half of 10%		
	$86 \div 2 = 43$		
	<input type="text" value="43"/>		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	1 mark

12	$540 \div 6 =$		
	Known facts: $54 \div 6 = 9$		
	<input type="text" value="90"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 mark

26	$\frac{5}{8} \div 3 =$		
	$\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{3}$		
	$5 \times 1 = 5$		
	$8 \times 3 = 24$		
	$\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{24}$		
	<input type="text" value="5/24"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 mark

8	$12 \times 3 \times 10 =$		
	$12 \times 3 = 39$		
	$39 \times 10 = 390$		
	<input type="text" value="390"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 mark



Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)

Example 2 mark question:

14	$\begin{array}{r} 614 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline \end{array}$	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> 2 marks
Show your method	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; width: 100px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark	Additional guidance
14	<p>Award TWO marks for the correct answer of 19,648</p> <p>If the answer is incorrect, award ONE mark for the formal method of long multiplication with no more than ONE arithmetic error, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\begin{array}{r} 614 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline 1228 \\ 18420 \\ \hline 19640 \text{ (error)} \end{array}$ <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\begin{array}{r} 614 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline 1226 \text{ (error)} \\ 18420 \\ \hline 19646 \end{array}$ 	Up to 2m	<p>Working must be carried through to reach a final answer for the award of ONE mark.</p> <p>Do not award any marks if the error is in the place value, e.g. the omission of the zero when multiplying by tens.</p> $\begin{array}{r} 614 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline 1228 \\ 1842 \text{ (place value error)} \\ \hline 3070 \end{array}$



Maths Papers 2 and 3 (Reasoning)

Paper 2 will take place on Wednesday 13th May and paper 3 will take place on Thursday 14th 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.



Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)

Example questions:

18

Tick the fractions that are **greater than** $\frac{2}{3}$

$\frac{5}{6}$

$\frac{4}{9}$

$\frac{9}{12}$

$\frac{11}{15}$

$\frac{10}{21}$

2 marks

20

Sophie thinks of **two prime numbers**.

She adds them together.

Her answer is **24**

Write **all** of the different pairs of prime numbers that Sophie could think of.

and

and

and

2 marks



Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

Example questions:

13

Write these numbers in order, starting with the **least**.

$$\frac{9}{100}$$

0.999

$$\frac{99}{100}$$

0.009

least

13

Award **ONE** mark for the correct order, as shown:

0.009

$$\frac{9}{100}$$

$$\frac{99}{100}$$

0.999

least

1 mark

1m

Misreads and miscopies are **not** allowed.

Accept equivalent fractions and exact equivalent decimals.

Accept numbers in reverse order **AND** the label 'least' changed to follow suit.



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)!

Tips:

- Don't use past papers as they are used in school to prepare the children.
- Attend any SATs meetings at school (or read any literature sent home).
- Talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns rather than worry your child.
- 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 a quiet, distraction free space to complete homework or study.
- Give your child time to go outside and reduce screen time.
- Ensure your child is eating and drinking well and getting a good amount of sleep.
- 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.



Supporting your child in preparing for the SATs

Further tips:

- 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.
- 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.
- As we said before, avoid using past papers. There are plenty of free or inexpensive SATs practice materials for parents available.
- If you're looking to support your child further with maths at home, there are lots of good websites with free Year 6 revision resources. Start with thirdspacelearning.com/blog/category/for-parents/ or register free for the Third Space Learning Maths Hub (mathshub.thirdspacelearning.com)



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 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. Your school may be able to provide you with more detailed feedback.

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.



What to do if you are worried about your child

SATs often induce a certain degree of worry or anxiety but there is, of course, a tipping point.

SATs anxiety should not:

- Affect a child's appetite
- Affect a child's sleep
- Affect a child's personality
- Induce panic, tears or disengagement from lessons or hobbies
- Be a reason not to attend school.

If any of the above are evident, SATs may be causing an excessive degree of anxiety and may benefit from some additional support. This isn't about removing the reality of SATs but rather equipping your 10 or 11 year old with the ability to better cope with the situation.



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 to 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.



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.

