

Do you have a child¹ in primary school in year 2 or year 6?

If so, they will be taking the national curriculum tests (SATs) in May 2016².

The tests will provide information about how your child is progressing, compared to children the same age nationally.

They are not qualifications and don't affect your child's future options in school. The results are used to ensure that schools are teaching their pupils the essential knowledge and skills in the subjects that are the early building blocks. This is to ensure every child reaches their full potential.

There are changes to the tests this year at both key stages. This is because the tests are based on the new national curriculum, which your child has been taught since September 2014.

Key stage 1 tests – year 2 pupils

The main changes to the tests this year are:

- A new test of grammar, punctuation and spelling to check your child is reaching the expected standards with the building blocks of writing.
- A new arithmetic test to check your child's ability in basic mathematics.

Your child will take these tests during May at a time determined by the school. They are not strictly timed tests. Most pupils will be unaware they are taking them as teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom practice.

| Subject ³ | Test paper |
|---|---|
| English reading | 2 papers: short text and questions; longer text with separate questions |
| English grammar, punctuation and spelling | 2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary) |
| Mathematics | 2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning |

A small number of schools will take one of the tests early, in April, to help the Standards and Testing Agency set the expected standards. Your school will let you know if this applies to your child.

Teacher assessment is used to report children's attainment and progress to parents. Teachers will use the key stage 1 test results to help them to reach an overall judgement of the standards children have reached in English reading, English writing and mathematics. You will also receive a teacher assessment judgement for science, but there is no science test.

You will receive your child's results by the end of the summer term.

Key stage 2 tests – year 6 pupils

The main changes to the tests this year are:

- The inclusion of questions to assess new areas of core subjects in the national curriculum your child has been taught.
- A new arithmetic test to check your child is progressing with the fundamentals of mathematics.

Your child will take these tests on set dates, unless he or she is absent, when they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.

| Date | Subject ⁴ | Test paper |
|------------------|--|--|
| Monday 9 May | English: reading | 1 paper |
| Tuesday 10 May | English: grammar, punctuation and spelling | 2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary) |
| Wednesday 11 May | Mathematics | 2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning |
| Thursday 12 May | Mathematics | 1 paper: mathematical reasoning |

You will receive test results for your child in English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling and mathematics. There is no test for English writing; this will be reported using teacher assessment. You will also receive separate teacher assessment judgements for English reading, mathematics and science.

1. 'Parent' includes any person who has parental responsibility for, or care of a child.

2. Participation in the tests is optional for independent schools.

3. The phonics screening check will also be taken by key stage 1 pupils during the week 13 to 17 June.

4. Some selected schools may also take part in science tests.