



SATs 2026 Information
for Parents, Carers &
Guardians

Standard Assessment Tests (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 2026.
- The SATs papers consist of:
 - Spelling, punctuation and grammar (paper 1: Grammar/ Punctuation/ Spelling) – Monday 11th May
 - Spelling, punctuation and grammar (paper 2: Spelling test) – 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.

Writing 2026

- There is a greater focus on the progress children make in writing throughout the school year, as opposed to a test-day snapshot of what they know.
- DfE Guidance:- Teacher Assessment provides a rounded judgement that:
 - is based on knowledge of how the pupil has performed over time and in a variety of contexts
 - takes into account strengths and weaknesses of the pupil's performance
- Teachers will assess children's writing composition. Children's results for English writing will be a judgement of their work throughout Year 6.
- Children's grammar, punctuation and spelling skills will be assessed as part of their writing, but their creativity and writing style will also be evaluated.
- Schools will moderate their judgements with other local schools and may be moderated by their Local Authorities too.

What is the 'Expected Standard' in writing?



These many shelters using mud, leaves, and branches that could be found in their environment.



Homo sapiens

Homo sapiens lived about 500,000 years ago. Surprisingly, these 'humans' didn't wear any clothes at all and they had almost no excess hair either. These 'humans' have straight backs than they used to when they were 'ape like', which probably means that they moved in a similar way to how we do to

It is well-known that these people were very smart and intelligent and used their understanding to hunt larger animals for food, to survive.

My journey was quite daunting. Lots of them were already wearing their gas masks. At first, I was sitting alone but a nice girl, Mary, sat next to me. Then, we instantly became best friends. It wasn't that bad after all.

When we arrived, no one picked me, no one except the awful Andersons. They only chose me because apparently I need some improvement. They only respond to Mr or Mrs and they treat me like dirt. At least it's a home. For now.

Their house is a cottage with a grand garden. There is an everlasting lake, glowing from field to field. It's lovely. I wish they're lovely. I smell like a summer's day. The smell though, puey! The farm is wonderful. All of the animals are great fun but my favourite is the cow, Maisy. She's so lovely and sweet (but she is a bit lonely).

Children are expected to be able to write using a range of different genres.

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

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.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Monday 11th May

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar consists of two papers.

- Paper 1 focuses on all three elements (spelling, punctuation and grammar). 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).

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Paper 1

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.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Paper 1

Example questions

1

Tick the sentence that must end with a **question mark**.

Tick one.

The teacher asked them what they were doing

I wonder what time the next train arrives

Did she play tennis on your team last year

He asked if he could use my pen

1 mark

8

Insert a **relative pronoun** to complete the sentence below.

Everyone loved the music _____ was played last night.

1 mark

34

Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. I asked if Jake Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.
2. I asked if Jake, Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.

1 mark

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Paper 2

Example questions

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

Spelling task

1. The dragon is an imaginary _____.
2. There was _____ food for everyone.
3. My little brother is in _____ class.

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 Example questions

The reading SATs paper requires a range of answer styles.

Questions 1 – 13 are about *The Park* (pages 4–5)

1 What is Ajay doing when the post arrives?

1 mark

Ajay was just about to tuck into his tea and toast dripping in sour rhubarb jam when there was a loud clatter from the letterbox as an important-looking brown envelope landed on the mat. 'Bit early for the post isn't it?' Mum said. 'Ooh, it says Special Delivery.' Mum opened it, and unfolded the letter.

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
1	<p>What is Ajay doing when the post arrives?</p> <p>Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction</p> <p>Award 1 mark for reference to him eating (his breakfast), e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>just about to tuck into his tea and toast</i>• <i>having his breakfast</i>• <i>drinking tea.</i>	1m

Reading Example questions

Based on text 2: Fact Sheet: About Bumblebees



Buzz pollination

Only bumblebees are capable of buzz pollination. This is when the bee grabs the flower and produces a high-pitched buzz. This releases pollen that would otherwise stay trapped inside. Key ingredients in our diet such as tomatoes are pollinated in this way. Many other common foods such as beans and peas would also be harder to produce and much more expensive without British bumblebees.

19

In what way is *buzz pollination* more useful than other forms of pollination?

1 mark

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
19	<p>In what way is <i>buzz pollination</i> more useful than other forms of pollination?</p> <p>Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction</p> <p>Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">it releases pollen that would otherwise stay inside the flower, e.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>because it releases trapped pollen that they wouldn't have been able to get out</i><i>it makes a buzz that gets more pollen than other bees do</i><i>it helps release more pollen.</i>key produce is more expensive / harder to get without it, e.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>it makes some vegetables we eat easier to produce and sell a lot cheaper</i><i>it means we can buy more common foods cheaper</i><i>it would be harder to grow beans.</i>	1m

Reading Example questions

Based on text 3: Music box

32

What impressions do you get of Piper's house?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence

3 marks

Qu.	Requirement	Mark																
32	<p>What impressions do you get of Piper's house?</p> <p>Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Acceptable points (impressions)</th> <th>Likely evidence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. it is rickety / old</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are widening cracks in the planks in the ceiling </td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. it is small / tiny</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> she wishes she had a bigger work space she has to eat at the same table that she works at </td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. it is warm / cosy</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is a fire / stove <i>comfortable nest</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. it is untidy / cluttered</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Piston rings, bolts, and cylinders littered its surface</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. it is old fashioned</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no electricity / kerosene lamps / cast-iron stove </td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. it is isolated</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is situated among fields <i>to go outside and watch the fields</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. it is safe</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the storm coming outside is dangerous </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence.</p> <p>Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for one acceptable point.</p>	Acceptable points (impressions)	Likely evidence	1. it is rickety / old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are widening cracks in the planks in the ceiling 	2. it is small / tiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she wishes she had a bigger work space she has to eat at the same table that she works at 	3. it is warm / cosy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is a fire / stove <i>comfortable nest</i> 	4. it is untidy / cluttered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Piston rings, bolts, and cylinders littered its surface</i> 	5. it is old fashioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no electricity / kerosene lamps / cast-iron stove 	6. it is isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is situated among fields <i>to go outside and watch the fields</i> 	7. it is safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the storm coming outside is dangerous 	Up to 3m
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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 2019 Reading SATs paper,

- 12% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving giving and explaining the meaning of words in context;
- 42% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving retrieving and recording information or identifying key details from a text;
- 36% 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 14th May
- Paper 3: Reasoning (40 minutes) – Thursday 14th May

Maths: Paper 1 (Arithmetic)


Example questions

6 $5.87 + 3.123 =$




1 mark

11 $= 87 - 65$




1 mark

15 $60 \div (30 - 24) =$



1 mark

18 20% of 3,000 =



1 mark

Maths: Paper 1 (Arithmetic)

Example questions

22 $1\frac{3}{7} - \frac{4}{7} =$

1 mark

25 $37 \overline{) 888}$

Show your method

2 marks

Qu.	Requirement	Mark	Additional guidance
25	<p>Award TWO marks for the correct answer of 24</p> <p>If the answer is incorrect, award ONE mark for the formal methods of division with no more than ONE arithmetic error, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> long division algorithm, e.g. $\begin{array}{r} 23 \text{ r}29 \\ 37 \overline{) 888} \\ - 740 \\ \hline 140 \text{ (error)} \\ - 111 \\ \hline 29 \end{array}$ <p>OR</p> $\begin{array}{r} 42 \text{ (error)} \\ 37 \overline{) 888} \\ - 740 \\ \hline 148 \\ - 148 \\ \hline 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 20 \times 37 \\ 4 \times 37 \end{array}$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> short division algorithm, e.g. $\begin{array}{r} 23 \text{ r}27 \text{ (error)} \\ 37 \overline{) 888} \end{array}$	Up to 2m	<p>Working must be carried through to reach a final answer for the award of ONE mark.</p> <p>Short division methods must be supported by evidence of appropriate carrying figures to indicate the use of a division algorithm, and be a complete method. The carrying figure must be less than the divisor.</p>

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.

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,

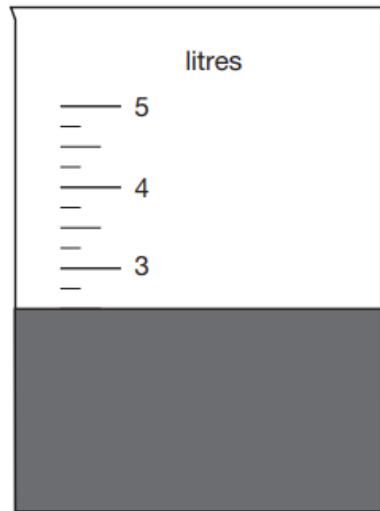
- Number and place value (including Roman numerals);
- The four operations;
- Geometry (properties of shape, position and direction);
- Statistics;
- Measurement (length, perimeter, mass, volume, time, money);
- Algebra;
- Ratio and proportion;
- Fractions, decimals and percentages.

Maths: Paper 2 (Reasoning)

Example questions

7

Jack pours some dark paint into a container.



In litres, how much paint is in the container?

litres

1 mark

8

In this sequence, the rule to get the next number is

Multiply by 2, and then add 3

Write the missing numbers.

<input type="text"/>	25	53	<input type="text"/>
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1 mark

1 mark

Maths: Paper 2 (Reasoning)

Example questions

18

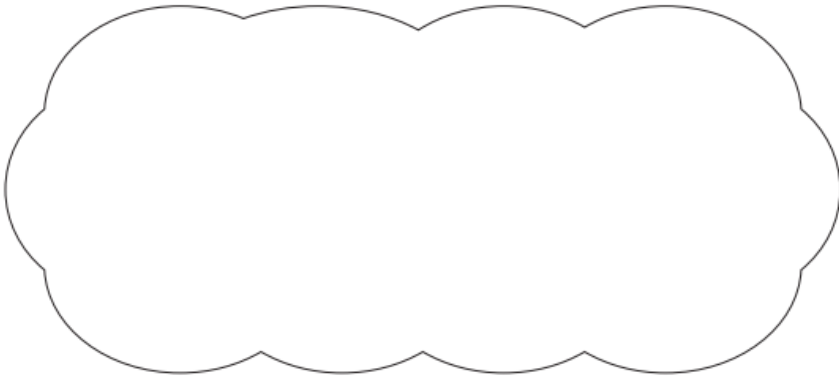
Circle the **prime** number.

95

89

87

Explain how you know the other numbers are **not** prime.



1 mark

18

Award **ONE** mark for a correct explanation of why the 95 **AND** 87 are **NOT** prime, e.g.

- 87 is divisible by 3 and/or 29 **AND** 95 is divisible by 5 and/or 19
- 87 is in the 3 times table **AND** 95 is in the 5 times table
- 95 is divisible by five because every number in the five times table ends in five or zero. 87 is divisible by three because 9 is in the three times table so is ninety. Ninety minus three is 87
- $8 + 7 = 15$ and 15 is divisible by 3 **AND** 95 is divisible by 5

1m

No mark is awarded for circling '89' alone.

Both non-primes must be explained correctly for the award of the mark.

Do not accept vague or incomplete explanations, e.g.

- The other 2 numbers have more than 2 factors (vague)
- 87 is divisible by 3 (incomplete).

Do not accept explanations which include incorrect mathematics or incorrect information that is relevant to the explanation, e.g.

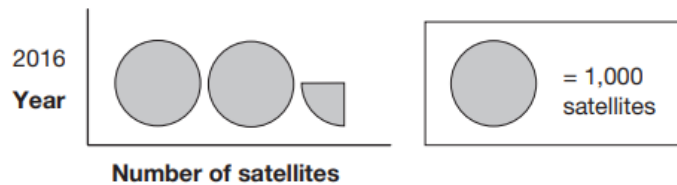
- $3 \times 27 = 87$
- 89 has three factors
- no numbers go into 89

Maths: Paper 3 (Reasoning)

Example questions

9

This pictogram shows the number of satellites above the Earth in 2016.



How many satellites were above the Earth in 2016?

1 mark

15



The International Space Station orbits the Earth at a height of 250 miles.

What is the height of the International Space Station in **kilometres**?

Use 8 kilometres equals 5 miles.

1 mark

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!

Tips:

- Don't use past papers as they are used in school to prepare the children.
- Support your child in completing any tasks/homework 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.
- 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.

Supporting your child in preparing for the SATs

If you have any concerns:

Talk to your child's class teacher

Sometimes concerns present at home and not at school. If you notice a change in your child, talk your child's teacher 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.

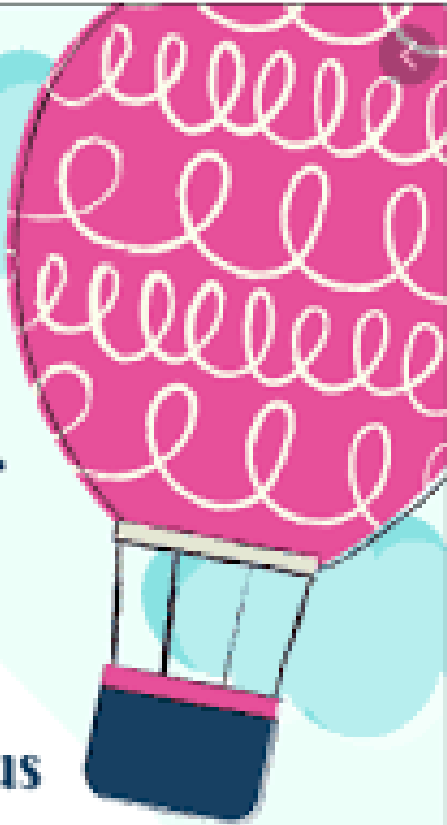
Try not to project your own anxieties or views about the SATs

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.

THANK YOU
PARENTS!

"The child's first and most influential teacher is the parent. A child's ideas about education and its significance begin with the parent."

~ Anonymous



Thank you for your on-going support in helping us to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children! They are all amazing and we are so proud of every one of them!