

Year 8 Science Setting Examination 1

Dear Parent/Carer

Science online assessment – 1st March

Usually on the 3th February your child would have sat a half year examination for Science. With the unusual circumstances of this year we are intending these half year exams to take place in the week of the 15th March, dependent on pupils returning to school as currently planned in the week of the 8th March. With the ongoing changing climate we are going to give the pupils an interim assessment online within the lesson time. Full instructions will be given to your child at the start of the lesson on the 1st March in a live Teams meeting. Your child has already been set a Firefly task with links to the resources to help. We will conduct the more formal written examination once the pupils are back in school.

Pupils are also set regular online quiz format questions largely but not exclusively on Doodle, Educake, Quizizz and Quizlet. All pupils are expected to complete these mini assessments to over 80%. If pupils do not complete these when set they may well be disadvantaged in the more formal exams. This will be the format of the assessment on the 1st March, however only their first attempt score will be recorded and marks will be downloaded at the end of the lesson time on that day.

The first written setting examination is a mix of pupils being asked to recall and apply key science facts in different questions, the style of these questions are in the same format as those completed at the end of each topic. Similar questions are continued to be practiced and explained during lockdown at the end of each topic. These are all available on the topic firefly pages for pupils to re-attempt closer to the exams if they wish.

Pupils are also expected to be able to use the working scientifically skills which are constantly developed through lessons being able to identify the different variables for practical methods given, asking them to describe how to set up and use suggested equipment, risk assessments (saying how to use equipment safely), using experimental results for calculations (pupils are allowed to use a calculator in science exams, but they must bring their own equipment with them.) Pupils also need to select, draw and interpret graphs from data given. This information is covered in the Activate 1 book in the first chapter and extra resources are also on Firefly.

The first examination (and live online assessment) will still be based on the first five topics covered this year, together with their working scientifically skills developed throughout the course:

1. Healthy and lifestyle - Biology
2. The Periodic table - Chemistry
3. Electricity and magnetism - Physics
4. Ecosystem processes – Biology
5. Separation techniques - Chemistry

Resources that are available are Kerboodle resources (lots for pupils to do here). It is essential that your child accesses and uses the online text book at home when preparing for these examinations as this is where ALL the key facts that pupils are expected to know are found. Lesson time is predominantly used for learning and understanding the science behind the key facts through practical investigation and group activities and therefore do not spend an excessive time copying down information that is found in the online text book. Also pupils sometimes miss important key information when making notes in class and the online text book is a reliable source of information for your child to learn from at home. Other sources of revision material for the examination: Quizlet, Quizizz, BBC KS3 Bitesize revision, Doodle and Educake, Oak academy activities and end of unit question papers, progress checks completed, resources on firefly to name a few but this is not an exhaustive list. Extension work for KS3 can also be found here: [KS3 \(Year 7 & 8\) — Archbishop Temple School \(fireflycloud.net\)](https://www.fireflycloud.net/ks3-year-7-8-archbishop-temple-school)

Revision activities should be as actively engaging to pupils as possible and if a pupil is actively learning they should be writing something down in various formats (mind-maps, summary lists, pictures, diagrams, cartoons etc.) Pupils then need to check that they can recall the information from memory by writing down key facts onto a blank piece of paper, but then compare it to the original source of information to see what is not in their memory banks.

Revision lists are available to pupils via the year 8 activate firefly page, together with other useful resources to help them to prepare for the examinations and a list of revision strategies. Many of the resources mentioned above are hyperlinked from this page. [Year 8 Activate — Archbishop Temple School \(fireflycloud.net\)](https://www.fireflycloud.net/year-8-activate-archbishop-temple-school)

We understand that some children are not finding the current working easy, but we hope that by having a clear goal to focus towards that this will keep your child engaged for the weeks to come.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Gillian Storey

Second in Science