

Year 2 Optional KS1 Tests 2027

A friendly guide for parents and carers

At Boarshaw, these assessments are used to help us understand what children know and what support will help them next.

First things first - are KS1 SATs compulsory?

No. End-of-Key-Stage-1 national curriculum tests have been optional since the 2023/24 academic year. Schools may choose to use them with Year 2 pupils as one part of their assessment. The arrangements remain unchanged for 2026/27.

READING

Two papers with a mixture of texts and questions. Paper 1 is approximately 30 minutes; Paper 2 approximately 40 minutes.

MATHEMATICS

Two papers: arithmetic and reasoning. Children show number fluency and apply their maths to problems.

GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION & SPELLING

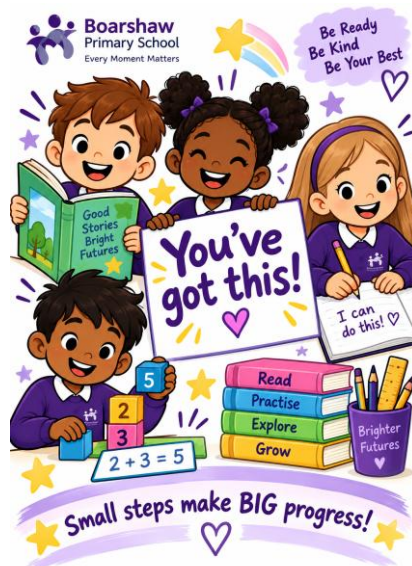
Schools can also choose to use a spelling paper and a grammar, punctuation and spelling questions paper.

When will they happen?

The Standards and Testing Agency recommends that optional KS1 tests are taken during May. Unlike Year 6 SATs, there is no nationally fixed test week for Year 2. School decides when and how to use the materials. The tests are not strictly timed, so teachers can use professional judgement, including rest breaks where appropriate.

What about teacher assessment?

Teacher assessment at the end of KS1 is also optional. Where schools use it, teachers draw on a broad range of evidence collected over time - not simply one test. This can include children's written, practical and oral classwork, alongside optional reading and maths test results.



Keep it positive: these activities are designed to help teachers plan the next steps in learning.

Easy ways to help at home

Reading - talk about books

- Read together regularly - stories, comics, information books and library books all count.
- Ask: "What happened?", "Why do you think that?", "Which words tell you?" and "What might happen next?"
- Encourage your child to find the answer in the text rather than guess.
- Talk about unfamiliar words and enjoy new vocabulary.

Maths - make number part of everyday life

- Practise quick number facts: doubles, halves, number bonds and simple addition and subtraction.
- Count in 2s, 5s and 10s and connect multiplication with groups and repeated addition.
- Use money when shopping, tell the time, measure when cooking and compare lengths or amounts.
- Ask "How did you work that out?" so your child explains their thinking.

Spelling, grammar and writing

- Practise school spellings little and often.
- Notice capital letters, full stops, question marks and apostrophes when reading.
- Encourage short pieces of writing for a real purpose - notes, lists, cards, stories or instructions.
- Praise ideas and effort as well as accuracy.

WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS EXTRA SUPPORT?

Schools can make appropriate access arrangements for pupils with specific needs. Support should normally reflect the help a child receives in everyday classroom practice.

WILL I GET A SATS SCORE?

Schools are not required to report optional KS1 test results to parents or the local authority, and the results are not used for school accountability. Your child's annual report will still tell you about their general progress.

The most helpful preparation

- Good attendance and arriving at school ready to learn.
- Plenty of sleep, breakfast and normal routines.
- Short, enjoyable practice rather than long revision sessions.
- Reassurance that children simply need to try their best.
- Avoid comparing scores or performance with other children.

A test is only a snapshot.

It cannot measure kindness, curiosity, creativity, confidence, friendships or all the progress your child has made.

Every Moment Matters