



Year 6 SATs
2026 Presentation for Parents &
Guardians

What are the SATs?

- SATs are the Standardised Assessment Tests that are given to all Year 6 children at the end of Key Stage 2.
- The SATs take place over four days, starting on **Monday 11th May** and ending on **Thursday 14th May**
- 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 teacher assessed using evidence collected throughout Year 6. There is no Year 6 SATs writing test.



Working towards the expected standard

The pupil can:

- write for a range of purposes
- use paragraphs to organise ideas
- in narratives, describe settings and characters
- in non-narrative writing, use simple devices to structure the writing and support the reader (e.g. headings, sub-headings, bullet points)
- use capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contraction mostly correctly
- spell correctly most words from the year 3 / year 4 spelling list, and some words from the year 5 / year 6 spelling list*
- write legibly.¹

Working at the expected standard

The pupil can:

- write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting language that shows good awareness of the reader (e.g. the use of the first person in a diary; direct address in instructions and persuasive writing)
- in narratives, describe settings, characters and atmosphere
- integrate dialogue in narratives to convey character and advance the action
- select vocabulary and grammatical structures that reflect what the writing requires, doing this mostly appropriately (e.g. using contracted forms in dialogues in narrative; using passive verbs to affect how information is presented; using modal verbs to suggest degrees of possibility)
- use a range of devices to build cohesion (e.g. conjunctions, adverbials of time and place, pronouns, synonyms) within and across paragraphs
- use verb tenses consistently and correctly throughout their writing
- use the range of punctuation taught at key stage 2 mostly correctly¹ (e.g. inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech)
- spell correctly most words from the year 5 / year 6 spelling list,^{*} and use a dictionary to check the spelling of uncommon or more ambitious vocabulary
- maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed.²

Working at greater depth

The pupil can:

- write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting the appropriate form and drawing independently on what they have read as models for their own writing (e.g. literary language, characterisation, structure)
- distinguish between the language of speech and writing³ and choose the appropriate register
- exercise an assured and conscious control over levels of formality, particularly through manipulating grammar and vocabulary to achieve this
- use the range of punctuation taught at key stage 2 correctly (e.g. semi-colons, dashes, colons, hyphens) and, when necessary, use such punctuation precisely to enhance meaning and avoid ambiguity.[^]

[There are no additional statements for spelling or handwriting]

When and how the SATs are completed

- The tests take place during normal school hours, under exam conditions in the hall.
- 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.
- I will not see the test papers until the children sit them!
- 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) – 20 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.



Specific arrangements for SATs

1. Can the pupil understand and respond appropriately to a simple request or instruction given in English, without being prompted or aided by an interpreter or translator?
2. Does the pupil have a hearing impairment that prevents them from being able to respond appropriately to a simple question or instruction given in English, without being prompted or aided by a communicator, sign language interpreter or having to lip-read?
3. Does the pupil need braille and/or enlarged print in order to read and understand text?
4. Can the pupil focus on a task, which requires them to work independently and without interruption, for at least 15 minutes without being prompted to stay on task?
5. Is the pupil prevented from being able to write independently at a speed of more than 10 words per minute by a physical, motor skill or learning disability?
6. Can the pupil read age-appropriate texts aloud and fluently without making errors, or with very few errors?
7. Does the pupil have difficulty processing information, which prevents them from being able to answer questions on practice key stage 2 tests, even when they are allowed to refer back to the questions?



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 **20 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 have been working hard 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.

e.g. **that, which**

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.

e.g. The first sentence is about two people and the second sentence is about three people.

1 mark

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Paper 2

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

Example questions:

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; V
- Retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non-fiction; R
- Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph; S
- Make inferences from the text/ explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text; I
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied; P
- Identify/ explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole; E
- 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:

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 spaceshe 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>	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 spaceshe 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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	<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>																	

Question types...

- Multiple choice questions
- One-word answers
- Short answer questions
- Numbering/Sequencing information
- Completing tables of information
- Multiple mark (long answer) questions



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 2024 Reading SATs paper,

- 10% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving giving and explaining the meaning of words in context;
- 38% of marks could be gained from answering questions involving retrieving and recording information or identifying key details from a text;
- 44% 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)

The maths arithmetic paper has a total of **40 marks**.

The test covers the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, including order of operations requiring BODMAS), percentages of amounts and calculating with decimals and fractions.

Example question:

23	$\begin{array}{r} 836 \\ \times 27 \\ \hline \end{array}$	<input type="text"/>	2 marks
	Show your method		

Qu.	Requirement	Mark	Additional guidance
23	<p>Award TWO marks for the correct answer of 22,572</p> <p>If the answer is incorrect, award ONE mark for a formal method of long multiplication with no more than ONE arithmetic error, e.g.</p> <p>• $\begin{array}{r} 836 \\ \times 27 \\ \hline 5852 \\ 16720 \\ \hline 22602 \text{ (error)} \end{array}$</p> <p>OR</p> <p>• $\begin{array}{r} 836 \\ \times 27 \\ \hline 5612 \text{ (error)} \\ 16720 \\ \hline 22332 \end{array}$</p>	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> $\begin{array}{r} 836 \\ \times 27 \\ \hline 5852 \\ 1672 \text{ (place value error)} \\ \hline 7524 \end{array}$

Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)

Example questions:

6 $5.87 + 3.123 =$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5.87 \\ + 3.123 \\ \hline 8.993 \end{array}$$

1 mark

11 = $87 - 65$

$$\begin{array}{r} 87 \\ - 65 \\ \hline 22 \end{array}$$

1 mark

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

$$\begin{array}{l} 60 \div (30 - 24) \\ 60 \div 6 = 10 \end{array}$$

1 mark

18 $20\% \text{ of } 3,000 =$

$$\begin{array}{l} 10\% \text{ of } 3,000 = 300 \\ 20\% \text{ of } 3,000 = 600 \end{array}$$

1 mark

Maths Papers 2 and 3 (Reasoning)

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,

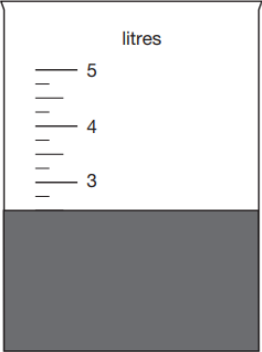
- Number and place value (including Roman numerals);
- The four operations;
- Geometry (properties of shape, position and direction);
- Statistics;
- Measurement (length, perimeter, mass, volume, time, money);
- Algebra;
- Ratio and proportion;
- Fractions, decimals and percentages.



Maths Papers 2 (Reasoning)

Example questions:

7 Jack pours some dark paint into a container.



In litres, how much paint is in the container?

2.5 or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

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.

1 mark

1 mark

Maths Papers 2 (Reasoning)

Example question:

18

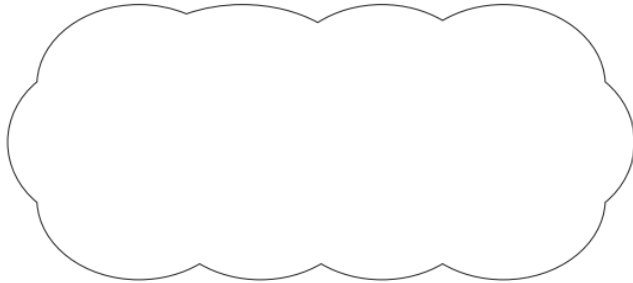
Circle the **prime** number.

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.

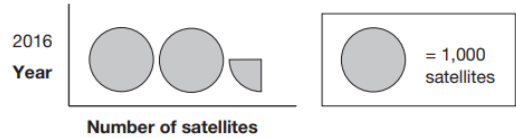
- $3 \times 27 = 87$
- 89 has three factors
- no numbers go into 89

Maths Papers 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?

2,250

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.

400 km

1 mark

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.



Standardised Scores

A scaled score of 100 or more shows the pupil has met the expected end of Key Stage standard in the test.

Level	Scaled Score Out of 120
Above Age Group Expectation	110 - 120
Achieved Age Group Expectation	100 - 109
Below Age Group Expectation	80 - 99

How will I be supporting your child in preparing for the SATs?

Positivity!

Honesty and transparency

Opportunity to practise past papers and exam-style questions - lesson starters, mini 10-minute quizzes, revision sessions closer to the time, more formal assessment

Interventions/Booster groups - these have already started!

A breakfast club during SATs week - optional from 8.15am.

LBQ activities after school and homework to plug gaps/consolidate learning

Still teaching the wider curriculum - history, geography DT, science, art, PE, Spanish ☺

Supporting your child in preparing for the SATs

Positivity! Give them as much encouragement and support as you can and I'll be doing the same at school 😊

Tips:

- Make sure children are in school every day in the run up to SATs and during SATs week and that they're here on time so they've had a chilled morning.
- Give your child a quiet, distraction free space to complete homework or study.
- Ensure your child is eating and drinking well and getting a good amount of sleep.
- Talk to me if you have any concerns – I'm always here!
- Encourage your child to talk to a trusted adult (you or us!) about their anxieties. Don't forget that a small amount of anxiety is normal and not harmful.
- Plan something nice and fun for the weekend before SATs. They don't need to be doing revision and cramming right up until the last minute. I want them to be relaxed and confident 😊



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 of 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.

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.



Things to remember about SATs

It's about giving the children a positive first experience of formal exam situations

Tests are unfortunately a part of life and the children are now going into a chapter of their lives where they're going to regularly have tests!

I want them to realise that:

- they're not that bad!
- if they prepare for them and work hard, they can go well
- If they don't go well, it isn't the end of the world!
- That sometimes life is stressful and scary but all you need to do is try your best and you'll get through it!

Thank you for your time 😊

Any questions, my email is cutler.kl@welearn365.com