

# Year 6 SATs Preparation



## WHAT ARE SATS?

At the end of Y6, English school children sit national tests in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS).

Key Stage 2 SATs take place nationally in May of each year. Statutory tests will be administered in the following subjects:

- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (45 minutes)
- Spelling (approximately 15 minutes)
- Reading (60 minutes)
- Mathematics
- Paper 1: Arithmetic (30 minutes)
- Paper 2: Reasoning (40 minutes)
- Paper 3: Reasoning (40 minutes)

All tests are externally marked.

## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD

- First and foremost, support and reassure your child that there is nothing to worry about and that they should always just try their best. Praise and encourage!
- Ensure your child has the best possible attendance at school.
- Support your child with any homework tasks.
- Reading, spelling and arithmetic (e.g. times tables) are always good to practise.
- Make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every day!

## SATS 2026 TIMETABLE

**Monday 11 May 2026** English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: questions and Paper 2: spelling

**Tuesday 12 May 2026** English reading

**Wednesday 13 May 2026** Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic and Paper 2: Reasoning

**Thursday 14 May 2026** Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning

## TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

1. Set yourself a realistic target for revision and preparation. You should be given plenty of homework activities by your teachers to help you prepare for what you need - it is unlikely that you need to do any more than they suggest.
2. Don't panic cram - rest and other activities are just as important as revision tests.
3. Don't compare yourself to friends and family. You are your own person with your own strengths and abilities.
4. Eat well. This is so important, especially in the weeks leading up to your busy test week. A good breakfast will set you up for the day.
5. Sleep well. Don't revise right up until bedtime. Give yourself an hour to wind down and relax and get at least 8 hours of sleep each night, if you can.
6. Breathe. Deep controlled breaths can help in many situations.

# READING

The reading test is a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have an hour, including reading time, to complete the test. There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, for example, 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy a word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, for example: 'What does the bear eat?'

## How to help

- First and foremost, focus on developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards – discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- All reading is valuable – it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides. Our school library reading challenges are fantastic for this!
- Visit the local library - it's free!

# SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR

The SPAG test consists of two parts: a grammar and punctuation paper requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes and an oral spelling test of 20 words, lasting around 15 minutes. The grammar and punctuation test includes two sub-types of questions:

- Selected response, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives'
- Constructed response, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'

## How to help

- Encourage opportunities for writing such as letters to family or friends, shopping lists, notes or reminders, stories and poems.
- Write together – be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling and a thesaurus to find synonyms and expand vocabulary.
- Practise Year 5/6 spellings from their homework book.
- Remember that good readers become good writers! Identify good writing features when reading (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure and punctuation).

# MATHS

Children sit three papers in maths: Paper 1 (arithmetic, 30 minutes), Papers 2 and 3 (reasoning, 40 minutes each). Paper 1 consists of fixed response questions (children have to give correct answers to calculations). Papers 2 and 3 involve question types including multiple choice.

## How to help

- Play times tables games.
- Play mental maths games including counting in different amounts, forwards and backwards.
- Encourage opportunities for telling the time.
- Encourage opportunities for counting coins and money; finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.

Add about attendance