

A guide for parents KS1 SAT assessments



All assessments are due to take place in May this year for:

- Reading
- Maths
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Reading

Paper 1 – consists of a combined reading prompt and answer booklet. The paper includes a list of useful words and some practice questions for teachers to use to introduce the contexts and question types to pupils. The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

Paper 2 – consists of an answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. There are no practice questions on this paper. Teachers can use their discretion to stop the test early if a pupil is struggling. The test takes approximately 40 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

The texts will cover a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Paper 1: Spelling - pupils to spell 20 missing words within a test booklet. The test is expected to take approximately 15 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

Paper 2: Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary - a combined question and answer booklet focusing on pupils' knowledge of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. Pupils will have approximately 20 minutes to complete the questions in the test paper, but it is not strictly timed.

Mathematics

Paper 1: Arithmetic - lasts approximately 20 minutes (but this is not strictly timed). It covers calculation methods for all operations.

Paper 2: Reasoning - lasts for approximately 35 minutes, which includes time for five aural questions. Pupils will still require calculation skills and questions will be varied including multiple choice, matching, true/false, completing a chart or table or drawing a shape. Some questions will also require children to show or explain their working out.

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.
- Talk to your child about what they have learnt at school and what book(s) they are reading (the character, the plot, their opinion).
- Make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every morning!

How to help your child with reading

- First and foremost, focus developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- 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.
- Visit the local library - it's free

How to help your child with writing

- Practise and learn weekly spelling lists – make it fun!
- Encourage opportunities for writing, such as letters to family or friends, shopping lists, notes or reminders, stories or poems.
- Write together – be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling.
- Allow your child to use a computer for word processing, which will allow for editing and correcting of errors without lots of crossing out.
- Remember that good readers become good writers! Identify good writing features when reading (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation).
- Show your appreciation: praise and encourage, even for small successes!

How to help your child with Maths

- 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 e.g. finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for numbers on street signs, car registrations and anywhere else.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.
- Play games involving numbers or logic, such as dominoes, card games, draughts or chess.

More information is available on the school website. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any queries.