



Portesham C of E VA Primary School

Year 6 SATs 2016

Information for Parents

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The purpose of this leaflet is to attempt to answer any questions that you may have about the statutory assessments that your children will undertake in May.

SATs

Standardised Attainments Tests (SATs) are taken by pupils during their final year in Key Stage 2. They provide a snapshot of your child's progress at that moment in time. They cannot be 'passed' or 'failed'; they simply provide a guide for your child's attainment. Your child has already taken part in SATs tests if they attended school in England in Year 2. However, the tests in Year 2 were internally marked, whereas the Year 6 tests are sent away to be marked externally.

What is tested?

This year, your child will be involved in a reading comprehension test, a spelling, punctuation and grammar test, and maths tests. Science is no longer tested at the end of KS2, although a small percentage of school do undertake a sampling test. At this stage, we have not been informed by the DfE that this will be required for our current cohort this year. You will be informed if this changes.

Teacher Assessment

As you will already be aware, your child's class teacher (Mr Prior) has been assessing their progress throughout Year 6. As well as their SATs result, you will be informed of your child's attainment based upon the ongoing assessments undertaken throughout the year. This information will be provided to parents before the end of the Summer term. In line with the Government commissioned report into testing in schools, children no longer sit a writing 'test' in Year 6. Instead, your child's writing is assessed by their class teacher based upon a range of work over time (predominantly from the 'Talk Up, Write Up' pieces of work). We work with our partner schools in the Chesil Education Partnership to moderate our assessments, ensuring that assessment is consistent across the schools. Some schools are also externally moderated by Local Authority appointed moderators. We were externally moderated in 2012-2013 and our levels were agreed.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What happens if my child is working consistently below the age-related expectations of the tests?

If your child is working consistently below the age-related expectations of the tests, they will not be entered for the tests and will complete separate assessments instead. If this is the case, you would have been informed by now.

Does my child have to take the tests?

In short- yes. If the school believed that your child is working within the range of the tests, then the DfE state that the assessments are statutory. Our school did not take part in the SATs in 2010 when some unions boycotted the assessment process. There is no industrial action this year and all schools will be doing the tests.

What happens if my child is ill on the day of the test?

If it is something minor, we would suggest that your child comes into school and sits the test before returning home for the rest of the day. It can be arranged for your child to take the tests away from other pupils if this is required. For more serious cases, where it is clear the child cannot attend school, we apply to the DfE for your child to sit the test on a different day to their peers.

How will the school prepare my child for the test week?

As you would expect from us, we have been supporting your child to achieve the best that they can. We have been revising key points in lessons, and the children will be learning from previous tests so that they understand the format of the booklets. Most importantly, while we expect all the children to work hard and do their best, we are consistently reminding them that they can only do their best. A child's SATs results are just a marker at one point in time. A very small percentage of children are eligible for extra time to complete the tests. Any child can ask for a question to be read out to them during the maths papers and staff will reassure them if they become anxious.

How can I support my child?

Over the next month or so, if you're able to help your child with work that has been set for them in their 'SATs Communication Book' or by working through one of the activity booklets that has been sent home, then it will most definitely help your child prepare for the tests. On the day of the tests we ask that the children can have plenty of rest the night before and a good breakfast in the morning as it will certainly help. During the week of the tests themselves try to have as 'normal' week as possible!

What information will I receive afterwards?

Later in the summer term, you will receive your child's test results in reading and maths, alongside their result from the English spelling, punctuation and grammar test. You will also receive your child's teacher assessment levels in reading, writing, maths and science.

What do the results actually mean?

By the end of Year 6, the majority of children nationally will 'mostly achieve or be a secure year 6 based on aged-related expectations'. Some children may not be quite at this stage and may be 'working towards age-related expectations'. Others may be working beyond the nationally expected attainment and may achieve a 'secure' with elements of 'mastery'. For pupils, being slightly-below age-related expectations their results may still be a real personal achievement. It is worth bearing in mind that achievement is relative based upon the pupils' starting points.

Is this information used by the secondary schools?

Yes, however different schools use the information in different ways. Both the SATs results and teacher assessment results are shared with the secondary schools, along with more general information about your child.

Are the results published?

Individual pupil results are not published. However, the schools overall results (both SATs and teacher assessment) are published by the DfE on their website and these are often repeated in the local press. Year groups of less than 10 children do not have their results published in the same way as it may be possible to 'identify' individuals within the data.

Further information about the tests:

Reading Comprehension Test:

- 1 hour in total worth 50 marks.
- The children can refer to the text throughout the test to help them.
- The test is designed to assess your child's full range of comprehension, from retrieval of facts, to inference and deduction.
- 1 mark, 2 mark, and 3 mark answers feature throughout, with varying degrees of detail required for each type of question.

Grammar and Punctuation Test:

- 45 minutes in total worth 50 marks.
- The questions are predominantly multiple choice questions or one word answers.
- 1 mark, 2 mark, and 3 mark answers once again feature throughout based upon the style and difficulty of the question.

Spelling Test:

- About 15 minutes.
- The teacher will read out 20 short sentences which are printed in the answer booklet.
- The children will hear each word three times.
- The paper is worth 20 marks.

Maths Tests:

Two 45 minute 'Reasoning' tests (A and B) worth 35 marks each, and a mental maths test worth 40 marks, completed over two days. All marks combine to give an overall score. The children do not use a calculator in any of these tests.

The mental test is designed to assess your child's ability to calculate a range of problems efficiently. Jottings are encouraged as the testing has changed and now provides a space for your child to show their workings.

All three tests are designed to assess your child's understanding of the four areas of the Key Stage 2 mathematics curriculum. These being: using and applying, number, shape and data handling.

Writing Assessments (teacher assessed):

For your information, the following are the assessment foci' for writing. Your child's writing level is arrived at depending on how well they:

- Write interesting, imaginative and thoughtful texts.
- Produce texts which are appropriate to the task, reader and purpose.
- Organise and present whole text effectively, sequencing and structuring information, ideas and events.

- Construct paragraphs and use cohesion between paragraphs.
- Vary sentences for clarity, purpose and effect.
- Write with technical accuracy of syntax and punctuation phrases, clauses and sentences.
- Select appropriate and effective vocabulary.
- Use correct spelling.

Timetable for SATs Week 2016

The likely timetable is as follows:

Date	
Monday 9 th May	English reading
Tuesday 10 th May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling English grammar, punctuation and spelling
Wednesday 11 th May	Mental mathematics Mathematics Paper 1
Thursday 12 th May	Mathematics Paper 2