

2nd May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 6 SATs Tests – Monday 8th – Thursday 11th May 2017

We are now approaching the Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). The tests are produced nationally and are taken by most children in the country. In addition to on-going teacher assessments, these will provide a level of attainment in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) and Maths for the end of Key Stage 2.

The KS2 tests for this year take place on the mornings of 8th - 11th May as follows. Please note that any requests for holidays or other appointments during that week cannot be authorised.

| Monday 8 th May | Tuesday 9 th May | Wednesday 10 th May | Thursday 11 th May |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| English Reading Test | English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test Paper 1: short answer questions | Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic | Mathematics paper3: reasoning |
| | English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test Paper 2: spelling | Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning | |

'Food for thought'

To help our Year 6 pupils to be energised and perform to the best of their abilities, we will be offering them free toast and juice at Breakfast Club on the days of their SATs tests. This will be available between 8.00am –8.30am in the dining corridor on Monday 8th May through to Thursday 11th May. Not only will it provide the children with an energy boost, it will also enable them to be in school, calm and relaxed in plenty of time for their tests.

How can parents help their child?

- Make sure they have all of the things they need for school;
- Help with revision – reading comprehension, grammar vocabulary, arithmetic and reasoning;
- Early nights and a 'normal' routine;
- Provide a hearty breakfast and a bottle of water to drink during the tests;
- Don't panic – don't transfer any anxieties you may have to your child.

Equipment

Most of the SATs take place in the childrens' classrooms, which are set up to allow enough space for them to work independently, although some groups will also be in the hall. The test papers are now marked electronically and so it is requested that pupils have a black pen and a dark pencil – this will ensure their answers show up on screen. The school provides all the specialist equipment necessary for the children to take the tests.

Children who use inhalers should take them into the tests with them. An adjudicator can accompany a child to use the toilet in an emergency, but it is discouraged. We also find that tissues come in very handy, especially if your child suffers from hayfever.



The Testing Process

English is separated into different aspects as follows:

- Reading – a timed paper based on reading texts and answering comprehension-style questions
- GPS – a timed paper with short answer questions, followed by a spelling test
- Writing – teacher assessment only
- Speaking and Listening – teacher assessment only

A test score will be awarded for Reading and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling). For Writing and Speaking and Listening teacher assessments will be reported.

Maths is tested by 3 papers:

- Paper 1 – tests arithmetic skills
- Paper 2 – tests reasoning ability, using and apply mathematics in different contexts. Children may not use a calculator
- Paper 3 – tests reasoning ability, using and apply mathematics in different contexts. Children may not use a calculator

An overall test score will be awarded for Maths.

Reporting to parents

The majority of the test papers are marked externally. They are sent off to the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) and we expect to receive the results in July. We appreciate that this is an anxious time for both parents and children so we endeavour to process the information as quickly as possible and send to you in written form. If we spot a discrepancy in the marking we can resubmit it for re-marking by another examiner, but this will delay the process.

Once the results have been received from both examiners, the school is required to complete a number of forms. After this has been done, results will be reported to parents.

What will results look like?

From 2016, KS2 national curriculum test outcomes will no longer be reported using levels. Scaled scores will be used instead. More information will be sent out about these results with your child's SATs report.

If you have any further questions on the tests then please contact me at school or email: jc@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk

Hopefully, SATs week will be as stress-free as possible – we will certainly aim to keep the environment calm and relaxed for Year 6. They have worked very hard during their time with us and we wish them the best of luck for their assessments. Thank-you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jennifer Collins
Senior Teacher - Leader of Numeracy