

8th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Y6 SATs Tests – Monday 14th – Thursday 17th May 2018

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 14th - 17th May as follows. Please note that any requests for holidays or other appointments during the mornings of this week cannot be authorised.

Monday 14 th May	Tuesday 15 th May	Wednesday 16 th May	Thursday 17 th May
English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test Paper 1: short answer questions	English Reading Test	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic	Mathematics paper3: reasoning
English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test Paper 2: spelling		Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning	

What if my child is ill or late?

Where possible we encourage you to get your child into school even if they feel a little under the weather as test procedure guidance stipulates that all tests are administered, where possible, at the same time. Should they be unwell, we can always contact you following the test to take them home for the rest of the day. If they have been sick, have any ailment that would usually prohibit them being in school or are really not well enough to sit the test on that day, please contact school immediately and we can make suitable arrangements. Similarly, if unforeseen circumstances mean that your child will arrive late (after 9am) please ensure that you contact school immediately to let us know so that we can make suitable arrangements for your child.

'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 14th May through to Thursday 17th 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.

Pupils will go to tutor time as normal, where they will be able to have a banana and a bottle of water to also help fuel their brains ready for their SATs.

How can parents help their child?

- Make sure they have all of the things they need for school;
- Help with revision – reading comprehension, mental maths, grammar vocabulary;
- 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;
- Make sure they relax and are not working for hours and hours during the run up to the week or during the week. Short burst of revision will be more effective.

Equipment

Most of the SATs take place in the children's classroom, which is set up to allow enough space for them to work independently, though some groups will 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 pupils' answers show up on screen. The school provides all the specialist equipment necessary for the children to take the tests, but for those who like to be organised a 30cm ruler and protractor would also be advantageous.

Children who use inhalers should take them into the tests. 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

A test result will be awarded for Reading and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling). For Writing, 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 result will be awarded for Maths.

Reporting to parents

The test papers are marked externally. They are sent off to the STA (Standards Testing Agency) 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 get it out 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?

Results will be in the form of scaled scores, where 100 represents that your child is working at Age Related Expectation. More information will be sent out these results with your child's SATs report.

If we assess any pupil to be working below the level of the test, we usually decide to disapply them from the tests and will report a teacher assessment only. You will have been notified about this is we consider this to apply to your child. 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. Your children have worked extremely hard this year to prepare themselves and we are very proud of them. It is a time for them to shine and not to worry; they have all the tools and techniques to help them through the week and we can look forward to a lovely reward on Friday at the end of it all.

Thank-you for your support,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jennifer Collins
Senior Teacher