



The 2017 KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) **A Parent's Guide**

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Introduction

For an increasing number of today's parents and carers, the national curriculum tests are not the entirely unfamiliar concept they once were. However, after many years of familiarity, in 2016 the tests were changed to match the newly updated national curriculum. This guide helps to explain what you can expect and how you can support your children in the run-up to the tests.

About the tests

The tests take place during the first full teaching week of May each year (i.e. the week after Bank Holiday Monday) and in recent years have been spread across four days. Schools have some flexibility in how they organise pupils for the tests, at Bretherton the tests will take place in the children's classrooms. In some cases, individuals or small groups of children who are entitled to additional support, such as a reader or prompt, will take the tests in a separate room; if your child is entitled to this extra support we will inform you of this nearer the time.

Over the course of the week, there are six tests altogether covering the various areas of English and Mathematics.

2017 Timetable of tests Monday 8th May 2017	Tuesday 9th May 2017	Wednesday 10th May 2017	Thursday 11th May 2017
English Reading Test	English (SPaG) Grammar & Punctuation Short Answer Questions English (SPaG) Spelling Test	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

The Maths Tests

Paper 1 – Arithmetic

The first is an arithmetic paper that will test your child's number and calculation skills. The test has 36 questions and is worth 40 marks, making up just over one third of the total marks available for mathematics. Some of the questions will require children to know some number facts, such as multiplication tables (and the related division facts); others test the use of calculation methods. Towards the end of the paper there are some more challenging calculations such as those using fractions, or examples of calculations with larger numbers. For multiplication and division questions, 2 marks are available. If your child's final answer is incorrect, they may still earn 1 mark for showing correct use of the formal long multiplication



or long division methods. This 'method mark' is not available if they use any other calculation method other than the expected formal one. If you would like further help with these methods have a look at our calculations policy soon to be on the Bretherton school website.

Papers 2 & 3 – Mathematical Reasoning

The questions on these papers, as with the arithmetic one, are set out in approximate order of difficulty, so children who are less confident with more challenging mathematics may not finish the whole paper. That's fine; nobody expects a perfect score! The reasoning questions often include some background information, such as solving problems to do with purchasing things in a shop, or dealing with measurements such as weight or area. These test papers cover the wider areas of mathematics such as geometry and statistics, as well as using arithmetic and number knowledge to solve problems. Several questions are likely to involve more than one step and so will be worth 2 marks. Overall, each reasoning paper is worth 35 marks.

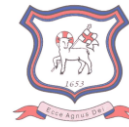
The English tests

There are two tests for English: Reading; and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). The reading test has one paper and the grammar, punctuation and spelling test has two papers.

The Reading test

Paper 1 – Reading test

The reading test lasts for 1 hour. During this time your child will be given around three different texts to read – often a mix of fiction, non-fiction and poetry – and a separate booklet of questions to answer about the texts. Your child's teacher will probably teach them strategies for tackling this paper, such as reading the questions before reading the text so you know what you are looking for in the text. Several of the questions in this test will involve ticking the correct box, or picking out a single word from the text. These often require finding straightforward information directly from the text. However, in more complex questions – such as those asking for an explanation of the author's choices – there will be several lines for free text, and up to 3 marks may be available for more detailed answers which use evidence given in the texts.



The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test

Paper 1 – Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

Paper 1 assesses grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. This is an area that has changed significantly in the new curriculum and questions will refer to both children's knowledge of grammatical terms (such as pronoun and conjunction) and use of language in the right context. Some questions will also require children to put in the appropriate punctuation marks or to use a particular sentence structure.

Paper 2 - Spelling test

Paper 2 assesses spelling and requires children to spell 20 words. Each word is read out as part of a sentence that is printed in the answer booklet. Your child will be asked to write the missing word into the gap. The words in the test will be based on the spelling rules taught across Key Stage 2, in increasing difficulty. There are 70 marks altogether, made up of the scores from both papers to achieve an overall score for grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Does my child have to take the tests?

In England, the tests are compulsory for all 11 year olds. It is essential your child attends school on the days of the tests.

What level should my child achieve in their SATs?

Children are expected to reach the national standard in both Year 2 and Year 6. This is a particular score that reflects where the Department for Education thinks children should be by that stage of their education.

The national standard score for KS1 SATs and KS2 SATs is 100 and the government expects 85 per cent of children to reach it.

When will I know the results?

As part of your child's Summer Term end of year report, you will be given a separate report telling you your child's raw score (the actual number of marks they got in their SATs), their scaled score (a conversion score that allows results to be compared year on year) and whether or not they have achieved the national standard. Teacher assessments will also be used to build up a picture of your child's learning and achievements and these will be reported on their Bretherton Endowed school report.

How you can help your child prepare for the tests?

During Year 6, your child's class teacher may well flag up areas of learning in which your child would benefit from some extra practice. Here are some useful resources you could use at home to help your child prepare for the tests in May.

- CPG books: Reading, Grammar, punctuation and spellings and Maths.

These can be found at <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/homeParents>

- Collins Books: Reading, Grammar, punctuation and spellings and Maths.

These can be found at <http://www.collins.co.uk/page/collinsks2revision>

Last year, children found these apps really useful:

<https://www.risingstars-uk.com/Subjects/Revision/Achieve-100-KS2/Achieve-App>

As a school, we will also be sending home the children's test papers once they have been taken and talked through in class. It would be useful to go through these papers again with your child and you can see which areas your child could work on with you at home.

Homework will also support your child in preparation for the up and coming tests. If you would like any further help and support please contact your child's class teacher who would be more than happy to help.