



Durrington All Saints CE Infant School

2016 KS1 SATs Information for parents



What we do and how we do it!

Overview

During Year 2, all children who will be seven in this academic year are assessed against national standards. This is known as SATs. The assessment will take the form of teacher assessment and some tests which are designed to check that children in all schools are making progress. This booklet looks at what actually happens during the assessment period and how you can help your child.

Year 2 SATs Information 2016

- All children must be assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. That means at the end of the infants (year 2) and at the end of the juniors (year 6).
- Assessment in KS1 takes place as part and parcel of the normal routine but some tests are used to confirm teacher assessment. These tests will take place in May.
- 7-year-olds are assessed in reading, spelling, punctuation, grammar, science, writing and maths. There are no tests for science or writing - scores are awarded through ongoing teacher assessment against a framework.
- Key Stage 1 teachers assess and mark the tests themselves, with their conclusions checked by the authority's moderators in order to ensure consistency across the Local Authority.

None of the assessments have a set time limit and children can take as long as they need within reason.

Reading

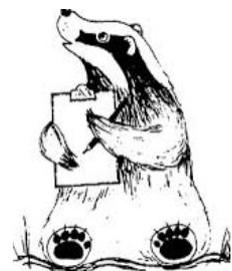
All children will sit two written comprehension tests.

Paper 1 consists of a booklet containing a story and some information or non-fiction writing, which they will read and then answer questions about. This paper will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Paper 2 consists of a reading booklet and a separate answer booklet. This paper will be a harder text to read and have more complicated questions to answer. This paper will take approximately 40 minutes to complete.

Spelling

Your child will have a booklet in which they write spellings of common words as the teacher reads them out. This paper will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.



• Punctuation and Grammar

Your child will have a booklet in which they will be given a range of questions including multiple choice style questions. This paper will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Maths



As in all subjects, teacher assessment is ongoing during the year but in addition to this children work through booklets of maths questions covering all of the work they have been doing in their maths lessons. This includes mental maths, number, shape, measuring, simple fractions, data handling and problem solving. Unlike during lessons, your child will not be allowed to use any equipment other than a ruler. As in all the other tests, they are expected to work out the answers on their own. There may be questions for which they will have to write an explanation of their 'working out'. Your child can ask the teacher to read the questions to them and written answers are not judged on spelling or handwriting. Your child will sit two papers:

Paper 1: This is an arithmetic paper and will consist of questions involving numbers and mathematical signs and symbols. The paper will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Paper 2: This is a reasoning paper and questions will be set in contexts where your child will apply their maths skills to answer problems. This paper will take approximately 35 minutes to complete.

Science and writing:

The school will report teacher assessments for science and writing. This assessment is based upon work done throughout the year.

Does my child have to be assessed?

Yes, unless the school can give a very good reason why they shouldn't. Severe learning difficulties, total lack of English or serious illness resulting in prolonged absence from school are the kinds of reasons accepted.

In fact, only a tiny fraction of children in state schools miss the national tests.

What happens if my child misses a test?

At Key Stage 1, teachers will arrange for your child to take it at another time.

What happens if my child isn't ready for the tests?

At Key Stage 1 the teacher may decide to stop the testing for your child once they have had a go. They will do this if your child appears to be struggling using their knowledge of your child and their ability.

How you can help

- Don't take your child on holiday during term time, especially during April and May.

- Try not to make a big thing of it. Not every child deals with testing well. The tests are used to inform the teacher assessments which take account of your child's work over the whole year. This helps to give a balanced picture of what they can do.
- You can practise some of the activities at home. Use the homework for some work to do with your child. Don't move on to new ground too fast. Make sure that they are confident at one level before moving on to more complicated tasks.

To sum up

National tests are useful information for us and to the government but have little impact on the day to day experience of the child in the classroom. This is because the emphasis is solely on the child's performance over time. When the moderators come in they look at a range of the children's work and look to see if the on-going assessment of your child is accurate. It's important to get them in proportion. They are just one of the ways the school works out how well your child is doing. They shouldn't be stressful, and in fact many children enjoy the challenge of short tests, as long as they know they have your support and understanding.

If you have any further questions, please have a chat or arrange an appointment with Mrs Scott or myself after school.

With very best wishes,

Miss Fuller