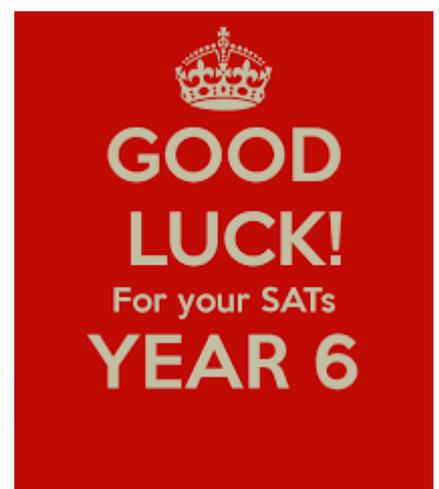
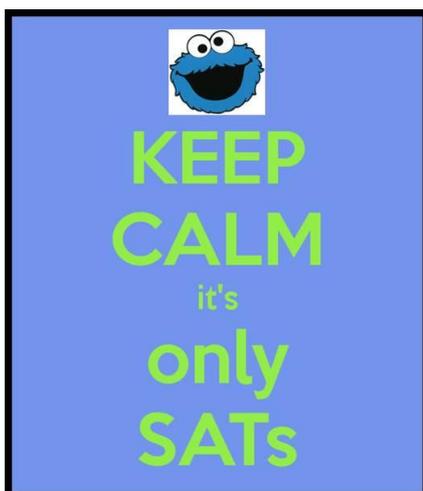




# Witton Middle School's Guide to SATs



## Introduction

If you have a child who is currently in Year 6, you will almost certainly have a range of questions about SATs. In this short guide, we aim to answer your questions about what the SATs are, how you can help your child, how the papers are marked and when they are going to happen.

## What Are Key Stage 2 SATs?

The end of Key Stage tests are often referred to as 'SATs'. The word SATs stands for Statutory Assessment Task and also includes a teacher assessment element that teachers must submit to government. SATs are taken at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).

SATs tests are formal assessments that children sit in Year 6, at the end of Key Stage 2. The national tests are intended to assess pupils' academic progress in a fair and consistent manner. The KS2 tests were updated by the UK government in 2016 to reflect the new National Curriculum. They are generally considered more challenging than previous iterations of the SATs exams. The tests are both set and marked externally, and the results are reported publicly. All children must be entered for the tests, unless they have been working significantly below the Key Stage 2 programme of study. Some children may be eligible for a little extra time or support if this is something they usually receive in class.

Key Stage 2 SATs exist primarily to provide an overview of a child's academic attainment (outcomes) and are considered a good way of measuring progress. Parents should not worry about SATs, instead they should view their child's KS2 SATs as an opportunity for them to show what they can do. The assessments give your child the chance to shine and can put them in a stronger position in Year 7. Good SATs results can give your child access to better educational opportunities in the future, and are a strong predictor of outcomes at GCSE.

## What Subjects do Key Stage 2 SATs Cover?

The National Curriculum for KS2 SATs covers the following subjects:

### English Reading

For the English reading SAT at Key Stage 2, your child will need to complete an hour-long exam paper that contains questions based on three passages. Your child will be expected to answer a range of question types during the English reading SAT. The questions will assess some or all of the following:

- **Short constructed responses** – children must pick out relevant pieces of information in order to answer the question
- **Ranking and ordering** – children must rank events according to when they happened in the passage(s)
- **Open-ended responses** – children must explain their answers using the passage(s) as guidance
- **Find and copy** – children must find and copy a word that fits the description laid out in the question

## English Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (SPaG)

The English grammar SAT at KS2 consists of two sections:

- 1) A grammar and punctuation paper – this lasts 45 minutes and requires short answers. This test will include two types of Question: **identification** and **constructed response**. Identification questions require the student to identify or pick out keywords from a sentence using grammatical and sentence knowledge. Constructed response questions require students to correct, complete or rewrite sentences, or add a missing apostrophe where necessary.
- 2) A spelling test – this lasts approximately 15 minutes and covers 20 words.

## Mathematics

At Key Stage 2, children sit three maths papers:

- Paper 1: **Arithmetic** – this lasts 30 minutes and contains around 35 calculation questions with no worded context
- Papers 2 and 3: **Reasoning** – these each last 40 minutes for around 25 questions, some of which will have two parts to them. These questions will usually have a worded or problem-solving context.

Paper 1 will test a child's ability to do fixed calculations, such as long division, whereas papers 2 and 3 will cover a range of questions, such as true or false, multiple choice or drawing shapes and completing diagrams.

## How Are Key Stage 2 SATs Marked?

Ever since 2016, KS2 SATs are no longer scored as 'levels'. Under the current marking scheme, children receive 'scaled scores'.

A child's raw score – that is, the actual number of marks they get – is translated into a scaled score. This helps to allow for fluctuations in the tests year-to-year and allows for more accuracy when comparing results. Parents will receive both their child's raw and scaled scores, and be told whether they reached the expected standard.

The range of scaled scores available for each test is:

- 80 (the lowest scaled score that can be awarded)
- 120 (the highest scaled score)

Children are expected to achieve a scaled score of 100 or more; if they received a scaled score of 99 or less, they will not have attained the expected standard in the test. All papers taken at Key Stage 2 by children at the age of 11 in English (reading and punctuation, spelling and grammar) and maths are marked externally.

As well as receiving KS2 SATs results, at the end of Y6 you will be told your child's teacher-assessment results for reading, writing, mathematics and science. The teacher-assessment result codes you can expect to see are:

- **GDS**: Working at greater depth within the expected standard (writing only)
- **EXS**: Working at the expected standard
- **WTS**: Working towards the expected standard (writing only)
- **HNM**: Has not met the expected standard (reading and maths assessment only)
- **D**: Awarded if the child is disapplied (has not been tested at KS2 level)

## **When will the SATS happen this Year?**

The SATS papers are already scheduled Nationally on the dates listed in the table below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
13 May 19	KS2 ENGLISH SATS PAPER - Paper 1 – Questions - 45mins - Paper 2 – Spelling – Approx 15mins
14 May 19	KS2 ENGLISH SATS PAPER - Reading Test – 1 hour
15 May 19	KS2 MATHS SATS PAPER - Paper 1 – Arithmetic – 30mins - Paper 2 – Reasoning – 40mins
16 May 19	KS2 MATHS SATS PAPER - Paper 3 – Reasoning – 40mins

## **How Can I help my child?**

Firstly and most importantly, giving your child a strong well-being is crucial; it is amazing how much more focused in class they are when they have had a full night's sleep or plenty of fresh air!

We encourage children to see this time as a 'typical life challenge' that may require them to actively take good care of their health and wellbeing. Fortunately, external testing is rare, but we all have times that we might feel a bit of pressure. We believe if we talk to children about that, then it sets up some good life skills. The better prepared we are, the more confident we can feel, and so it is worth it to put in some hard work so that we can perform at our best standard and feel proud of the efforts we made – and we will always perform better if we combine hard work with a balance of rest, activity, sleep and good nutrition.

There are a few other things that you could do to help your child prepare for SATs:

- Regular arithmetic practice such as times tables, equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages or multiplying / dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000 will ensure that the children have the key skills to hand when they need them.
- When your child has read for 10-20 mins every day, have a discussion about their reading before, during and after. Discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions. Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- Help them with their homework: the comprehension sheet should take 20 mins and the two on-line achieve SATS tasks should take about 10 mins each. Although one

activity is set for maths and SPaG each week, the children are encouraged to explore the website and the other curriculum areas as they wish.

- Attendance! Please ensure your child is in school every day and more importantly takes part in the SATs breakfast club during SATs week.
- Access online resources through our school website at <http://www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/key-stage-2-maths-english/>

Whilst we would like to ensure there is no undue pressure on the children during the SATs period, if you feel you would like to do more than the help above then you can visit the Rising Stars website and purchase the achieve 100 and achieve 100+ book sets that compliment the on-line homework package. Alternatively, the CGP SATs books are also a great set that complement the revision process.

<https://www.risingstars-uk.com/>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/>

There really is no need to print full versions of the previous SATs papers for your child to complete at home; we practice these in school and your support is much better focussed on helping your child to complete homework, discuss reading or improve well-being.

### **Finally**

We hope this short guide will help answer your questions however, if you require more information then contact the school or visit the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

Please ensure that your child is well rested, ready, reassured and strikes a good balance between work and play but more importantly please make sure they are in school the week of SATS!

Many thanks from the Year 6 Team.