

Year Two Test Information for Parents

What happens when it's test time?

Overview

During May, all Year 2 and Year 6 children will take the end of Key Stage national tests. These tests are designed to check that children in all schools are making progress. This leaflet looks at what actually happens during the testing period and how you can help your child.

The law says:

- All children must take the national tests at the end of Key Stage 1 (and Key Stage 2.)
- Year 2 are tested on reading, maths (split into arithmetic and reasoning), spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Key Stage 1 teachers mark the tests themselves, with the marking moderated internally.
- None of the tests have a set time limit and children can take as long as they need, within reason.

Reading

During May, pupils will be tested in written comprehension. The children will have a booklet containing a story and some information or non-fiction writing, which they will read and then answers questions about.

They will also have a higher level comprehension booklet to complete. This one will be a harder text to read and have more complicated questions to answer.

Grammar and punctuation:

This was a new test for 2016. We teach weekly spelling, grammar and punctuation sessions (SPAG) with the children to teach the specific skills they need to learn.

The SPAG test includes things like

-punctuating sentences correctly with . , ! ?

-knowing when sentences are commands, statements, exclamations and questions.

-using verb tenses correctly, prefixes and suffixes.

Spelling

Children have another booklet in which they write spellings of common words as the teacher reads them out. They will also be tested on a range of tricky phonemes that we have been learning throughout Key Stage 1. In addition, the children's knowledge of the spelling of past tense verbs, eg writing 'looked' instead of 'lookt' will also be assessed.

Maths

This has changed slightly since 2015 in the way that the children are assessed as there are now two tests that the children will sit. There is an arithmetic test and a reasoning test.

The arithmetic test assesses the child's ability to carry out addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations and the reasoning test assesses their ability to apply these skills to problem solving situations.

The children are not allowed any apparatus to help them.

Children can ask the teacher to read the questions to them and the written answers are not judged on spelling or handwriting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my child have to do the tests?

Yes, unless there is a very good reason why they shouldn't such as severe learning difficulties, difficulty in speaking, understanding and writing English or serious illness.

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.

How can I help?

- Please don't take your child on holiday during May.
- Please continue to share stories, with lots of discussion to fine tune their comprehension skills, and complete homework. This will be really beneficial to the children. If you would like more ideas of how to help your child then please ask their class teacher who will be more than happy to suggest or provide more ideas.
- Try not to make a big thing of it. Not every child deals with tests well. We don't refer to them as tests in Year 2 and try to make them exciting by referring to them as 'quizzes.' We don't feel the children need to be put under 'test' pressure at such a young age. The tests are used to inform the teacher assessments which are based on your child's work over the whole year. This helps to give a balanced picture of what they can do.

To sum up

National tests are an important milestone in school life. They give useful information to your child's teachers and to the government. But 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 change in routine, as long as they know they have your support and understanding.