

Parent-Friendly SATs Guide

Helping You Support Your Year 6 Child With Confidence



1. What Are the SATs?

SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) are national assessments taken by Year 6 pupils in England, typically in May. They assess children's understanding in maths and English, helping schools measure progress and prepare for secondary transition. They are not high-pressure exams - but they do offer a chance to show off everything your child has learned.

2. What Papers Do Children Sit?



- Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic (30 minutes)
- Maths Paper 2: Reasoning (40 minutes)
- Maths Paper 3: Reasoning (40 minutes)
- English Reading Test (60 minutes)
- English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (45 minutes + spelling test)



3. What Does 'Expected Standard' Mean?

SATs are scored using a scaled system, where 100 = the expected standard. Children are not ranked but measured against a national benchmark. The scaled score helps identify if a child is working at, above or below the national standard. It's not about pass/fail - it's about progress.

4. How Can Parents Help at Home?



- Practice quick-fire arithmetic daily (e.g. 8 x 6 = ?)
- Read with your child regularly and ask questions like 'Why did the character do that?'
- Use real-life maths: cooking (measuring), shopping (money), timetables
- Go over tricky vocabulary: fraction, perimeter, inference, synonym
- Encourage your child to explain their thinking aloud this builds reasoning skills



- Celebrate small wins
- Use encouragement over pressure
- Remind them effort matters more than perfection
- Keep sessions short and focused
- Maintain a calm evening routine with plenty of rest



- What is 3/4 of 36?
- Multiply 14 by 6

Reasoning:

- Tom buys 3 books at £4.50. He pays with £20. Does he get £6.50 change?

Problem Solving:

- A chocolate bar weighs 250g. How many full bars can be made from 2kg of chocolate?

(Encourage your child to show working and talk through their thinking.)

7. Useful Resources



- BBC Bitesize: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn
- Tuition By Pri SATs Practice Packs (if applicable)
- Free past papers: https://www.satspapers.org.uk
- White Rose Maths Parent Resources
- Times Tables Rockstars, Hit the Button