

# Year 2 SATs Myth Buster



# SATs – What are they?

- In 2014 a new national curriculum framework was introduced by the Government.
- In the summer of 2016 new assessments were introduced to Year 2 and 6 to reflect the new national curriculum.
- ‘Old’ national curriculum levels (e.g. Levels 1, 2, 3) are no longer used and instead children are now described as working towards, working at and working at greater depth according to the Year 2 expectations of the new curriculum.
- In Year 2 SATs are used as an assessment tool alongside the child’s learning throughout the year.

# The SATs Assessments

At the end of Year 2, children will take assessments in:

- Reading – poetry, fiction and non-fiction
- Maths – arithmetic and reasoning
- Optional English: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling SAT assessment in order to inform teacher-assessed level in Writing.
- All assessment are due to take place in May this year.

# Maths

- **Paper 1: Arithmetic** - lasts approximately 20 minutes (but this is not strictly timed). It covers calculation methods for all operations.
- **Paper 2: Reasoning** - lasts for approximately 35 minutes, which includes time for five aural questions. Pupils will still require calculation skills and questions will be varied including multiple choice, matching, true/false, completing a chart or table or drawing a shape. Some questions will also require children to show or explain their working out.



# Reading



- The Reading Test consists of two separate papers:
  - **Paper 1** – consists of a combined reading prompt and answer booklet. The paper includes a list of useful words and some practice questions for teachers to use to introduce the contexts and question types to pupils. The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.
  - **Paper 2** – consists of an answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. Teachers can use their discretion to stop the test early if a pupil is struggling. The test takes approximately 40 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.
- The texts will cover a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

# But is it stressful?



- Normal routine is kept throughout the SATs weeks. (normally administered over a two week period.)
- We try to make it a calm and enjoyable time and do not refer to them as tests, SATs or assessments.
- Small groups/1:1 for children we think it would benefit.
- The maths reasoning paper can be read out loud by the teacher.

**Brain breaks . Time outside. Group activities. Projects. Fun!**

# How to help your child

- First and foremost, support and reassure your child that there is nothing to worry about and that they should always just try their best. Praise and encourage!
- Ensure your child has the best possible attendance at school.
- Support your child with any homework tasks.
- Reading, spelling and arithmetic (e.g. times tables) are always good to practise.
- Talk to your child about what they have learnt at school and what book(s) they are reading (the character, the plot, their opinion).
- Make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every morning!

# How to help your child with reading

- Focus on developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards – 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.

# How to help your child with writing

- Practise and learn weekly spelling lists – make it fun!
- Encourage opportunities for writing, such as postcards/letters to family or friends, notes or reminders, stories or poems.
- Write together – be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling.
- Remember that good readers become good writers!
- Show your appreciation: praise and encourage, even for small successes

# How to help your child with maths

- Play times mental maths/ tables games.
- Encourage opportunities for telling the time.
- Encourage opportunities for counting coins and money e.g. finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.
- Play games involving numbers or logic, such as dominoes, card games, draughts or chess.