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IGNITING LEADERS
CHANGING LIVES

Guidance for parents and carers

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH THE
END OF KS2 ASSESSMENTS

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Supporting your Year 6 child with the end of Key Stage 2 assessments

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the end of Key Stage 2 tests (commonly known as SATs) take place in May. Whilst we are working hard at school to prepare your child for these assessments, we value any support that you can give them.

In this booklet, we have outlined some of the things which you can do at home, or whilst out and about, to help to prepare your child, not only for the tests but also for their transition to secondary school. Helping them to improve knowledge and skills is important but just as key are the personal things like encouragement, as well as making sure they have a healthy lifestyle, eat well and sleep well!

We hope you find this helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions or you would like any further ideas on how to prepare your child for these tests.

Many thanks for your support!

The Year 6 team

Helping your child at home



English

- Continue to **read together** with your child regularly. Talk about what you're reading - ask what they think about the story and why characters might have acted in certain ways. Notice together how writers use different punctuation marks and interesting words.
- **Play word games** together - board games like Scrabble and Boggle are great, but simple games like 'Word of the Day' work well too. Pick a new word each day and challenge each other to use it correctly in a sentence. Keep a list of tricky spellings on the fridge to practice.
- Practice **spelling and punctuation in short, fun bursts**. Write silly sentences together and check the punctuation. Play spelling tennis - take turns adding letters to make a word, but if you add a letter that can't make a real word, you lose!
- When reading together, **hunt for different types of sentences**. Can you find an exclamation, a question, a command, and a statement?

Mathematics

- Use the **receipt** from your shopping to ask questions e.g., what is the total cost of the fruit and vegetables? What change would I get from £50? While unpacking the shopping, guess the weight of items then weigh them.
- Use the **Mental Maths app** (see Toolbox section) to practise times tables daily. Can your child recall their facts instantly? Compete against themselves or others to improve their speed!
- **Newspaper maths** – use league tables or weather charts in newspapers to ask questions e.g., what is the difference between the temperature in London and Moscow? What is the mean (average) of the points scored in the Premier League?

Helping your child on the move



English

- Listen to **song lyrics** together and play with the words you hear. Can you find any words with prefixes or suffixes? Can you think of synonyms (words that mean the same thing) and then find their antonyms (words that mean the opposite)? Make it a fun back-and-forth game.
- Play the **'Describe It'** game with things you spot while traveling. Choose something you can see and take turns describing it using different word types - first adjectives, then verbs, then adverbs. For example, a tree might be "tall and leafy" (adjectives), "swaying and rustling" (verbs).
- **Create stories** inspired by what you see on your journey. Take turns adding sentences, ensuring they each start differently ('Meanwhile', 'Although', 'After that', 'Suddenly', 'Later').

- Turn signs and notices into a **fact and opinion game**. For example, "This is England's oldest castle" (fact) vs "This is England's most exciting castle" (opinion). Take turns turning facts into opinions and opinions into facts.
- **Play with word families** while you travel. Choose a word you see and build its family - like 'care' could become 'careful', 'caring', 'careless', 'cared'. Who can think of the most related words?

Mathematics

- **Number plates** – Look at the numbers on number plates and create questions based on them e.g., subtract the number from 1000 or multiply/divide the number by 10/100 or 1000.
- **Sequences** – Choose a starting number and a rule. Take it in turns to say the next number in the sequence e.g., start with 19 and add/subtract 8. How far can you take the sequence before an error is made? Try decimals too.
- **Odd one out** – Give your child four numbers and ask them which is the odd one out and why e.g., 12, 19, 18 and 21. 19 is the odd one out because it is the only prime number.

Helping your child when out and about



English

- Play the '**Amazing Adjectives**' game when you're visiting places. Instead of using common words like 'big' or 'nice', challenge each other to think of more interesting adjectives to describe what you see. For example, a 'towering' tree or a 'dangerous' skating ramp.
- Practice speaking in full, clear sentences by **playing 'Tour Guide'**. Take turns being the guide and describing what you can see using Standard English - like you're presenting to a group of visitors. Remember to avoid using slang or informal language.
- Select an object at the place and take it in turns to see how many **antonyms or synonyms** you can think of for the word e.g., an antonym of steep is gentle; a synonym could be sheer.
- Be word detectives when reading information boards or leaflets. Look for formal language (like 'commenced' instead of 'started') and try changing formal sentences into informal ones, or vice versa.

Mathematics

- **How long?** Select a starting and finishing point in the place. Estimate how many seconds/minutes it would take to walk the distance, then time it. What is the difference between the two times? Who was the closest?
- **I-spy** – Play the game by describing the properties of a shape which can be seen e.g., I-spy a quadrilateral with only one pair of parallel lines (a trapezium).
- **How much?** Use entrance fees or a menu to create questions. How much would it cost for 2 adults and 2 children? What would be the change from £50?

Supporting your child's wellbeing



- Encourage your child to take plenty of **exercise**. Why not go out for a walk together after your evening meal? What about a bike ride at the weekend?
 - Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Why not create some **healthy breakfast menus** together? Or try some of the healthy smoothie recipes from the 'Power to Perform' booklet?
 - **Device-free time** – why not challenge your child to spend an hour each evening away from screens and electronic devices? What about playing a board game instead or going outside to play?
 - Try to make sure your child has a **regular routine** for going to bed and getting up so that they have between 9 and 10 hours of sleep each night (approximately).
 - If they are learning at home, a **quiet place** away from distractions is ideal. Try to encourage them to take the 'little and often' approach, and take regular breaks.
- Encourage your child to **share** with you **their feelings** as they begin the final term of primary school. Help them to understand that experiencing a mixture of feelings – excitement, nervousness, optimism, worry – is completely normal.

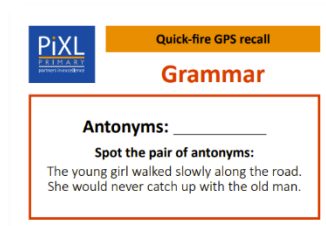
Parents' Toolbox



The resources below can be used to support your child in preparing for the tests and ensuring they have the right knowledge and skills to make a good start at secondary. Please ask your child's teacher for those listed as PiXL resources.

PiXL Resources

- GPS recall cards
- Error and misconceptions cards (GPS and Mathematics)
- Power to Perform pupil booklet
- Holiday Challenges (10 for 10)



Games

- Taboo
- Pictionary
- Boggle
- Scrabble
- Articulate
- Monopoly



Useful websites: English

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f/year/zncsscw>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents>

Useful websites: Mathematics

- PiXL Mental Maths App (log-in available from school)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39/year/zncsscw>

What are the end of Key Stage 2 tests?

Children in Year 6 will be taking the Key Stage 2 tests in May 2025. They provide information about how your child is progressing and how they compare to children of the same age nationally. They provide a ‘snapshot’ of your child’s learning, progress and attainment at the end of KS2. These tests are both set and marked externally.

The tests are not qualifications and don’t affect your child’s future options in school. However, they do help to develop key skills which provide an important foundation for secondary school.

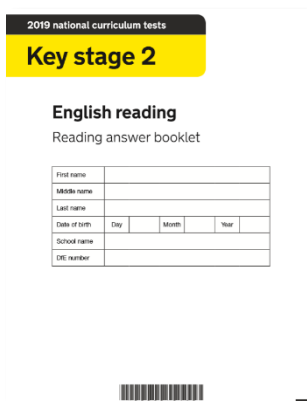
When do the end of Key Stage 2 tests take place?

Date	Paper	Duration
Monday 12th May 2025	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Papers 1 and 2	45 minutes (GPS) Approx. 15 minutes (Spelling)
Tuesday 13th May 2025	English reading	1 hour
Wednesday 14th May 2025	Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Paper 2 (Reasoning)	30 minutes (Paper 1) 40 minutes (Paper 2)
Thursday 15th May 2025	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning	40 minutes

What is involved in the tests?

The Reading Test

- Three passages of text which get progressively more difficult
- A total of 50 marks
- A variety of question types



Look at the paragraph beginning: *As he walked...*

*A few hardy bushes **sprouted** out of the sides...*

This suggests that the bushes...

Tick **one**

grew neatly.

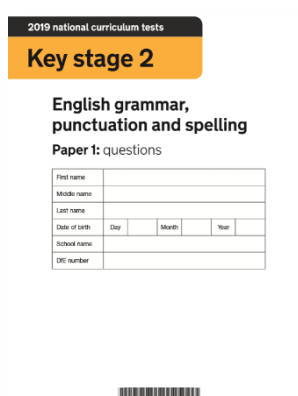
were tall.

grew randomly.

had flowers on.

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Test

- Paper 1 assesses grammar and punctuation (50 marks)
- Paper 2 assesses spelling (20 words)
- A variety of question types



Why are **commas** used in the sentence below?

The girl, who was shouting loudly, could not find her lunchbox.

Tick **one**

to separate items in a list

to introduce a piece of speech

to mark the clauses in the sentence

to divide the two halves of the sentence

