



Key Stage 1

Year 2

A Parent's Guide to the 2023 National tests

This booklet will provide information for parents and carers to support their child for the 2023 National Tests in English and Mathematics.



Our Mission Statement

At Masefield we believe that all our children can achieve, becoming successful future citizens that contribute positively to a society in which all members are equally valued.

High aspirations, high motivation and high outcomes for all, ensure that achievement gaps wherever they exist are narrowed in order to improve pupils' life choices and future prospects.

We strive for all of our children to be safe, feel valued, develop resilience and continually learn within our nurturing and supportive community. At Masefield, our children BELIEVE, ACHIEVE and SUCCEED!

Believe * Achieve * Succeed



Introduction

The National Curriculum Tests (commonly referred to as SATS) are for both Year 2 and Year 6 children. These are to test against National Curriculum expectations. This guide provides information on what parents/carers can expect and how they can support their children in the run-up to the tests.

About the tests

Your child may be completely unaware that they are taking them. Schools have considerable flexibility in how they implement the tests and much of it will feel like a normal classroom day; teachers will do their best to ensure that children are not at all concerned about the tests. To allow this, the tests do not need to be taken on a specific day, but can be throughout the month of May near the end of Year 2, with pupils either individually, in groups or all together as a class. There are six papers altogether across English and Mathematics.



Mathematics Tests

There are two papers in the Mathematics test for Year 2.

Paper 1 – Arithmetic Test (20 minutes)

The arithmetic paper will test your child's number and calculation skills. It has 25 questions, some of which will require children to know some basic number facts, such as the number bonds (adding two single-digit numbers) and the 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables. Towards the end, there are some more challenging calculations such as missing number problems or finding simple fractions of quantities.

Arithmetic Paper Example Questions

Starter Questions:

$$3 + 7 =$$

$$8 \times 10 =$$

Challenging Questions:

$$65 + \underline{\quad} = 93$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \text{ of } 40 =$$

Paper 2 – Reasoning (35 minutes)

The second Mathematics paper requires reasoning – using Maths to solve problems. The first five questions in this paper will be read to your child, before they move on to the rest of the paper. But don't worry – if they find anything difficult to read, then help will be available.

The questions in this paper will often include some background explanation, such as using money to buy fruit or measuring drinks.

As with the arithmetic paper, the earlier questions will be more straightforward; questions towards the end will offer more challenge. Not all children will reach the more challenging questions or complete them – and that's fine; nobody expects a perfect score! Some of these questions may also require more than one step to solve them and so will be worth up to 2 marks.



Reasoning Paper – Example Questions

Starter Question:

Sita puts 2 shoes in each of these 7 boxes. How many shoes are there altogether?

Challenging Question:

Complete the number sentence: $3 \times 8 = 2 \times \underline{\quad}$

English Tests

There are two tests for English: Reading and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS).

The Reading Test

Paper 1 – English Reading (30 minutes)

The first paper contains short texts with two or three questions to answer. Many of these will require either single-word answers or ticking a box.

Reading – Paper 1 – Example Questions

Extract from short text:

Ants are insects that you can often see in a garden, in a park or just on the pavement. They usually live underground.

Retrieval Question:

Find and copy two places you might see ants.

Explanation Question:

What kind of animal is an ant?

Paper 2 – English Reading (40 minutes)

In Paper 2, the children will read two different texts and use these to answer questions in a separate booklet. Most children will take this paper, but teachers will not expect all children to complete the whole task. If your child finds reading more of a challenge at this stage, then his/her teacher will stop the test at an appropriate time. The questions in this booklet contain a mix of tick-box and 'circle the correct answer' questions, with some that require a written answer. Some questions require simple retrieval of information from the text; others will ask your child to explain something in more detail.



Reading – Paper 2 – Example Questions

Retrieval Questions:

Why did the king want to have blackbirds?
When were plastics first made?

Explanation Questions:

Why can plastics be dangerous when they melt?

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test

Paper 1 – Spelling (15 minutes)

The spelling paper requires children to spell 20 words. Each word is read out as part of a sentence, which is printed in the answer booklet. Your child will be asked to write the missing word into the gap. The words in the test will be based on the familiar phonics' patterns taught in Key Stage 1, increasing in difficulty as they progress. All words to be spelled are repeated more than once.

Spelling Paper – Spelling Examples

Starter Words:

Hannah ran **faster** than Lee.
Yesterday, it was very **sunny**.

Challenging Words:

I saw a beautiful **rainbow**.
The school garden is a **peaceful** place to sit.

Paper 2 – Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary (20 minutes)

The second paper assesses grammar and punctuation. The questions will refer both to children's knowledge of grammatical terms (such as noun and verb) and use of words in the right context. Some questions will also require children to put in the appropriate punctuation marks to sentences, or to change the tense of a sentence.



Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary Paper – Example Questions

Starter Question:

Write the missing punctuation mark in this sentence:
Can you play my favourite tune

Challenging Question:

Change the verb in this sentence to the past tense:
My brother smiles for his picture.

Marking and Results

All the tests will be marked by teachers at our school to help them judge the attainment and progress of your child. The results will be reported to you as part of your child's end of school year report. However, the way this is done has changed significantly from the National Curriculum Levels used in the past.

Your child's raw test score will be converted to a scaled score. Scaled scores will normally range between 80 and 120. The scale will be set so that reaching a score of 100 will indicate an average score. You will also be informed as to whether your child has met the expected standard, exceeded it or is working below it. Higher scaled scores indicate more advanced attainment, with lower scores suggesting that your child may need some additional support to catch up.

Scores will be provided for Reading and Mathematics, with a combined score for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.