

NOTES FROM KEY STAGE 2 SATS MEETING

Monday 5th February 2018

Introduction

As you will be aware, the system of SATs (testing Year 6 children) changed from levels 2 years ago. We no longer have levels but a statement of whether children have 'met' the expected standard for the end of Year 6. Each child will also be awarded a scaled score. 100 shows that they are exactly in line with nationally expected standards, any scores below 100 are below expected and a score above 100 shows that a child is working above the national expectations. These scores/results will all be shared with you all in the end of year written reports. The standards now expected at the end of Year 6 are higher than previously and your children have only been working in this new system for a couple of years; since the system changed. However, this is the system imposed nationally and so we have to do whatever we can to work within it and give the children the very best chance of success.

The new way of assessing children at primary is very different to the old familiar levels where children were levelled against a broad criteria and awarded that level if they were working within that broad ability range. Now though, there is much greater emphasis on coverage of the year group's curriculum and so any gaps in knowledge and understanding, importantly, have to be addressed if a child is to be able to demonstrate their true ability. That is why this year we have, more than ever, been looking so closely at what the children can do well, and identifying the areas in which they need more help on an individual basis. Then, we have been putting learning opportunities in place for individuals or in small groups to help them to fill a gap in their understanding, or to gain knowledge they had missed or simply to become more confident in their own ability. Year 6 is a different year to what they have experienced previously and it is a hard year. But we do everything we can to encourage and reward the children. For example, you may have heard about the smile system?

General Information

- There is a fixed timetable. Please see the enclosed table for details.
- SATs tests are obviously important but so are all of the other aspects of the curriculum. A strong partnership between home and school is important to ensure that stress is minimised for the children.
- Children will be taught exam techniques – how to interpret questions, pay attention to the number of marks allocated to each question, show working in maths and underline key words.
- Examples of SATs papers can be shown to you on request. They can also be accessed using the web addresses overleaf.
- Revision books and practice materials were available for parents to view at the SATs meeting. If you would like to use some revision books with your child at home, Year 6 staff are very happy to help parents select the most helpful and appropriate books.
- All children have been provided with targeted materials by the school to support areas for development – these will form the basis of their homework in the run up to the SATS week but we will continue to expect them to meet their reading target and complete their home-school book each week, as well as continue with Mathletics to hone their speed of mental recall. In addition, the green 'scrapbook' homework will also continue – the children really enjoy this and it gives them the opportunity to work creatively on areas of individual interest.
- We will endeavour to make SATs week as pleasurable as possible with treats in the morning (eg, fresh fruit, doughnuts, brownies, juice) and children will also be given a snack and a drink before and after each test.
- The afternoons of SATs week will be planned so as to be very easy going on the children, as they will inevitably become very tired as the week progresses.
- Helpful websites:
<http://resources.woodlands.kent.sch.uk>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2>

www.primarygames.co.uk (demo versions of fun games – all can be played online)

www.mathletics.co.uk

www.satspapers.org.uk (2016 paper and old papers for English and Maths)

Maths

- There will be 3 written papers in total.
- There will be 2 reasoning papers (using and applying/problem solving) 40 minutes long. Children are encouraged to show their working out, including mental calculations. Explanations are very important. School will provide the required equipment – ruler, pencil, protractor and mirror.
- There will be one arithmetic test (which replaces the timed mental maths test). Children have 30 minutes to complete 36 questions. There will be straightforward addition and subtraction, fraction questions and long multiplication and division questions. Having so many questions to complete against the clock means that the children's mathematical stamina will be tested!
- Children who have difficulty reading will have help from familiar staff to read the questions, in a separate room.
- Maths clubs to support children to have secure understanding of primary maths curriculum are already in place.

English

- The children will complete a 45 minute grammar, punctuation and spelling test and a separate spelling test – 20 spellings in approximately 15 minutes.
- Children who have reading difficulties will have help to read the punctuation and grammar questions, in a separate room.
- Children's writing will be subject to Teacher Assessment in school and moderated with other schools from the local area to ensure accuracy.
- For the reading test, children will have one hour in total to read 3 texts in a booklet and answer questions at their own pace. They must refer to the text when answering – the booklet is left with them, it is not a memory test. There are increasing numbers of inference, deduction and comparison questions. The opinion questions tend to be the hardest as answers need to be very specific and give reasons for their ideas. Children are encouraged to look at marks to determine the level of detail required, eg a 3 mark question requires far more detail than a 1 mark question. The 3 texts increase in difficulty.

This information can also be viewed as a video (see button on the Year 6 Curriculum page of the school website).

2018 Test Timetable

The tests must be administered in accordance with the following statutory timetable:

Monday 14th May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test Paper 1 – short answer questions. 45 minutes to complete the test, 50 marks in total. Paper 2 – Spelling. Approximately 15 minutes to complete the test, which is writing 20 missing words in unrelated sentences, dictated by the administrator. 20 marks in total.
Tuesday 15th May	English Reading Test (reading booklet and associated answer booklet). One hour to read the 3 texts and complete the answers – increasing level of difficulty in the 3 texts. 50 marks in total.
Wednesday 16th May	Mathematics Paper 1 – Arithmetic test. This replaces the mental maths test and consists of a single paper, assessing basic mathematical calculations. There are 36 questions worth a total of 40 marks. 30 minutes to complete. Mathematics Paper 2 – Reasoning. 40 minutes to complete, 35 marks in total.
Thursday 17th May	Mathematics Paper 3 – Reasoning. 40 minutes to complete, 35 marks in total.

In any one school, all children taking the tests must take each test at the same time, but the precise start time for the tests each day is at the school's discretion. The tests timetabled for each day may be taken in either the morning or afternoon sessions. At Heron Hill, we will do all of the tests in the morning.