



Supporting End of Key Stage 2 Assessments

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may already be aware, the Year 6 Key Stage 2 tests (commonly known as SATs) take place in the week beginning 13th May 2024. 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 letter, 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. We really encourage opportunities for your children to engage in activities for their wellbeing and so have outlined a few ideas to help with this.

Many thanks for your support!

The Year 6 team

Alton Park Junior School & Sigma fully comply with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please go to our website at <http://www.altonparkjunior.org.uk/information/gdpr> or call 01255 424335 if you are unable to access the internet.



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

Date	Paper	Duration
Monday 13th May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Papers 1 and 2	45 minutes (GPS) Approx. 15 minutes (Spelling)
Tuesday 14th May	English reading	1 hour
Wednesday 15th May	Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Paper 2 (Reasoning)	30 minutes (Paper 1) 40 minutes (Paper 2)
Thursday 16th May	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning	40 minutes

Practice with past papers

Some children have expressed an interest in having past papers to practise with. These are available online for free by simply searching 'Year 6 past SAT papers' into a search engine.

We ask that you please refrain from using the 2023 papers as we have not yet used them at school.

English

- Continue to read with your child every day, discussing the book as you read it.
- Look at objects and places they pass while travelling. Pick out a word and **play 'Just a Minute'** where your child must explain what the object is without using the word itself and without hesitating or repeating themselves.
- **Telling a story together.** Give the first line of a story and take it in turns to continue it. Begin each sentence with a conjunction e.g., *next, after that, after a while, finally*
- 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.

(**synonym** = a word or phrase which means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase e.g. hot, boiling)

Antonym = a word or phrase which means the opposite of another word or phrase e.g. hot, cold)

- BBC bitesize



Maths

- 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.
- Play on Times Tables Rockstars to practise times tables daily. [Please ask your child's class teacher if they require their login details.]
- **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.
- **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?
- <https://myminimaths.co.uk/year-6-mini-maths/>
- <https://corbettmaths.com/primary/>

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 a healthy smoothie recipe?
- **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.