

What are SATs?

SATs are the national assessments which all children in England complete in Years 2 and 6. **In Year 6 they take place in the week beginning 9th May.** SATs are just one way of finding out how much children know and understand about :

- ⇒ **Reading**—can they answer questions about stories, information texts and poems?
- ⇒ **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**—can they spell words which are a mix of straightforward and more tricky words as well as show an understanding of how words are used in writing?
- ⇒ **Maths**—can they solve problems, explain how they answered questions and complete a range of calculation questions?
- ⇒ **Writing***—can they write in lots of different ways ?



* Teacher judgement only with no 'test' paper.

What can families do to help their child?

Families play a huge part in the end of Key Stage Assessments. Things that can be done at home make the world of difference to your child. Helping your child also helps us to share what matters most—children's wellbeing and their ability to know that doing their very best in everything is the most important thing.

- ◆ Make sure that your child has a **healthy breakfast** before they start learning for the day. Remember that our Breakfast Club is here to help and is free for all children in SATs week. Mrs Turner (School Office) can tell you more about this.
- ◆ **Talk to them and listen** in the evenings and weekend to reassure them that trying their best is most important. If they can't 'do everything' it really is okay if they just 'have a go.'
- ◆ Try to help them **relax at home** during SATs week by encouraging plenty of play, enjoyable activity and sleep.
- ◆ Bring your child to **school on time every day**. Many children get more upset and anxious from being late than by doing the papers themselves.
- ◆ **Chat to your child's teacher** if you have specific concerns or questions relating to your child.

FALCONHURST SCHOOL



A Family Guide to End of Key Stage Assessments (Years 2 and 6)

May 2016

Assessment and SATs

Every child at Falconhurst School is being assessed daily by teachers and support staff so that they can always know what each child can already do, what they can do because they have learnt something new and what they still need to be able to understand.

Throughout the year, each teacher makes a formal record of the progress that each child has made which is then shared with the Headteacher and school governors. Knowing this information makes sure that we are always doing our best for the children by focusing resources, prioritising how we spend money and measuring progress from the day that they start with us.

At the end of Year 2 and Year 6, we are required to share this information nationally so that our children's progress and attainment can be compared with other schools across England, including those which are similar to ours.

The SATs are a way of letting all children in England have a go at the same test so that there is a national standard. 'Old' national curriculum levels of 2,3,4 or 5 have now gone and from this year all children will receive a 'Scaled Score'. A scaled score of 100 means that they have met the 'national standard' over 100 means a child has 'exceeded the national standard'

SATs in KS1 (Year 2)

The well-being and happiness of every child is central to our school's values. For this reason, the way that children complete the papers is very gentle and low key. Many of the children do not even realise that they have just completed a SAT paper!

Papers in each of the subject areas (listed under 'What are SATs') are given to the children over the course of a week. They will stay in the relaxed and familiar surroundings of the classroom with adults around who can help them if they need support. To anybody observing, the classroom atmosphere and children's learning will look no different to any other day in school!

Teachers at Falconhurst School know your child really well because they have shaped and guided their learning since September. For this reason, the outcomes of the 'test paper' are there to provide more information for the teacher. They do not decide how well a child has done in year 2, they simply demonstrate how much a child has been to show in a quick 30 or 30 minute snapshot of their learning. Once all of the information is brought together, the teachers will decide whether each child has 'met', 'exceeded' or is 'working towards' the National Standard. This will be shared with families in the end of year report that their child takes home in July.

SATs in KS2 (Year 6)

Children's well being remains central to our school's values in Year 6. This is especially important when many of the children start to talk, and worry, about SATS long before they have even started Year 6. We cannot escape the need for the papers to be completed in the way that we are told to by the Department for Education; however we can look after the children and help them as much as possible so that the SATs week is less pressurised. All our children know that they just need to try their best as this is all that matters!

Papers in each of the subject areas (listed under 'What are SATs') are given to the children over the course of a week. Some will stay in the familiar surroundings of the classroom with adults around who can help them if they need support whilst some will complete papers in group rooms where adults can provide 1:1 reading support if needed.

Although the outcomes of the SATs alone will decide whether each child has 'met', 'exceeded' or is 'working towards' the National Standard a separate teacher judgement is also made. This will be shared with secondary schools as part of the transition arrangements and with families in the end of year report that their child takes home in July.