

Information for parents:

2023 national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 1 tests

Your child's teacher is responsible for judging the standards your child is working at in English reading, English writing, mathematics, and science, by the end of key stage 1 (KS1).

To help inform those judgements, pupils sit national curriculum assessments in English and mathematics, commonly called SATs. They may also sit an optional test in English grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

The tests are a tool for teachers to help them measure your child's performance and identify their needs as they move into KS2. They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards.

The tests can be taken any time during May, and they are not strictly timed. Pupils may not even know they are taking them as many teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom activities.

Teachers will use the results from these tests, along with the work your child has done throughout the year, to help them reach their own judgements about how your child is progressing at the end of key stage 1.

These teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the summer term.

Ministers stated in the response to the 2017 consultation on primary assessment that they intended to make the end of KS1 assessments non-statutory once the reception baseline assessment (RBA) was fully established.

On 20 July 2022, the Department announced that KS1 assessments would become non-statutory from the 2023/24 academic year.

The RBA became statutory from September 2021 and will replace the end of KS1 assessments as the baseline for the cohort reaching the end of KS1 in 2023/24.



Key stage 2 tests

If you have a child in year 6 at the end of key stage 2 (KS2), they will take national curriculum assessments in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and mathematics.

The tests help measure the progress pupils have made, and identify if they need additional support in a certain area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance and to produce national performance data.

The KS2 tests will be taken on set dates unless your child is absent, in which case they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.

At the end of the summer term, you should receive test results for:

- English grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- English reading
- mathematics

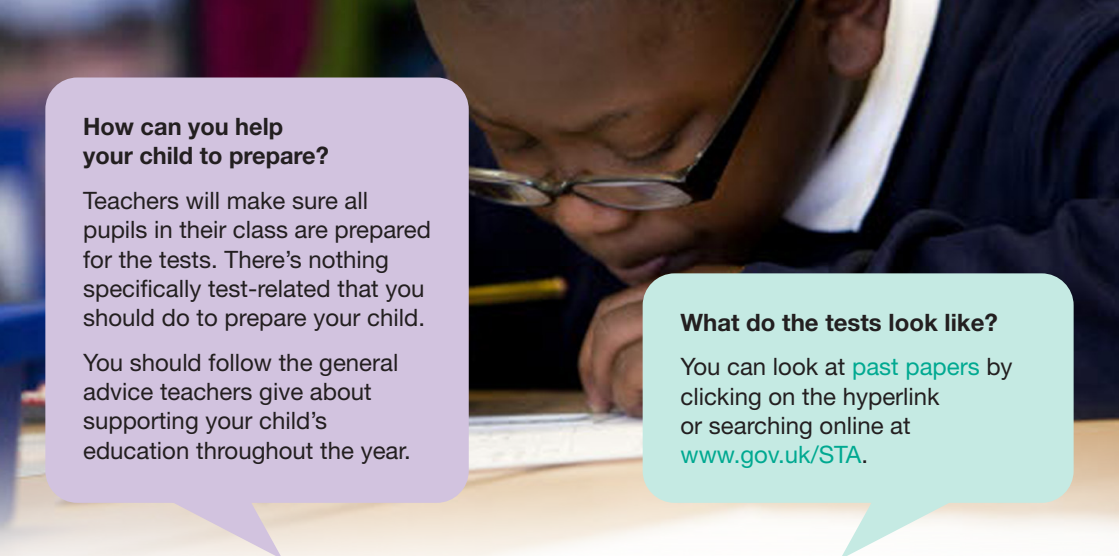
Test results and reviews will be coordinated with your school before the summer holidays to discuss your child's work at the end of key stage 2.

A change to the [KS2 test timetable](#)¹ this year will be necessary due to the additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, taking place on Monday 8 May 2023.

As such, the new schedule will be:

Date	Subject	Test paper
Tuesday 9 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling	Punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary) Spelling
Wednesday 10 May	English reading	English reading
Thursday 11 May	Mathematics	Arithmetic Mathematical reasoning
Friday 12 May	Mathematics	Mathematical reasoning

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-key-stage-2-assessment-dates-in-2023>



How can you help your child to prepare?

Teachers will make sure all pupils in their class are prepared for the tests. There's nothing specifically test-related that you should do to prepare your child.

You should follow the general advice teachers give about supporting your child's education throughout the year.

What do the tests look like?

You can look at [past papers](#) by clicking on the hyperlink or searching online at www.gov.uk/STA.

The KS2 timetable variation (TTV) window for each assessment will also move back one day, in accordance with this change.

There will be no changes to arrangements for our other assessments, including KS2 teacher assessments, KS1 tests and teacher assessments, the phonics screening check and the multiplication tables check. Dates and deadlines for these assessments remain as previously announced.

Teacher assessment

As there is no test for English writing, this will be reported as a teacher assessment judgement. This is a judgement teachers will make, based on your child's work at the end of KS2. You will also receive a teacher assessment judgement for science.

Return of Results

Due to the timetable changes this year, there is also a change to [return of results](#)². Your school will arrange discussions with parents who may have concerns or questions, and review papers and submit marking reviews.

2. www.gov.uk/government/news/change-to-dates-for-return-of-key-stage-2-test-results-for-2023

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