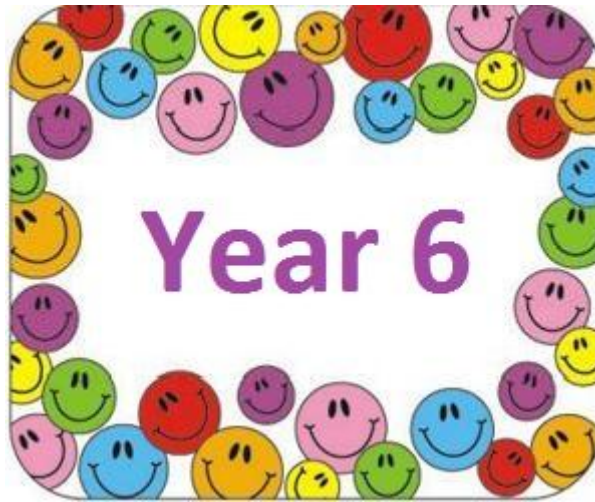


Our Parent's Guide to Year 6



Taking an Active Interest in your child's learning:

We know that taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. The interest parents/carers and families show in their children's schooling has a greater influence on the children's success than just about anything else.

Learning isn't just about what happens at school, it is all the time, through what they see, hear and do. They are learning at home and out and about with family, friends and neighbours. Parents/carers are their children's first educators and remain their key educators throughout their school career. All parents/carers and families have different ways of interacting with their children and helping them to learn.

These materials are designed to support you and your child working together at home. We hope that you will find them a useful addition to what you do already. They complement the activities already provided by us, home learning and home reading. These notes provide information about the focus of each area of learning and the way your child will have heard it described.

Following pages will describe:

- A sample of areas in literacy and mathematics that children will be working on;
- related activities to support your child's learning with you at home;
- a sample of 'I can' statement targets for children to work towards, to help them understand better what they need to learn.

The 'I can' statements indicate some of the things most children will be able to do by the end of Year 6 and the suggested activities will help children work towards these. Children learn at different rates - some children will find the activities easy, other children will take longer to be able to do them. Don't forget

that if your child is bilingual you can support them by talking about the activities in your home language.

When encouraging learning at home, a good approach is 'little and often'. Sometimes it is useful to plan a time to learn together. We hope that you and your child enjoy using some of the activities, and that these activities will spark off ideas and approaches to learning that you can use together wherever and whenever you want to.

Changes to KS2 SATs in 2016: What parents need to know?

In the summer term of 2016, children in Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATs papers. These tests in English and maths will reflect the new national curriculum, and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

These tests will be both set and marked externally, and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment

KS2 SATs Reading

The reading test will be a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have one hour, including reading time, to complete the test.

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended response, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins Once upon a time. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

KS2 SATs grammar, punctuation and spelling test

- The grammar, punctuation and spelling test will consist of two parts: a grammar and punctuation paper requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes, and an aural spelling test of 20 words, lasting around 15 minutes.
- The grammar and punctuation test will include two sub-types of questions:
 - Selected response, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives in the sentence below'
 - Constructed response, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'

KS2 SATs Maths

Children will sit three papers in maths:

- Paper 1: arithmetic, 30 minutes
- Papers 2 and 3: reasoning, 40 minutes per paper

Paper 1 will consist of fixed response questions, where children have to give the correct answer to calculations, including long multiplication and division. Papers 2 and 3 will involve a number of question types, including:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Constrained questions, e.g. giving the answer to a calculation, drawing a shape or completing a table or chart
- Less constrained questions, where children will have to explain their approach for solving a problem

KS2 Science

Not all children in Year 6 will take science SATs. However, a number of schools will be required to take part in science sampling: a test administered to a selected sample of children thought to be representative of the population as a whole.

(Monday 6 to Friday 17 June is the science sampling test period in which your child might sit the tests.) For those who are selected, there will be three papers: Version 2015 13

- Biology: 25 minutes, 22 marks
- Chemistry: 25 minutes, 22 marks
- Physics: 25 minutes, 22 marks

It sounds very intimidating, but these are 'questions in a physics/chemistry/biology context', for example:

Biology: 'Describe the differences in the life cycle of an amphibian and a mammal'

Chemistry: 'Group a list of materials according to whether they are solid, liquid or gas'

Physics: 'Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, based on where the poles are facing'

When will KS2 SATs take place?

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will be administered in the week commencing 8th May 2017.

How will KS2 SATs be marked?

The previous national curriculum levels have been done away with and instead children will be given scaled scores. **You will be given your child's raw score (the actual number of marks they get), alongside their scaled score and whether they have reached the national average.** The score needed to reach the national average has yet to be announced. Version 2015 14

Top Ten Tips for SATs revision.

1. **Schedule time.** Help your child revise by rearranging your family's schedules and usual priorities around their work.
2. **Relax about chores.** Be more lenient with their untidiness and jobs around the house.
3. **Be patient.** Try to be understanding and tolerant of their moods and lost tempers.
4. **Stay positive.** Don't nag, blame or criticise them about their revision. Try to talk to them in a relaxed and constructive way, helping them to plan their time or to get the help they need.
5. **Create the right environment.** Make sure the house is conducive to studying. Younger siblings need to understand that they mustn't interrupt study and the TV and music shouldn't be too loud. But also accept that some children actually study better with background music or noise.
6. **Kit them out.** Give practical help, such as buying the correct equipment - pens, compasses or highlighters. This takes away the last minute stress of not being prepared, too.
7. **Plan treats.** Suggest a family treat each week or at the end of the tests to give your child something to look forward to. Let them choose what they would like.
8. **Give them a good start.** Prepare a hearty breakfast every morning and be there to give them a positive send off.
9. **Offer encouragement.** Be calm, positive, encouraging, kind and compassionate. Let your child know that you love them, respect their efforts, and will be there to support them regardless of their results.
10. **Make time for fun.** Remember to still have a laugh together. A smile is a curve that puts a lot of things straight!

Reading List Ideas:

The following list contains some books suitable for children ages 10-11 in Year 6 of primary school. These titles consist of a variety of fiction and nonfiction books for all ability ranges and interests.

The Railway Children - E. Nesbit

Abomination - Robert Swindells

Awful End - Philip Ardagh

From Hereabout Hill - Michael Morpurgo

Fruit and Nutcase - Jean Ure

Granny - Anthony Horowitz

The Hobbit - JRR Tolkien

Kensuke's Kingdom - Michael Morpurgo

Lion Boy - Zizou Corder

My Swordhand is Singing - Marcus Sedgewick

Once - Morris Gleitzman

The Other Side of the Truth - Beverley Naidoo

The Silver Sword - Ian Serraillier

Skellig - David Almond

Tell Me No Lies - Malorie Blackman

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe - C.S. Lewis

Goodnight Mister Tom - Michelle Magorian

Maths:

Mathletics has ample resources for all the information your child will need for SATs. Mathletics is fee paying so our PTFA have bought a year's subscription for every child - children will be given a logon and password.

Maths props to have in the house:

Tape measure and ruler - Bar of chocolate (with squares), good for showing multiplication and fractions - Magnet numbers - Dartboard - Unusual dice - Dominoes - Thermometer - A prominent clock - A wall calendar - Board games - Pack of playing cards - Calculator - Measuring jug - Scales - Dried beans, pasta all these props can be use in everyday maths learning.

Some Do's and Don'ts:

- Make maths silly, gruesome, scary or dangerous—get your child excited about maths questions e.g. I bet you don't know the answer?
- Recognise there's more than one way of doing calculations— children's methods may be long winded or confusing, but you should always let them try their own way of solving a problem. Notice one method does not solve all calculations e.g. you would use different methods to find $3,786+4,999$ to $3,786 + 4,568$.
- Don't expect children to 'get it' after you've explained to once—it can take a long time for the penny to drop. It is perfectly normal for children not to recognise a concept learnt in a new context.
- Don't tell your child you are hopeless at maths—many adults claim to be hopeless at maths and this can give the message that maths is difficult, not enjoyable and ultimately not important to succeed in life. This just isn't true, as adults we deal with mathematics everyday and cope with it. Just because

you don't understand or remember how to complete long division, doesn't mean you don't understand mathematics.

- Mathematics is a large, rich and imaginative subject that can inspire and be used in the everyday life and you can make this subject come to life!
- When a child gets a question wrong, it is tempting to tell them they are wrong and how to correct it. Why not ask them to explain their method and help them spot their mistake.
- Similarly if a child gets a question right, get them to explain how they reached their answer, perhaps pretending not to understand their reasoning.
- Play maths with your child — games are full of maths and are an ideal way to engage mathematical thinking. Consider questioning when playing e.g. Can you be the banker and change £500?
- Let your child win, or be 'better than you' - of course you know your child best, so will know the correct balance of winning and losing, but can compete against one another within a mathematical context e.g. I bet you can't get ready for bed in 5 minutes.
- Make maths a casual part of what you do while you're doing something else — instead of making maths formal find ways to sneak it in e.g. How many more plates do I need? Have we got enough for the bread and milk? Did you see the number 23 bus? I was wondering, is 23 a prime number?
- Make maths 'hands on'—remember the three C's of everyday maths: cash, clocks and cooking; all three perfect opportunities to practise maths.

Good Websites:

<http://www.mathletics.co.uk/> *(fee paying but all children will receive password for 2016/2017)

<http://www.mangahigh.com/en/>

<http://www.mathplayground.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/revision/index.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

CGP Study Books:

Parents will be able to buy *CGP* study guides/workbooks for less than the recommend retail price through the school. These are very beneficial and can be used as home/school workbooks; working in partnership with parents to encourage home studying. The *CGP* books are available for the new curriculum. An order form will be sent to all parents during the Autumn term.

End note:

I hope you have found this booklet to be of some help understanding and supporting your child in Year 6. The voice of the parent is very important to us, any advice on improvements are most welcome to ensure continuous improvement.