



IGNITING LEADERS
CHANGING LIVES

Guidance for parents and carers

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH THE
END OF KS2 ASSESSMENTS

Guidance for parents and carers

Supporting your Year 6 child with the end of Key Stage 2 assessments

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the Year 6 children will be taking the end of Key Stage 2 tests in May.

At school, we are ensuring your child has the knowledge and skills they need to approach these tests with confidence. This booklet suggests ways you can support their learning at home - by weaving short bursts of practice into everyday life in ways that feel natural and enjoyable.

Your child's wellbeing matters just as much as their academic preparation. When children have eaten well, slept well and feel supported, they are more likely to be able to perform at their best. Throughout this booklet, you will find ideas for supporting both their learning and their wellbeing.

The activities we've suggested work equally well whether you're preparing for the tests or simply helping your child build strong foundations for secondary school. Many of the skills they're developing now - resilience, independence, problem-solving - will serve them far beyond Year 6.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to support both you and your child.

Many thanks for your partnership,

The Year 6 team

Helping your child at home



Choose one or two activities that fit naturally into your routine. These work well as 5-10 minute bursts of practice - little and often is more effective than long sessions.

English

- Continue to **read together** with your child regularly. Talk about what you are reading - ask what they think about the story and why characters might have acted in certain ways. Notice together how writers use different punctuation marks and interesting words.
- **Play word games** together - board games like Scrabble and Boggle are great, but simple games like 'Word of the Day' work well too. Pick a new word each day and challenge each other to use it correctly in a sentence. Keep a list of tricky spellings on the fridge to practice.
- Practice **spelling and punctuation in short, fun bursts**. Write silly sentences together and check the punctuation. Play spelling tennis - take turns adding letters to make a word, but if you add a letter that can't make a real word, you lose!
- When reading together, **hunt for different types of sentences**. Can you find an exclamation, a question, a command, and a statement?

Mathematics

- 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.
- Use the **Mental Maths app** (see Toolbox section) to practise times tables daily. Can your child recall their facts instantly? Compete against themselves or others to improve their speed!
- **Newspaper maths** – use league tables or weather charts in newspapers or use online news sites, weather apps, or sports results to ask questions e.g., what is the difference between the temperature in London and Moscow? What is the mean (average) of the points scored in the Premier League?

Helping your child on the move



Whether you are walking to school, on the bus or in the car, journeys offer perfect opportunities for quick learning games.

English

- Listen to **song lyrics** together and play with the words you hear. Can you find any words with prefixes or suffixes? Can you think of synonyms (words that mean the same thing) and then find their antonyms (words that mean the opposite)? Make it a fun back-and-forth game.

- Play the '**Describe It'** game with things you spot while traveling. Choose something you can see and take turns describing it using different word types - first adjectives, then verbs, then adverbs. For example, a tree might be "tall and leafy" (adjectives), "swaying and rustling" (verbs).
- **Create stories** inspired by what you see on your journey. Take turns adding sentences, ensuring they each start differently ('Meanwhile', 'Although', 'After that', 'Suddenly', 'Later').
- Turn signs and notices into a **fact and opinion game**. For example, "This is England's oldest castle" (fact) vs "This is England's most exciting castle" (opinion). Take turns turning facts into opinions and opinions into facts.
- **Play with word families** while you travel. Choose a word you see and build its family - like 'care' could become 'careful', 'caring', 'careless', 'cared'. Who can think of the most related words?

Mathematics

- **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.
- **Odd one out** – Give your child four numbers and ask them which is the odd one out and why e.g., 12, 19, 18 and 21. 19 is the odd one out because it is the only prime number.

Helping your child when out and about



Turn everyday trips and visits into learning opportunities with these simple activities.

English

- Play the '**Amazing Adjectives**' game when you're visiting places. Instead of using common words like 'big' or 'nice', challenge each other to think of more interesting adjectives to describe what you see. For example, a 'towering' tree or a 'dangerous' skating ramp.
- Practice speaking in full, clear sentences by **playing 'Tour Guide'**. Take turns being the guide and describing what you can see using Standard English - like you're presenting to a group of visitors. Remember to avoid using slang or informal language.
- 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.
- Be word detectives when reading information boards or leaflets. Look for formal language (like 'commenced' instead of 'started') and try changing formal sentences into informal ones, or vice versa.

Mathematics

- **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?
- **I-spy** – Play the game by describing the properties of a shape which can be seen e.g., I-spy a quadrilateral with only one pair of parallel lines (a trapezium).
- **How much?** Look at prices in shop windows or on supermarket shelves. How much would 4 of that item cost? What if there is a “3 for 2” offer? You can also use entrance fees or menu prices if you’re visiting somewhere - what would it cost for your whole family?

Supporting your child's wellbeing

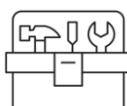


- Encourage your child to take plenty of **exercise**. Why not go out for a walk together after your evening meal? What about a bike ride at the weekend?
- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Why not create some **healthy breakfast menus** together? Or try some of the healthy smoothie recipes from the ‘Power to Perform’ booklet?
- **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.

Parents' Toolbox



The resources below can be used to support your child in preparing for the tests and ensuring they have the right knowledge and skills to make a good start at secondary.

Games

- Taboo
- Pictionary
- Boggle
- Scrabble
- Articulate



Useful websites: English

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f/year/zncsscw>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents>

Useful websites: Mathematics

- PiXL Mental Maths App (log-in available from school)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39/year/zncsscw>

What are the end of Key Stage 2 tests?

Children in Year 6 will be taking the Key Stage 2 tests in May 2026. They provide information about how your child is progressing and how they compare to children of the same age nationally. They provide a 'snapshot' of your child's learning, progress and attainment at the end of KS2. These tests are both set and marked externally.

The tests are not qualifications and don't affect your child's future options in school. However, they do help to develop key skills which provide an important foundation for secondary school.

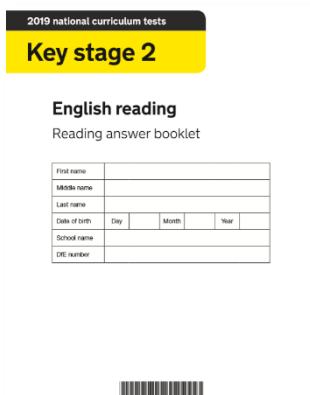
When do the end of Key Stage 2 tests take place?

| Date | Paper | Duration |
|---|--|---|
| Monday 11th May 2026 | English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Papers 1 and 2 | 45 minutes (GPS) Approx. 15 minutes (Spelling) |
| Tuesday 12th May 2026 | English Reading | 1 hour |
| Wednesday 13th May 2026 | Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Paper 2 (Reasoning) | 30 minutes (Paper 1) 40 minutes (Paper 2) |
| Thursday 14th May 2026 | Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning | 40 minutes |

What is involved in the tests?

The Reading Test

- Three passages of text which get progressively more difficult
- A total of 50 marks
- A variety of question types



Look at the paragraph beginning: *As he walked...*

A few hardy bushes sprouted out of the sides...

This suggests that the bushes...

Tick one

grew neatly.

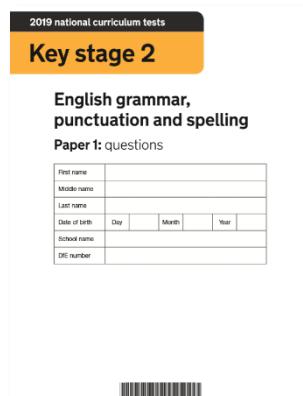
were tall.

grew randomly.

had flowers on.

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Test

- Paper 1 assesses grammar and punctuation (50 marks)
- Paper 2 assesses spelling (20 words)
- A variety of question types



Why are **commas** used in the sentence below?

The girl, who was shouting loudly, could not find her lunchbox.

Tick one

to separate items in a list

to introduce a piece of speech

to mark the clauses in the sentence

to divide the two halves of the sentence

The Maths Arithmetic Test

- 35 questions
- No context to the questions, so there is no reading needed
- Some can be solved mentally, others require jottings or written methods
- Long multiplication and long division are worth 2 marks (all other questions are worth 1 mark)

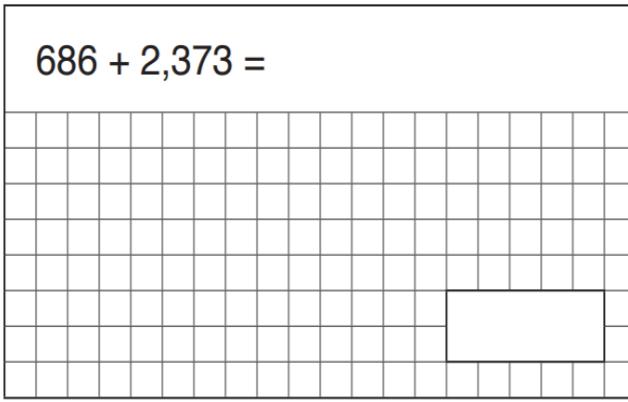
2019 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

Mathematics

Paper 1: arithmetic

686 + 2,373 =



The grid consists of 100 small squares arranged in a 10x10 pattern. The bottom-right 2x2 block of squares is shaded in a darker grey, while the rest of the grid is white.

The Maths Reasoning Tests

- 35 marks per paper
- They assess mathematical problem solving and reasoning
- Calculators not allowed
- A significant amount of reading needed

2019 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

Mathematics

Paper 2: reasoning

Please note that there is no **writing test** – this is assessed by your child's teacher.

Final thoughts

Remember, you don't need to do everything in this booklet - pick one or two activities that work for your family if you choose to and build them into your routine. Little and often is far more effective than trying to do too much.

Most importantly, help your child feel confident and supported. Your encouragement means the world!

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with us.