Standards & Testing Agency

Information for parents:

Results from the 2016 national curriculum assessments at the end of key stage 2

Do you have a child in year 6 at primary school?

If so, it is likely that your child will have taken the key stage 2 national curriculum tests[1] (also known as SATs) in maths, reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

In addition to the tests, your child's teacher will have made a judgement about what they have achieved in maths, reading, writing and science across the school year.

Your child's school will send you a report before the end of the summer term, setting out the test results, the teacher assessment judgements and an overall view of how well your child has done this year. It will also give you other information which will help you support your child as they move into secondary school.

The new key stage 2 tests

2016 was the first year of the new key stage 2 tests in maths, reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling. The tests assess children against a national standard. This year's tests are the first tests to reflect the new primary curriculum, which was introduced in 2014.

As this is the first year of the new tests the results will look different from those of previous years and cannot be compared with them directly. We have introduced a new curriculum to be on a par with the best education systems in the world and expect children to achieve higher standards than before. This is because we want every child to leave primary school having mastered the skills in reading, writing and maths so that they can reach their potential at secondary school and throughout their adult life.

Your child's results in each test will be reported using a scaled score. A scaled score of 100 represents the expected standard for each test. If your child gets a scaled score of 100 or more it means they are working at or above the expected standard in the subject. If your child gets a scaled score of less than 100 it means that they may need more support to reach the expected standard. The highest scaled score possible is 120, and the lowest is 80. You can find more information on scaled scores at www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2.

As the new standard is higher than the old one, fewer children have met the new expected standard than the previous standard. If you want to see how your child's test scores compare with the national average for each subject, you can do this online at www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-2.

1. Participation in the tests is optional for independent schools.

Teacher assessment

In addition to taking the tests, your child's teacher will assess how well your child has done during the year in reading, writing, maths and science. Teachers will do this using a framework that describes what a child needs to do to be working at the expected standard in a subject. Your child's teacher will base their assessment on the work that your child has done in class during years 5 and 6.

For children who have completed the key stage 2 curriculum in writing, the teacher assessment will say one of 3 things:

- your child is working towards the expected standard and needs some support to meet national expectations
- your child is working at the expected standard for their age
- your child is working at greater depth within the expected standard and has a strong understanding of the curriculum.

Should I be worried if my child isn't at the expected standard?

There is no reason to worry. The government wants to make sure every child has mastered the basics, so they can do well in life. It is important to understand how well your child is doing in these basic skills as early as possible. The results of the tests and teacher assessments help teachers identify where children might need extra help so they can work with secondary schools to put extra support in place.

If you have any questions about how your child has done and what support they might need to do well in secondary school, you should speak to their teacher.

Children working below the standard of the national curriculum

Some children will not have been entered for the national curriculum tests as their teacher will have determined that they are working below the standard of the national curriculum. If this is the case, your child's teacher will assess your child separately using pre-key stage teacher assessment frameworks. If your child has been assessed against the pre-key stage frameworks, you should discuss this with your child's teacher to understand what this means and what additional support your child might need.

What will you receive from your school?

Your child's teacher will consider your child's KS2 test results, their teacher assessment judgements and their own experience of the progress your child has made. They will use these to create a report by the end of the summer term, which explains how your child has done in maths, reading, writing, science and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The school report will include your child's scaled scores from any national curriculum tests they took and the assessments their teacher has made about them. It will also give you other information to explain what your child has achieved and where they might need support in the future. The report should paint a full picture of your child's strengths and where they might need extra support to help you, and your child's secondary school, decide the best way to support your child as they move into year 7.

Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any queries you may have about the tests and teacher assessment, or you can visit www.gov.uk/STA for more details.

You can find more information about:

- the KS2 tests at www.gov.uk/guidance/2016-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara/section-4-2016-national-curriulum-tests
- scaled scores and the KS2 tests at www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2
- KS2 teacher assessment, the interim KS2 teacher assessment frameworks and the KS2 pre-key stage teacher assessment frameworks at www.gov.uk/guidance/2016-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara/section-9-teacher-assessment.

© Crown copyright 2016

Information for parents: results from the 2016 national curriculum assessments at the end of key stage 2
Electronic version product code: STA/16/7351/e ISBN: 978-1-78644-621-3

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This document is available for download at www.gov.uk/government/publications.