

Assessment at the End of Year 2

About the tests

The first thing to say about the Key Stage 1 tests is that we try to make them as much as part of the ordinary cycle of learning and assessment, whilst making sure that the children are adequately prepared to show their skills, understanding and knowledge. We have considerable flexibility in how to implement the tests and much of it will feel like a normal classroom day; teachers will do their best to ensure that children are not at all concerned about the tests. To allow this, the tests do not need to be taken on a specific day, but can be throughout the month of May near the end of Year 2, with pupils either individually, in groups or all together as a class. There are six papers altogether across English and mathematics.

Mathematics test

There are two papers in the mathematics test for Year 2:

Paper 1 – Arithmetic

The arithmetic paper will test your child's number and calculation skills. It has 25 questions, some of which will require children to know some basic number facts, such as the number bonds (adding two single-digit numbers) and the 2s, 5s and 10s tables. Towards the end, there are some more challenging calculations such as missing number problems or finding simple fractions of quantities.

Paper 2 – Reasoning

The second mathematics paper requires reasoning – using maths to solve problems. The first five questions in this paper will be read to your child, before they move on to the rest of the paper. But don't worry – if they find anything difficult to read, then help will be available. The questions in this paper will often include some background explanation, such as using money to buy fruit or measuring drinks.

As with the arithmetic paper, the earlier questions will be more straightforward; questions towards the end will offer more challenge. Not all children will reach them or complete them – and that's fine; nobody expects a perfect score!

Some of these questions may also require more than one step and so will be worth up to 2 marks.

English tests

There are two tests for English: Reading; and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). We are not required to complete the GPS test but we will use it to support our teacher assessment.

The Reading test Paper 1 – English Reading (lower demand)

The first paper contains short texts with two or three questions to answer. Many of these will require either single-word answers or ticking a box.

Paper 2 – English Reading (higher demand)

In Paper 2, children will read two different texts and use these to answer questions in a separate booklet. Most children will take this paper, but teachers will not expect all children to complete the whole task. If your child finds reading more of a challenge at this stage, then his/her teacher will stop the test at an appropriate time. The questions in the booklet contain a mix of tick-box and 'circle the correct answer' questions, with some that require a written answer. Some questions require simple retrieval of information from the text; others will ask your child to explain something in more detail.

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test Paper 1 – Spelling

The spelling paper requires children to spell 20 words. Each word is read out as part of a sentence, which is printed in the answer booklet. Your child will be asked to write the missing word into the gap. The words in the test will be based on the familiar phonics patterns taught in Key Stage 1, in increasing difficulty. All words to be spelled are repeated more than once.

Paper 2 – Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

The second paper assesses grammar and punctuation. The questions will refer both to children's knowledge of grammatical terms (such as noun and verb) and use of words in the right context. Some questions will also require children to put in the appropriate punctuation marks to sentences, or to change the tense of a sentence.

Marking and Results

All the tests will be marked by teachers at Buckingham Park to help them judge the attainment and progress of your child.

Your child's score will be converted to a scaled score to allow it to be compared to others'. Scaled scores will normally range between 80 and 130. The scale will be set so that reaching a score of 100 will indicate that your child is working at the expected standard for the end of Key Stage 1. Higher scores indicate more advanced attainment, with lower scores suggesting that your child may need some additional support to catch up with his or her peers.

Teachers will use these scaled scores, and their knowledge of your child's attainment and progress in lessons throughout the year, to decide whether your child is working towards the expected standard or working at the expected standard. The teacher's assessment will be reported to you at the end of the school year as part of your child's school report.

How can you parents help?

- Your child's class teacher will share your child's targets with you at parents evening. Your child may benefit from additional practice at home in these areas. We will also be doing lots of practice in school!
- Ask your child about what they are learning in school. By talking it over, this will help reinforce what they have learnt and make even greater progress.
- Ensure your child attends school every day and on time. If they miss just one lesson it can be harder for them to catch up.
- Complete home learning tasks (reading, times tables, sentences) regularly
- Do lots of reading together and talk about books, stories, information with your child.