

Dear parents,

With the SATs just a few weeks away, here is a guide to what the week holds.

What are the SATs?

The SATs are Standard Assessment Tests which Year 6 children across the country sit in May; they test knowledge, understanding and application in Maths, Reading and Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling. These tests are standardised so that one year's results can be compared with another. Each child's result has an impact on the overall attainment and progress figures for the school.

How is the week organised?

There are six tests during the week, spread over four days – see below. There are three English papers and three Maths papers. The Punctuation and Grammar paper consists of 50 questions to be answered in 45 minutes. Children will be asked to identify different word classes and grammatical features, to identify correctly punctuated sentences and to edit and write their own grammatically correct and accurately punctuated sentences. The Spelling tests consists of 20 spellings, given both in isolation and in the context of a sentence. The Reading test is an hour long and consists of three different texts – fiction and non-fiction – which the children answer questions about. These questions range from information retrieval questions to inference and prediction questions. The Arithmetic paper consists of 36 questions, purely numerical rather than word problems, in 30 minutes. The two Maths Reasoning papers consist of application questions testing the whole range of KS2 mathematics from addition and subtraction to coordinates and the mean (and everything in-between!).

Monday 13th May	Tuesday 14th May	Wednesday 15th May	Thursday 16th May
Punctuation and Grammar	Reading	Arithmetic	Maths Reasoning
Spelling		Maths Reasoning	

How are results reported?

Results are published for the school to access on the Department for Education website on 9th July and will be sent home with children in their school reports. For English Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling, for Reading and for Maths, the children will be recorded as being 'at the expected standard' (AS) or 'not at the expected standard' (NS). The overall score for each test will be recorded as will a standardised score (for which there will be a detailed explanation). The overall school results will also be published in the reports. There are often questions from parents about how SATs results impact secondary school transition; the answer is that secondary schools will receive the SATs results but after they have spoken at length to staff from Northmead about each individual child. Achieving either an 'at expected standard' or 'not at expected standard' result in no way impacts transition to secondary school.

Breakfast?!

During the four days of SATs week, we encourage the children to join us in school from 8:10 for breakfast; croissants and bacon rolls (or a vegetarian alternative) will be served on alternate days. Coming in for breakfast is a great way to start the day and helps us to ensure all children are in

school in plenty of time and in the right frame of mind to sit the tests. If your child would rather not have croissants or bacon sandwiches, they are still very welcome to join everyone from 8:10. If your child would rather not come early for breakfast, we do ask that they are in school promptly after 8:30.

Ice cream?!

We have arranged for a local ice cream van to visit Northmead on the Thursday morning of SATs week as a treat for the children at the end of their tests. We have negotiated a deal where each ice cream or lolly will be £1.50. If children would like to purchase an ice cream, they need to bring £1.50 into school in the week beginning 6th May and hand it into their class teacher. Please could children bring the exact change and not bring more than the required amount.

What if my child is ill?

If your child is unwell or injured during SATs week, please contact the school as soon as possible – it is often easier to come to school, sit the test and then go home (this can be done in a separate room from everyone else), than arrange another time to sit the paper. Please note that being unwell does not mean you do not sit the paper; rather, it means that you sit another paper at a later date.

Morning Milers?

Morning Milers will continue to run during the week. We ask that children arrive to run at 8:00 so that they can join the rest of the year group for breakfast from 8:10.

Snacks?

During SATs week, the children can bring chocolate snacks – standard rather than giant size, please! (no wonder children like the week so much!). Please remember we are a 'no nuts' school. Please also remember to send your child in to school with a water bottle.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the week, please email Mr Kemp on 6k@northmead.surrey.sch.uk or your child's class teacher 6p@northmead.surrey.sch.uk, 6md@northmead.surrey.sch.uk.

The children have worked extremely hard all year to be prepared for SATs week; now it is time for them to show what they can do. The week will be over before we know it.

Year 6