

What happens to the other children in the school?

They continue with their normal work. The government has produced tests for children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and, although they are optional, we choose to use them during SATs time to check that the other children are making progress.

How you can help

- Don't take your child on holiday during term time.
- Make sure they get plenty of sleep during the SATs period. Although there is no disguising what is happening, children still benefit from a chance to relax and get some fresh air and exercise when the school day is over.
- Try not to make a big thing of it. Reassure children that if it 'goes wrong' on the day, we also submit Teacher Assessment data drawn from our knowledge of each child's work across the year. This assessment should carry an equal weighting with SATs and helps to give a balanced picture of what they can do.
- You can practise some of the activities at home. Use the homework for some work to do with your child. Refer to our recent publications on Maths, Calculation Strategies, Spelling Strategies and other material we have produced to support learning. Opt in to the Maths Games initiative and, if you are able, use the on-line resources at Grid Club and Planet Sherston. All of these can be found from the school's own website.
- Other useful sites include
 - www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/
 - www.e-learningforkids.org
 - www.writingfun.com
- Don't move on to new ground too fast. Make sure that they are confident at one skill before moving on to more complicated tasks.
- Practical activities which allow children to practise skills are particularly beneficial: for example, if cooking with your child, ask them to weigh ingredients.
- Give children the chance to talk over any worries.
- Attend the school's drop in session between 3.30 and 4.15 on XXX , with your child, if you have any questions or concerns about SATS.

To sum up

National Assessments are an important milestone in school life. They give useful information to the school and to the government. But it's important to get them in proportion. They are just one of the ways the school works out how well your child is doing. They shouldn't be stressful, and our children will continue to thrive as long as they know they have your support and understanding.



A guide to SATS in Key Stage Two

Overview

During May all 7- and 11-year-olds are formally assessed. These assessments are shared with other staff in the school, yourselves, the Local Authority and Central Government. These tests are designed to check that children in all schools are making progress. This booklet explains what actually happens during the testing period and how you can help your child.

The law says

- All children must be assessed at the end of Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. That means at the end of the Year 2 and at the end of Year 6.
- Assessments must take place in May. Key Stage One children can be assessed at any time in this month. Key Stage Two children across the country sit special tests often called SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests) during SATs week, the date of which is set many months in advance.
- 7-year-olds are assessed on speaking and listening, reading, writing, spelling, maths and science. Key Stage One teachers make the assessments themselves, and their marking can be checked by the authority's advisors or inspectors through a moderation process.
- Key Stage Two tests are sent away to be marked by outside experts. This is to make sure that all results are absolutely fair. 11-year-olds are also tested on reading, writing and maths, with new tests (from May 2013) on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG tests!). Some schools are also chosen as 'sample' schools for the testing of knowledge and understanding in science.

What happens at the end of Key Stage 2?

Although we already have a well-proven system for the on-going assessment of each child's abilities, alongside nearly every other Year 6 child in the country, every child is considered for inclusion in the government's Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). The tests sent to the school are new each year. The exact requirements have been changing in recent years, and some schools in 2012 (but not North Nibley) chose to mark their writing tests within their own school. Generally, however, these tests are marked externally. The tests are formal tests, with start times and a strict limit on the duration of the test. The test timetable is followed by all schools at the same time.

Reading



During the Reading Test children will be tested in written comprehension. The children will have a booklet containing a number of different texts – perhaps a story or recount, a diary, biography or other piece of non-fiction writing. After reading the booklet they answer questions about the texts they have read, and also about features of the writing, styles of presentation and authorial intention. They also have opportunities to share their own reactions and opinions on the texts. Children who struggle with reading are not allowed to be supported during the reading test, although they may ask questions about XXX

Writing



The Writing tests consist of a short and a longer piece of writing, and the purposes of these will be different, for example the children could be asked to produce a piece of persuasive writing and a magazine article. Prompts will be provided to get children thinking and children are given a short period of time to plan the structure of their texts. As well as an opportunity to be creative, the tests are marked to assess aspects of writing such as sentence construction, punctuation, awareness of audience, richness of vocabulary and understanding of the particular features of different types of text. All children are able to ask for help to understand the instructions, but adults cannot give the children any prompts, ideas or any other type of support. Handwriting will be assessed using these texts.

Spelling, Punctuation And Grammar tests (SPAG)

These tests will be new in 2013. Early indications are that children should be familiar choosing words which best fit a given sentence, matching tense, and

completing sentences with the correct punctuation. Children also need to be able to assign a word to the correct class, for example is it an adverb, or a noun. At North Nibley we have been slowly increasing the focus on these elements in classes 3 and 4 from September, and the children should be familiar with these requirements in May.

Maths



For many years children have been given three papers in maths – a short 'mental/oral' paper where quick thinking is required in response to timed questions played from an official CD. Two further papers are given which allow children to work through a series of questions at their own speed. These questions cover all of the work they have been doing in their numeracy lessons, including aspects of number, calculation, shape and space, measuring, fractions, decimals, percentages and proportions, data handling, problem solving and a little algebra. Your child is allowed to use some equipment – tracing paper, protractors and mirrors – in both papers, and in 2013 for the last time they can use a calculator in the final paper to tackle some harder questions. From 2014 there will be no calculator allowed. Children are expected to work out the answers on their own. There may be questions for which they will have to write an explanation of their 'working out'. Children can ask an adult to read the questions to them and the written answers are not judged on spelling or handwriting.

Does my child have to be assessed?

Yes, although teachers can enter special codes against a child's name when reporting their attainment. Severe learning difficulties, total lack of English or serious illness are the kinds of reasons that might lead to 'disapplication'. Nationally less than 1% of 11 years olds are disapplied or registered absent. Unfortunately, you can't withdraw your child because you don't agree with testing or because you think it might upset them. On-going Teacher Assessment judgements will be used if at all possible.

What happens if my child misses a test, or isn't ready for the tests?

If your child is absent, or if the tests described above are not appropriate for your child, on-going Teacher Assessment judgements will be used. Your child will not feature in the judgement on school effectiveness.