Dear Parents and Carers**,**

I hope you will find the following information useful with regard to the curriculum assessments for children in Year Six. Our aim at the school is to provide you with information about the arrangements that is factual and clear.

The information has mainly been drawn from the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) documents but we have also included information about how we as a school approach the curriculum assessments. We have also included some frequently asked questions with responses which we hope will be useful.

If you have any questions and would like to discuss anything further then please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Brown

## National curriculum tests

A new national curriculum was introduced in 2014. As a result, the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) have changed the tests so that they assess the new curriculum. Pupils will take the new tests for the second time in May 2017.

As part of the national curriculum review, levels have been abolished. There are also changes to the way the tests are reported. From 2016, we now report national curriculum test outcomes and parents will be informed if their child is either:

* Working at greater depth within the expected standard
* Working at the expected standard
* Working towards the expected standard or
* Working below the expected standard

## Scaled scores

A pupil’s scaled score will be based on their raw score. The pupil’s raw score will be translated into a scaled score using a conversion table.

A pupil who achieves the national standard will have demonstrated sufficient knowledge in the areas assessed by the tests. The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) state that the scale 100 will always represent the ‘national standard’. The scale will have a lower end point below 100 and an upper end point above 100.

The STA can’t give full information about what the scale will look like for this year yet. They need to wait until pupils have taken the tests and the tests have been marked before they can set the national standard and the rest of the scale.

The vast majority of the information in this document has been taken directly from the STA website.

**KEY STAGE TWO – Year Six**

For 2019, KS2 national curriculum will consist of:

* English reading : reading booklet and associated answer booklet
* English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: short answer questions
* English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
* mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
* mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
* mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

### KS2 English reading test

The English reading test has a greater focus on fictional texts. There is also a greater emphasis on the comprehension elements of the new curriculum. The test consists of a reading booklet and a separate answer booklet.

Pupils will have a total of 1 hour to read the 3 texts in the reading booklet and complete the questions at their own pace. There will be a mixture of genres of text. The least-demanding text will come first with the following texts increasing in level of difficulty..

Pupils can approach the test as they choose: eg working through one text and answering the questions before moving on to the next. The questions are worth a total of 50 marks.

At Great Wilbraham, we encourage children to read the question carefully and underline the key words. After that they need to refer back to the text for the evidence that backs up their answers.

### KS2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test

The grammar, punctuation and spelling test has a greater focus on knowing and applying grammatical terminology with the full range of punctuation tested.

The national curriculum sets out clearly which technical terms in grammar are to be learnt by pupils and these are explicitly included in the test and detailed in the test framework. It also defines precise spelling patterns and methodologies to be taught, and these are the basis of spellings in the test. There will be no contextual items in the test.

There are two papers, Paper 1: questions and Paper 2: spelling.

Paper 1: questions consists of a single test paper. Pupils will have 45 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper. The questions are worth 50 marks in total.

Paper 2: Spelling consists of an answer booklet for pupils to complete and a test transcript to be read by the test administrator. Pupils will have approximately 15 minutes to complete the test, but it is not strictly timed, by writing the 20 missing words in the answer booklet. The questions are worth 20 marks in total.

**KS2 English Writing: Teacher Assessment**

There is no formal writing test for children in Key Stage 2. Writing is assessed by teachers and not within a test. The teacher will look at the child’s **independent** written work across the curriculum in order to make a judgement. This is writing that the child has done without support, help or guidance from an adult.

The judgements teachers make about children’s writing will be moderated and validated by other teachers in school and from other schools. These judgements may be moderated and validated by the Local Authority, acting for the Department of Education. This will take place in a random sample of schools at the end of the summer term.

#### KS2 mathematics test

There are 3 papers; Paper 1: arithmetic; Paper 2: reasoning; and Paper 3: reasoning.

Paper 1: The arithmetic test assesses basic mathematical calculations. The test consists of a single test paper. Pupils will have 30 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper. The paper consists of 36 questions which are worth a total of 40 marks. The questions will cover straightforward addition and subtraction and more complex calculations with fractions worth 1 mark each, and long divisions and long multiplications worth 2 marks each.

Papers 2 and 3 each consist of a single test paper. Pupils will have 40 minutes to complete each test, answering the questions in the test paper. Each paper will have questions worth a total of 35 marks. In some answer spaces, where pupils need to show their method, square grids are provided for the questions on the arithmetic paper and some of the questions on Paper 2.

**Administration**

The tests are administered under formal conditions, timed for all papers except spelling.

The test timetable is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday 13th May | Reading |
| Tuesday 14th May | English grammar, punctuation and spelling (both papers) |
| Wednesday 15th May | Mathematics Paper 1 and 2 |
| Thursday 16th May | Mathematics Paper 3 |

Local Authority staff can visit at any point to ensure that the tests are being administered correctly and to check on secure storage. The tests are collected for external marking.

Results are made available to schools before the end of the summer term. Results are reported to parents and secondary schools.

**Scaled Scores in reading, SPaG and mathematics**

The government have planned that the score ‘100’ will be used in all tests and will always represent the ‘national standard’. There will be a scale. The scale will have a lower end somewhere below 100 and an upper end point above 100.

Each child’s raw test score from each test paper will be converted into a score on the scale, either at, above or below 100. They will be judged as having met the Age Related Standards for the end of the Key Stage if they score 100 or above.

**Reporting to parents**

In July 2019 each pupil in **Year 6** will receive their **test** results as follows:

* A raw score (number of marks gained in the test)
* A scaled score in each subject
* Confirmation of whether they have attained the national standard or not.
* Moderated teacher assessment judgement in writing whether pupils are working below expected standard, working towards expected standard, working at expected standard or working at a greater depth within the expected standard

If the scaled score is below 100 pupils will have been judged not to have met the national standard and are performing below the national standard set for their age.

If pupils score 100 they will have been judged to have met the national standard set for their age.

If pupils score above 100 they will have been judged to be demonstrating a deeper than expected knowledge and understanding of the curriculum for their age.

**How we will implement the assessments at GWPS:**

We will prepare the children to be ready!

We will guide the children through!

We will provide healthy snacks and drinks throughout the test day

We will support the children’s wellbeing and provide guidance emotionally and academically

**FAQ**

**How can I help my child right now?**

* Encourage your child to do the homework that is set.
* Encourage your child to read each day.
* Ensure they are fluent with their tables.
* Keep learning the keywords.
* Find opportunities for your child to use numbers in everyday situations (telling the time, using money etc) and encourage them to work out sums in their head.
* Try some of the writing workshop games from the parent workshops.
* Encourage your child to follow up interests and talk to them about it.
* Talk to your child about what they are learning at school.
* Make sure your child is confident with telling the time using analogue and digital.
* Continue with the normal daily routine – as you know, a good night’s sleep and a good breakfast helps them learn.
* Keep the weekend before calm with early nights.
* Keep the week of the Sats stress free and as normal as possible with more early nights!

**Why are there tests as well as teacher assessment?**

Tests and teacher assessment measure your child’s achievement in different ways.

*Tests* measure what all children can do when they are set the same questions. They also help teachers identify strengths and weaknesses in children’s understanding.

*Teacher assessment* judges your child’s performance across the whole subject over time.

At the end of Key Stage Two, the tests are externally marked and then returned back to be reported to parents. It is only through writing that teacher assessment that a collection of evidence is used to provide confirmation of the judgement.

**Do we talk to the children about it?**

The children are aware of these assessments and we work carefully with them to explain about how proud we are with their progression and to do their best in everything they do. We say to the children that they should see them as a chance to show off what they have learnt so far this year. We are not expecting them to get everything right but ask that they do their very best.

**What support will my child get?**

During the maths tasks the children can have questions read out to them. In the english tasks, no reading support is given to allow the children to produce independent work but encouragement is given throughout.