

Exam Revision: KS2 SATs

A Guide for Parents

Year 6 is a very demanding year for children, as they revise and practise all the skills they have learnt throughout primary education in preparation for the KS2 SATs tests. It can be daunting for parents too, as you try to figure out the best way to support your child during this essential year. To begin with, you need to help your child stay calm and stress-free (for more information on this, please see [KS2 SATs: Beating Exam Stress Guide for Parents](#)). You will also need to help your child revise for these exams. Learning how to revise is a skill in itself, and your child will need your help in developing this skill. How and when they revise for a test can make a huge impact on how well a child performs. Too much revision can create stress and prevent your child from doing their best. Too little, and they could miss out on important learning and consolidation of key facts and understanding. Also, choosing what to revise can impact the effectiveness of revision. If your child is already very good at doing something, it is a waste of time going over it again when they could be working on a topic that they struggle with.

As a parent, you will naturally want your child to do their best and you will worry about the best way to support them during the exam period. By following these simple tips, you will be able to help your child prepare for their exams in school. The tips are set out into three specific sections: 'How to Help Your Child During Year 6', 'How to Help Your Child in the Weeks Before the SATs' and 'SATs Week'. Although these tips are aimed at helping children with SATs in year 6, they can be used for any important exam year.

How to Help Your Child during Year 6

First and foremost, be guided by your child's school. Teachers will send home what they think is an appropriate amount of homework, and will also select what topic(s) your child needs to work on.

It's best to stick to a timetable throughout this year for work at home. Let your child be part of creating this timetable too. They will help you decide when is best for them to do their homework. Would they like to do a little every night after school? Or would they prefer to do some homework over the weekend?

If you find that there is time for additional revision, speak to your child and ask them which areas they feel less confident in and would like to practise more. Use this knowledge to influence revision and home activities.

You can select resources from the Twinkl website which will help your child with the areas they need or wish to work on. When helping your child to revise, try to vary the style of activity that they do – don't just stick to worksheets! For example, your child could estimate the total when you're out shopping, or you could play games to practise spellings (see [10 Spelling Activities to Do at Home](#)).

You could also speak to your child's class teacher and ask them what your child needs to focus on at home. Most schools will send home targets at points throughout the year, or discuss them with you at parents' evening, so use these pointers to help support your child.

Some parents like to hire a private tutor for their children during year 6. This might be an option you'd like to consider yourself, as they can be very useful. Have a look online or speak to other parents you know who have used a tutor before – they may be able to recommend a good one!

How to Help Your Child in the Weeks before SATs

So you've made it through the year, and you're now down to the last six weeks or so before the SATs exams. During this period, it's really important to stick to your routine and ensure that your child is getting enough rest, a healthy diet and lots of downtime too!

You may wish to use the practice resources on the Twinkl site to help practise for the upcoming tests. The [Twinkl SATs Packs for Parents and Carers](#) are a great starting point as they contain practice tests which you can complete with your child to help them become familiar with answering questions in the SATs style.

If you spot something on a practice test that your child is particularly struggling with, use this as teaching point and do more practice in this area. For instance, if your child really struggles to spell words ending in -cious or -tious, this could become the focus of a revision session. Remember to vary the learning when revising - these spellings could be practised in the car or revised as part of a game.

SATS Week

So the big week has finally arrived. Your child has been building up for this all year and is ready to perform at their best. Hopefully, they will be feeling confident after all the practice they have done. Remember to show a confident front yourself - don't act stressed or nervous as this could impact on your child. Stay calm and relaxed, and don't make the SATs exams into a huge deal (they're just like the practice ones your child has already done, after all!)

Make sure you take the weekend before SATs week off from all school work and revision. Plan something fun and revision-free. Your child has been working hard all year, so there's no point cramming in any last-minute revision. As a family, try to relax, have fun and rest in preparation for the big week.

During SATs week:

- Make sure you stick to a bedtime routine and your child gets plenty of sleep.
- Ensure your child continues to eat a balanced diet throughout the week.
- Help your child to get up early in the morning so that you have plenty of time to get ready and get to school on time. The last thing you want is the stress of racing to get to school on time before a SATs exam.
- Get out and get active. Hopefully the weather will be good, so make sure your child gets outdoors and does some exercise after school.
- Plan something fun for when the SATs tests are over. Your child has worked hard for the whole year in preparation for this week, so ensure they have something to look forward to at the end, such as a cinema trip, a trip to their favourite restaurant or a day out.



And finally...

You know your child best and will be able to determine how much or how little revision to do and when they need to take a break. Let your child set the pace; if they seem extremely tired, try not to force them to do revision even if it is timetabled. Be flexible with revision. Remember, children do lots of work in school, so use your parental intuition to make the best decision for your child.

Also, keep things in perspective! Although SATs are used to some extent to inform secondary schools, when your child moves on to high school the school will use its own internal assessment processes to group pupils in a way which ensures that teaching is matched to ability.



Don't forget that, while SATs are important and we all want our children to do well, these tests only assess a few small aspects of your child's talents and abilities. They DON'T assess whether your child is a good friend, if they can play a musical instrument, are good at a sport, if they make others laugh or are talented at art or cooking. Children shine in many different ways – not just in maths and English – so remember to celebrate all your child's achievements.