



## Preparing For Year 6

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There are lots of ways that you can support your child in getting ready for Year 6. **There are a number of new skills that children need in KS2.** Here are some things that you can do at home to help them develop these essential skills.

- If your child is anxious about being dropped off, encourage them to find a friend they can stay with until it's time to go into the classroom.
- In KS2, children are expected to be more independent when working in groups. This involves a whole raft of new skills, such as listening to each other, explaining ideas clearly, taking turns, helping others, allowing everyone to contribute, and pulling the group's ideas together into the end product. Look for opportunities to practise group work at home, such as baking a cake together, with one person reading the recipe and the other weighing out the ingredients, or collaborating with siblings or friends on making a Lego model.
- Check your child's homework diary regularly, and encourage them to decide when they want to do their work: would they rather get it out of the way as soon as they get home, or do it later when they've had a chance to relax? Be available to help with homework, but avoid hovering over your child while they're doing it: it's important that they learn to work independently, and that the work they hand in is their own.
- Children in KS2 are expected to take more responsibility for organising themselves, for example by remembering to bring their reading books and PE kit to school on the relevant days. It's also common for teachers to expect children to pass on messages from school themselves, rather than sending letters home. Get your child into the habit of unpacking and repacking their school bag themselves the evening before. Prompt them to pass on messages by asking them regularly if there's anything you need to know. Check the school website regularly to ensure you don't miss any important messages or events.
- There's a lot less hand-holding in KS2, with children being expected to work independently and try to solve problems themselves rather than needing the teacher to point them in the right direction. There are lots of ways to **build your child's independence at home**, for example by giving them some household responsibilities. If they're stuck on a homework task, don't step in with the solution; instead, encourage them to work it out themselves by asking questions such as, 'Where do you think you could look for help with this?' or, 'Can you come up with three possible solutions, then decide which one would be best?'
- Being able to concentrate for longer periods goes hand-in-hand with the ability to work independently. In KS2, children need to get used to staying on task for increasing lengths of time, maintaining their focus and avoiding distracting other kids. A good night's sleep and a decent breakfast before school are vital to children's concentration, and they need to be well hydrated, too, so provide a water bottle for them to keep on their desk (with the teacher's permission). You can also improve their concentration skills by playing family games that involve focusing on the task in hand, such as Scrabble, draughts, board games.
- At some point in KS2 children usually become 'free readers', having finished the school reading scheme. They'll be expected to choose their own books, either from the school library or the class bookshelf; they may also be allowed to choose a reading book from



home. Taking your child to your local public library is a good way to get them used to picking books that tap into their interests. They can then use this skill to choose books at school.

- Children are expected to be able to write at greater length and to develop their writing by using more sophisticated sentence structures and a range of grammar. Encourage your child's communication skills by making plenty of time to talk as a family, such as over the dinner table. Give them lots of experiences to inform their writing, such as visiting farms, beaches, the countryside and museums: it's easiest to write about what we know. Keeping a diary is another great way to practise writing.

In KS2, children can graduate from writing in pencil to using a pen. Our children have to earn a 'pen licence' by demonstrating that their handwriting is good enough. Practice makes perfect, so spending some time helping your child with handwriting exercises will help them make the transition from pencil to pen. Our school uses Berol (or similar brand) Handwriting Pens.

Y6 is also a very important year as it is the Year of the **SATs** tests and the year they will choose their secondary school. Below are some tips that will help your child prepare for the SATs tests:

11 tips for helping with **SATs** preparation:

1. Talk about the SATs and tell them not worry about them. The school will also do this, too, but it makes a bigger impact if school and parents do this together. Children perform best when they are relaxed.
2. Reading is a key part of primary education so keep encouraging daily reading whether your child reads on their own or if you read together. Discuss the books, the characters, the storylines and encourage your child to express their own opinions on the book. This is important to their long term development as well as SATs test.
3. Play mental games when you are on the way home whether you are walking or driving. Playing card games, Uno, Monopoly and dominoes all help with Maths. Whereas games like hangman, Boggle or Scrabble will support with literacy,
4. You can buy test papers and work through them with your child. There are a wide range available to buy and some schools send them home too. Your child will be doing lots of tests in school so only do more if your child enjoys their challenge. If your child doesn't like them, it is counter productive to force them to do more.
5. If you are searching for SATs paper on the internet, remember there are a limited number of new style SATs papers as they only began in 2016. It is best to avoid looking at these with your child as your school will use them for practice. For additional free Maths papers you could look at what [Third Space Learning](#) have to offer.
6. There are lots of revision guides available to buy. You do not have to get one but if your child is reassured by having a book why not choose one together.
7. Try to keep everything else running normally. So whether its sport, or Scouts and Guides; sticking to your normal routine of out of school activities demonstrates to your child that SATs are not the be and end all of year 6.
8. During the SATs week, whilst keeping to normal timetable, try to avoid late nights, as children will find sitting the tests tiring.
9. Try to make sure your child has some fresh air when they come home from school on test days.
10. Keep it in proportion. They are primary-school tests to gauge the education in the school and do not affect the secondary school your child will go to.
11. Stay positive. Many children enjoy taking the tests as they see it as a challenge and like the importance and the feeling of being special that SATs give year 6.



# Busill Jones Primary school

Remember you do not have to do more tests with your child or teach them. The most important thing is to give your child lots of praise as they will be doing their very best.

**The best praise is when you tell them how hard they have worked or tried rather than for the score they have achieved. If they feel they have not got a good score in their practices, the important word here is 'yet', they haven't got a good score yet!**

In Maths you should be able to:

- To read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 million
- To count forwards and backwards in multiples of 10 from any given number
- To use column addition to add number with more than 4 digits.
- To use column subtraction to take away numbers with more than 4 digits
- To recognise and know prime and square numbers
- To be able to multiply numbers up to 4 digits by a 1 or 2 digit number, e.g.  $2543 \times 23 =$
- To divide numbers up to 4 digits by a 1 digit number. E.g.  $1543 \div 3 =$
- To add and subtract fractions with the same denominator
- To read, write and order numbers with up to three decimal places
- Identify and know the properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- To be able to read and interpret information from time tables and charts in a practical context. E.g. working out which is the best bus/train to catch or how long the journey would take.
- Tell time to the nearest minute
- To know all multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$

In English you should be able to:

- To write for a range of audiences and purposes
- To increase their writing stamina, proofreading and editing their work as they write
- To use a full range of punctuation correctly in their written work
- To write in paragraphs that are suitably linked, e.g. using fronted adverbials to suggest a change in time or place
- To use relative clauses that begin with a range of relative pronouns, e.g. Professor Scriffle, who was a famous inventor, had made a new discovery.
- To be able to spell some of the year 5 and 6 words correctly.
- To use modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility, e.g. surely, perhaps, should, might
- To spell a wider range of homophones correctly, e.g. affect/effect, practice/practise
- To write legibly, fluently and with increased speed using joined handwriting.

You also need to:

- Write your name clearly in all of your clothing and belongings
- Know what you need to take to school and bring home each day
- Be able to tie and untie your own show laces
- Be comfortable celebrating others' achievements, as well as receiving praise for your own.