



St Mark's C of E Junior School
Robert Burns Avenue
Cheltenham
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Headteacher: Mrs A Fitch

All enquiries: admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Friday 8th May 2026

Dear Families,

As you will be aware, your child will be sitting the National Curriculum SATs tests next week.

The children have worked extremely hard with Mrs Bonser, Mrs Hopkinson, Mr Averis, and Mr Sim supported brilliantly by Miss Ryman, Mrs Edmondson and Mrs Welch using very structured revision timetable to ensure they are prepared for these tests. We very much see the tests as an opportunity for the children to celebrate all that they have understood and learned during the last 4 years – a challenge to be relished!

I have asked Mr Sim to read this letter out to the children in my absence today, to praise them for how hard they have worked. I also hope that this will have reminded your child that, although these tests have their place, they do not reflect how special and unique each child is. The score that your child achieves in these tests (included in their Annual Report, to be sent to parents during the week of 6th July) will tell you something but not everything. There is not, and shall never be, a way to test all of the amazing things that makes each child who they really are.

St Mark's is a place where each individual child is nurtured, celebrated and inspired to succeed in every way, within a broad curriculum, underpinned by our vision and values. This is the context for learning that we continue to provide, testing or no testing! We shared this poem with the children today, which captures a lovely perspective:

**SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.
So sitting at your table with a pencil and your test
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember you're the best!**





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We're looking forward to welcoming the children for SATs breakfast from 8am each morning (entering through the hall doors, behind the willow tree). This is a super way for the children to start the day with their friends in a calm, settled and relaxed atmosphere. ***A huge thank you to SMOOSC, to the PTA Team and parent helpers who have offered to help in making SATs breakfast happen.***

Just to remind you all that the tests will take place on each morning following the timetable below:

Monday 11th May	Tuesday 12th May	Wednesday 13th May	Thursday 14th May
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1 (45 mins) Paper 2 (20 mins)	Reading (60 mins)	Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic (30 mins) Paper 2: Reasoning (40 mins)	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning (40mins)

After each test, the children will take a breather and enjoy some collaborative activities planned for the remainder of each day.

I hope you will join me in reminding your child how utterly proud we are of them and that your child has such a special, significant part to play in each context they find themselves in; no-one will play that part quite as well as they do!

Have a super weekend and we look forward to having a great week next week!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs A Fitch
Headteacher

