Changes to Year 2 Assessments 2016

In the Summer term 2016, children at the end of Key Stage 1 will sit new SATs papers. That means that if your child is in **Year 2**, they will be among the first pupils to take the new test. SATs have been overhauled in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to reflect the changes to the national curriculum, which was introduced from September 2014.

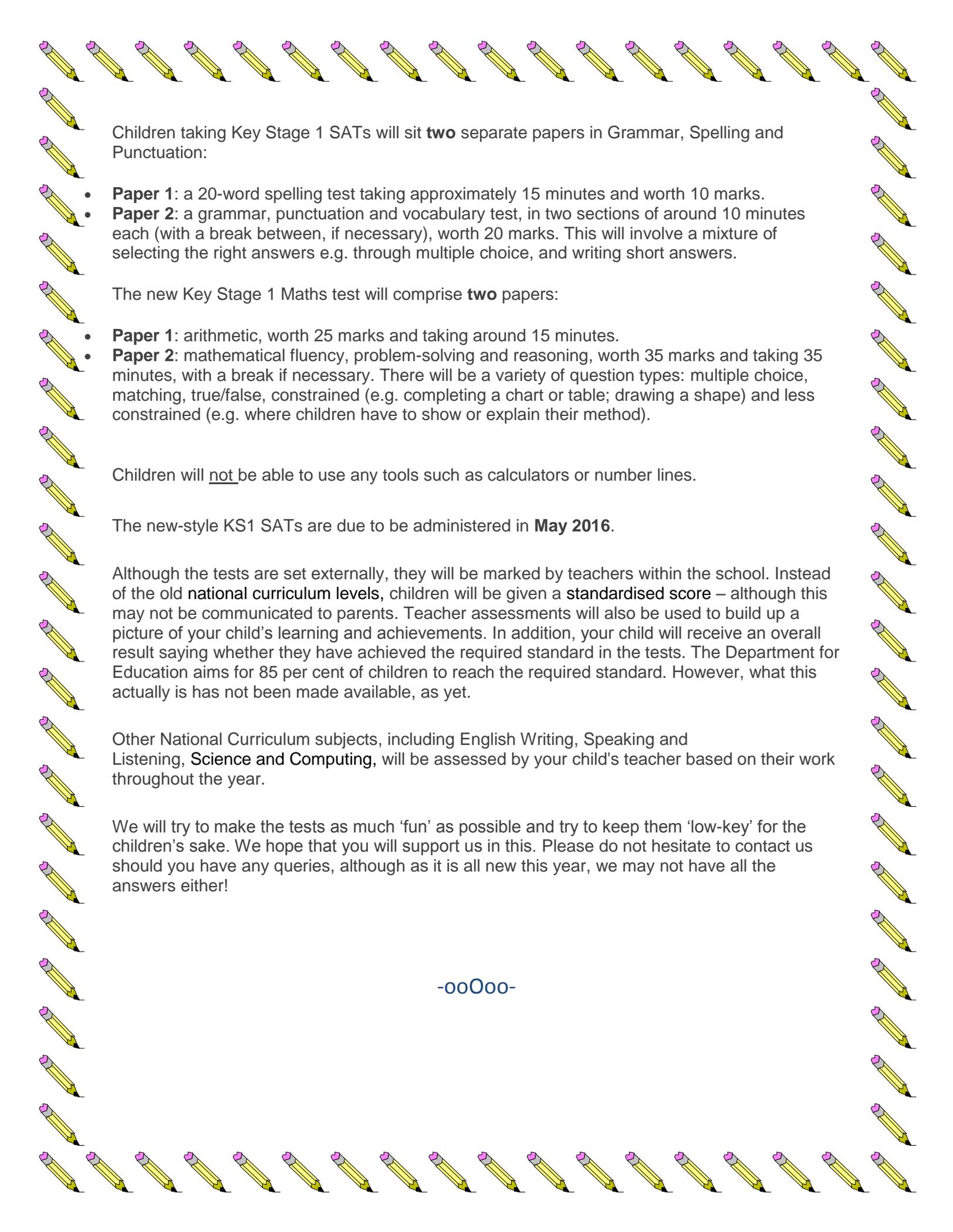In **May**, Year 2 children will take SATs in:

- **Reading**
- **English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling**

- **Maths**

The new **Reading** test for Year 2 pupils will involve **two** separate papers:

- **Paper 1** consists of a selection of texts totalling 400 to 700 words, with questions interspersed
- **Paper 2** comprises a reading booklet of a selection of passages totalling 800 to 1100 words. Children will write their answers in a separate booklet. Each paper is worth 50 per cent of the marks, and should take around 30 minutes, but children will not be strictly timed, as the tests are not intended to assess children's ability to work at speed. The texts in the reading papers will cover a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, and will get progressively more difficult towards the end of the test. Teachers will have the option to stop the test at any point that they feel is appropriate for a particular child.

There will be a variety of question types:

- Multiple choice
- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show in which order they happened in the story'
- Matching, e.g. 'Match the character to the job that they do in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that shows what the weather was like in the story'
- Short answer, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended answer, e.g. 'Why did Lucy write the letter to her grandmother? Give two reasons...

Children taking Key Stage 1 SATs will sit **two** separate papers in Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation:

- **Paper 1**: a 20-word spelling test taking approximately 15 minutes and worth 10 marks.
- **Paper 2**: a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test, in two sections of around 10 minutes each (with a break between, if necessary), worth 20 marks. This will involve a mixture of selecting the right answers e.g. through multiple choice, and writing short answers.

The new Key Stage 1 Maths test will comprise **two** papers:

- **Paper 1**: arithmetic, worth 25 marks and taking around 15 minutes.
- **Paper 2**: mathematical fluency, problem-solving and reasoning, worth 35 marks and taking 35 minutes, with a break if necessary. There will be a variety of question types: multiple choice, matching, true/false, constrained (e.g. completing a chart or table; drawing a shape) and less constrained (e.g. where children have to show or explain their method).

Children will <u>not </u>be able to use any tools such as calculators or number lines.

The new-style KS1 SATs are due to be administered in **May 2016**.

Although the tests are set externally, they will be marked by teachers within the school. Instead of the old national curriculum levels, children will be given a standardised score – although this may not be communicated to parents. Teacher assessments will also be used to build up a picture of your child's learning and achievements. In addition, your child will receive an overall result saying whether they have achieved the required standard in the tests. The Department for Education aims for 85 per cent of children to reach the required standard. However, what this actually is has not been made available, as yet.

Other National Curriculum subjects, including English Writing, Speaking and Listening, Science and Computing, will be assessed by your child's teacher based on their work throughout the year.

We will try to make the tests as much 'fun' as possible and try to keep them 'low-key' for the children's sake. We hope that you will support us in this. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries, although as it is all new this year, we may not have all the answers either!

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