

Pre/Primary School

Director : Richard I'Anson

Dilhayat Sokak, No:18, 34337, Etiler, Istanbul

Tel: +90 212 257 5136 Ext: 125
Fax: +90 212 257 7628

Email: richardianson@bis.k12.tr



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Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware, our school dates (the week of 6 June, 2016) for the sitting the Key Stage SATs are quickly approaching and we would like to share with you a few key points for this year.

First and foremost, we will be using SATs as a diagnostic (checking our strengths and areas for development) opportunity both for our students' learning journey and for assessing our teaching strategies. Just as we encourage students to set goals and review their progress, SATs provide us with one (of many!) way to reflect on the effectiveness of our teaching. This is especially important with the transition over the past two years to the new National Curriculum. Secondly, as we are an international school, SATs provide us with a method to ensure standardization of expectations between England and ourselves. In other words, they help us learn where your child is in the curriculum and where we can develop our teaching.

This year, our Year 6 and Year 2 students will use the current 2016 SATs, the first set based on the new curriculum, for Reading, Punctuation and Grammar, and Mathematics. The Punctuation and Grammar for KS1 has had some controversy in the UK due to several questions being temporarily available, we feel they will still be a valuable diagnostic tool. The mathematics has had a noticeable change with the introduction of an arithmetic paper and a reasoning paper (two for Y6, one for Y2). Finally, Y2 and Y6 will both have a formal reading SATs.

In the past, parents received an official SATs letter in with their child's report card. Unfortunately, this year, we are unable to share any official outcomes with parents before the end of the school year. As this is the first year of the new curriculum SATs, the government needs to collect and mark all the assessments from England and then set the scores for expected progress. The students' scores will now be presented as scaled scores appropriate to age rather than general levels of attainment. While your child's teacher can share your child's marks, they will be unable to give you a scaled score until they are officially released by the British Government in July.

As part of our Assessment Week, Year 1, 3, 4, and 5 will also be sitting diagnostic/summative assessments. Year 1 will have several short assessments on reading, punctuation, grammar and spelling, mathematics, and the phonics screening. Year 3 through 5 will have a round of optional SATs (covering reading, punctuation, grammar and spelling, and mathematics). Finally, all primary students will participate in a writing task. These results are not officially published however your child's class teacher will be able to share results with you according to working toward, meeting, or working above year level expectations.

Above all, please be assured that we do our very best to ensure the students participate in Assessment Week with a relaxed yet sensible attitude. Emphasis should be placed on using these assessments as a tool to see where they are in their learning journey and to help teachers, themselves, and parents plan for their next educational steps. Tests can help show us where we can go next, not where we didn't make it to now!

Yours sincerely,

Cara Frigeri
Primary Curriculum Coordinator

