



Wilson's PFA

Report on the 2026 Familiarisation Tests

Cohort

1164 children (804 boys and 360 girls) sat the test in June 2026.

Your child's result

This has been provided on the email sent by the Wilson's PFA FamTest team.

The standardised score gives an indication of a candidate's result compared to all the others who sat the FamTest this year. It also provides weighting for the relative difficulty of the two tests so that the results are directly comparable. With the formula we have used, a child performing at the average level will have a standardised score of 100. The standard score is **not** adjusted for age. we do not provide details of the formula, but several explanations of standardised scores can be found online.

It is not possible to indicate a "cut off" mark for the selective eligibility test because this always depends on the cohort sitting the real tests. Please note that we are unable to give further feedback on your child's performance and we do not make their papers available to you.

Marking

The papers (as in the real exam) were scanned and marked electronically followed by manual checking. All discrepancies (primarily as a result of badly filled out answer sheets – some advice on this is below) were reconciled and resolved.

Feedback

One practice test with a relatively small mixed cohort cannot be conclusive evidence about your child's chances in the wide range of grammar school tests. However, the experience **will** tell you whether your child can perform well under examination conditions, give you tips on how to make it as stress free as possible and in addition give you some idea of their standing in relation to others. *Most importantly*, it highlights some areas of relative strength and weakness and hence shows where more work might be needed to help you and your child allocate time and focus effectively.

Mathematics

The 45-minute maths paper contained 50 questions and was marked out of 50. Some children did not understand all of the questions and asked for them to be explained. Unfortunately, this is something that invigilators are not permitted to do and it is worth letting your child know this to avoid any distress. Average Scores were reasonably consistent across the sections; pleasingly Sections A&B were very strong. Sections C (shapes and volumes) and E (questions requiring a range of skills in order to solve mathematical problems) were less well attempted however. The application of Mathematics is just as important as knowledge of it.

English

The 45-minute English paper contained 31 questions and was marked out of 50. Some questions scored multiple marks as they required a decision whether to select more than one answer. It was clear from the distribution of marks that candidates found the English paper more challenging than the Mathematics, **despite many finishing it far too quickly**. The English paper primarily tests comprehension, so it is essential that children routinely read a wide range of good quality (fiction or non-fiction) texts for pleasure, which exposes to a range of vocabulary and text types, to equip them to respond well to questions of comprehension. We would advise you to encourage your child to use **all** of the time allocated to each paper because although there is no official 'working out' to do for the English paper, better use of time for close reading and careful thinking may result in more correct answers.

Examination Procedures

For the real examination, you want to ensure your child is calm and well prepared. Fortune favours the well prepared!

1. We appreciate that the tests can be challenging for parents as well as for children! However, your child needs you to be as calm as possible so that they do not panic. The exam queue really isn't the place for last minute reminders, but rather just encouragement e.g., "*just do your best*" – "*it will be fine*". We would advise talking about the treat you are planning after the test (and we think there should always be a little one!). Even if you do not feel calm, it is the best mood to project.
2. It was good to see that almost all children arrived on time for the mock tests - perfect preparation for the real thing. Arriving in good time ensures your child is as calm as possible.
3. A small number of children arrived without a pencil or a good quality eraser (the latter necessary to correct answers). Whilst schools usually have a few spares, this cannot be relied upon. Some arrived with rucksacks, pencil cases or water bottles with writing on them – none of which are allowed in examination halls. Again, it is important for the examination guidelines outlined in the instructions to be followed.
4. Watches of any kind are **not permitted** in examination halls. This will be the case for your child's GCSE and A level examinations as well, so it is worth getting them into the habit of removing these before they enter the exam hall.
5. If a school asks you to bring a printout of the invitation letter, it is important that you do so. If you have any difficulty with this, you must get in touch in advance. Your child will not be allowed into the exam room without first being properly identified and this again can cause last minute and avoidable stress. In addition, if it is the last working day before the exam and you haven't received your invitation letter, first check your spam filter and then call the relevant school.
6. If your child might require medication during any test (even a practice one), this cannot be discussed on arrival but must be put in any application in advance so that appropriate provision can be made. Even for practice tests, any special needs that your child might have must be discussed with the test organiser in advance – changes cannot usually be made on the day itself. If a practice test is to be a practice in the truest sense, children must have the same adjustments as they will in the real thing.
7. Despite all children going to the toilet before the test starts and being given a toilet break at the end of the Mathematics paper, a number of children ask to go to the toilet during the tests using up time that could be spent answering questions. You may want to encourage your child to make use of the time before the test and in the break, given that extra time is not added if they leave the exam room.
8. Please check the pickup times carefully. It's understandably quite upsetting for a child if they are the last to be collected! However, also remember that end times are always approximate given the number of children involved. This is another reason why driving and trying to park near the school is most unwise. If the pick-up time says (for example) 11:45, it is an approximate indication, not a fixed time and you may therefore have to wait longer for your child.
9. Children must be picked up by a known adult. Schools will not dismiss children from tests alone or with another child.

In general terms, your child should be advised to answer all of the questions – if they don't know the answer or they are running out of time, a guess is more likely to succeed than a blank! In addition, they should **never** write in pen, as it makes it impossible to change answers. A good eraser is essential. **Questions with more answers than required are always marked as incorrect.**

Blank practice sheets can be found online, it may be worth time practising filling in and erasing on a dummy answer sheet.

One final and very important piece of advice. If your child is struggling with a question, it should be left and returned to, rather than them spending an undue amount of time on it.

Please accept our very best wishes for the future. Good luck!

Wilson's PFA Team