

Headteacher

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Year Six National Curriculum Assessments (sometimes referred to as SATs)

As you may be aware, it is statutory for every child in Year Six to sit tests in reading, maths and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) during the week beginning Monday 13th May 2019. These tests give a rough outline of what your child can achieve on the day the test is taken. It is **not** a true representation of what your child can achieve, as like all tests, it does depend on many other variables. Therefore the information and discussions we have with your child's next school is much more important and broader as we will discuss the 'whole child' and the whole curriculum rather than what your child can do on one given day.

With this in mind it is imperative that no pressure at all is placed on our children. As a school we expect the children to challenge themselves and do their best, but under no circumstances will we put needless pressure on your child. We do tell the children that this is their chance to '*show off*' their knowledge.

The children have already started exploring some SATs papers and questions in preparation for this week. However, we only start revision for these tests in school after the Easter break as it is vital we do not narrow the curriculum we offer your child. We will discuss with our children how to approach test questions as taking tests is a skill in itself. Some people thrive in these circumstances, whereas some people do not. What we must do is ensure our children enjoy the process as much as possible as they will be tested for many years to come, be it academic, driving test etc.

We will not be having a parent 'SATs' meeting as there are only three differences to the week that the children will notice:

- The children will be invited to breakfast each day, which has proved fun in the past
- The children will be silent for set periods as they complete the statutory tests
- In true academic tradition, the children will have a party on the Friday to celebrate their achievements

Many parents ask what they can do to help. Parents can help by ensuring their child has plenty of sleep, opportunities to relax and can also help by doing some revision with them, but not too much. Mr Neary will send out packs next week - revision is all about little and often. This is the only school break that 'homework' is set by the teachers, but this will help the children prepare for the tests. What we have to avoid is the children not having the knowledge so they cannot access aspects of the test. By doing a little bit of daily revision will only help your child.

The timetable for the week is:

- **Monday May 13th 2019:** SPaG Test- Grammar/Punctuation- *45 minutes*
- **Monday May 13th 2019:** SPaG Test- Spelling- *20 minutes*
- **Tuesday May 14th 2019:** Reading Test- *60 minutes*
- **Wednesday May 15th 2019:** Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)- *30 minutes*
- **Wednesday May 15th 2019:** Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)- *40 minutes*
- **Thursday May 16th 2019:** Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)- *40 minutes*

Should your child be ill during this week it is vital you contact the school as soon as possible. I will call you back and we will discuss arrangements for your child to complete this test at the earliest convenience.

If you have any questions please discuss with Mr Neary, Mrs Sandon-Webb or myself.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



John Galvin
Headteacher