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## SATs Update – April 2024

Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

As you will know, the KS2 SATs take place two weeks on Monday and so I am just resharing previously distributed information about how the week will go and what your child is to expect.

Please find attached the 2024 Information for Parents provided by the Standards and Testing Agency, also.

### How the tests will be administered

Tests are administered following guidance from the Standards and Testing Agency (STA). They must be administered on the correct day, as stated by STA, but the timing of this is decided by the individual school and we will complete ours around 9:30am, each day. There will be three members of staff responsible for the administration of the tests in each room, including members of SLT and your child's teacher, as well as members of the Y6 support staff. Test papers are opened in the rooms where the tests are being administered, in sight of the pupils. If any pupils are taking tests in a separate room, packs are opened in one room and then the pupils and their papers are taken to the other room to take the tests.

Pupils will be seated so that they are not able to view another pupil's test paper and test conditions will be observed. Pupils will be told when to begin their tests and given notice prior to the end of the tests. Once the test is completed, papers will be securely stored until collected by Parcel Force for external marking.

### What assistance is allowed in the tests

The English reading test must not be read to pupils, except for general instructions.

During the remaining tests, pupils may request that a question is read to them or ask questions about the test content and administrators can explain or rephrase a question, provided that they do not give away any subject-specific information.

### How any access arrangements will be used

Some pupils with specific needs may require additional arrangements so that they can take part in the KS2 tests. Access arrangements are adjustments that can be put in place to support these pupils. These arrangements are applied for or notified to the STA prior to tests being administered.

In our school, some pupils have been allowed additional time, a reader or a scribe. Parents/carers of children who are eligible for access arrangements will be contacted by the Y6 Teachers, next week.

### How timetable variations can be used

We do not plan to implement any timetable variations, but may find it necessary if:

- a pupil arrives late;
- a pupil was unwell at the time the test was taken and is now in a fit state to take the test;
- arrangements need to be made for a scribe because a pupil arrives in school with an injury.

The KS2 SATs begin – **w/c 13th May** and are as follows:

- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May:**
  - Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (Paper 1)
  - Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (Paper 2)
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May:**
  - Reading
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May:**
  - Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)
  - Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May:**
  - Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

#### **Y6 SATs Breakfast Club – Free of Charge**

During SATs week (Monday-Thursday), I like to offer a specific Breakfast Club for all of Y6 to attend (which we strongly encourage your child to come to) to ensure they have full tummies before their tests as well as an opportunity to be with friends and feel nice and relaxed before the school day starts.

- From 7:45am, via the hall doors.
- Selection of cereals, toast, fruit juices, milk, water, beans on toast, fruit etc. (There will be bacon or sausage sarnies on the Thursday too!)
- This is **free** for **all** children. Even if your child wants to eat at home, they can eat in school too – it's unlimited. If they don't want to eat but just want to come, that's also fine.

#### **How you can support your child over the next two weeks?**

Firstly, a positive attitude goes a long way – so as much encouragement and support as possible to ensure any worries they have can be put at ease.

Some further tips:

- direct any questions or concerns you have about the next few weeks to your child's Class Teacher, and we will do everything we can to answer/help;
- try to provide a quiet corner of the house for homework and study, that's as free from distractions as possible;
- encourage your child to talk to their teacher or another adult they trust if they express persisting anxieties about SATs. Remember that a small amount of anxiety is normal and not harmful;
- plan something nice and fun for the weekends before and after SATs – this will help your child start the week well and also give them something to look forward to;
- Attendance - ensure your child is in school every day during the next 2 weeks and is on time.
- Ensure your child has plenty of sleep each night.
- Ensure your child has breakfast and a bottle of water and a healthy snack every day.
- Very small doses of homework, balanced with breaks and physical activity.
- Communicate if there has been any upheaval or upset at home that may affect the pupil's access to or performance in the test.
- Promote the tests as positive – a chance to show off the hard work they have done in Year 6, so that they are High School ready.
- Let school know as early as possible if your child is ill during test week and if any special arrangements need to be made.
- Still have fun with them – keep rewarding them for their hard work in school!

#### **What's happening in school, currently?**

In school, the Y6 children are currently taking part in wellbeing workshops with Future in Mind, which is allowing them to discuss and share their feelings and worries in the run up to their assessments. They are taking part in Yoga every Friday afternoon. All Y6 children are taking part in the 'Luggage for Life' programme which is a whole

class intervention designed to support the summer term transition to high school. Our afternoon lessons are still full of music, French and art, for example, which are helping the children have a healthy balance of preparation before Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Grow a Pound

The Y6 children have also been introduced to our annual 'Grow a Pound' project which our Y6 children take part in, every year, as part of their contribution to their Leavers' Festival. See the separate letter sent today.

#### Aladdin the Musical – Y6 End of Year Production

Y6 will be proud to present their end of year production – Aladdin the Musical – during the final week of term, in July. The first round of auditions will take place on Monday and 86/88 children have decided they want to audition which is fantastic! We only have 14 cast roles so we have ensured that the auditions will be done in a 'Britain's Got Talent Style' – 'you're through to the next round', to ensure all children have an equal and fair opportunity. We, of course, will need lots of children to be understudies, dancers and the ensemble/chorus so we'll make sure there's a role for everyone! We can't wait to start rehearsing and more information about tickets will be sent after half term.

*Whilst we do encourage your children to take these tests seriously and use them to show off all that they are capable of, it is important to remember that all the children in Year 6 are special and unique irrespective of a test.*

*The value and worth of each child cannot be quantified by a test level and nor should it.*

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any member of the Y6 Team.

Kind regards,

Mr Welsh  
Headteacher