

February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a wonderful half term break.

There are only eight school weeks left until our pupils will be sitting their SATs. These weeks will be vitally important in ensuring that pupils do their best and achieve their potential.

The tests take place during the week beginning 11th May. Pupils must be in school for the tests.

National Curriculum Test Timetable

Day	Levels 3-5 test(s)	Level 6 test(s)
Monday 11 May	English reading	English reading
Tuesday 12 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test
Wednesday 13 May	Mental mathematics test; mathematics Paper 1	No level 6 tests timetabled
Thursday 14 May	Mathematics Paper 2	Mathematics Paper 1; mathematics paper 2

In order to ensure that pupils achieve their best, we recommend the following:

Plenty of Sleep

Pupils will be working extremely hard so will need plenty of sleep. Pupils need ten hours of sleep a night but may need more due to working so hard at school. Pupils need to relax before they go to bed by reading or following a set bedtime routine – not watching television or playing on computer games or phones.

Eating Well

We are currently providing all Year 6 pupils with a piece of fruit at break time. On the morning of the tests, we will run a breakfast club so that all Year 6 pupils can have a piece of toast and some juice. Children need to come to school each day having eaten a healthy breakfast as this sets them up brilliantly for learning.

Correct Equipment

Pupils need to bring the correct equipment into school every day. Pupils need a pen, pencil, rubber, pencil sharpener, ruler and whiteboard pen. They must also bring their planner everyday so that we can keep you informed of how your child is behaving and progressing in lessons. Mrs Chadwick will be running a stationary shop soon so that children can buy basic equipment at reasonable prices. Please ensure that any precious or valuable items are not brought into school.

Computer Games

Many parents have asked us for help and advice on how to deal with pupils who spend too long playing on computers, consoles and other media devices. These can have a detrimental effect on children's sleep, mental and physical wellbeing and social interactions. While we understand that children enjoy playing these games, we recommend a time limit be given and that all devices are in a room where parents and carers can supervise how long and with whom children are playing. If you would like any further advice, Mrs Curtis is running a series of workshops on this subject and is happy to help anyone who requests it.

Revision

Pupils can do extra work at home to help with their reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling and maths skills. We recommend that children revise little and often so they do not feel too tired or stressed by the work. Pupils recently brought home a letter detailing websites that we recommend to help with revision and some children have maths or SPaG revision books to work from. Parents can help by listening to children read regularly and asking them questions about what they have read. Also, parents can work on 'everyday problems' such as asking children to tell the time or calculate costs and change on shopping trips. Do some cooking together and ask children to do the weighing using scales. Try having spelling or times table quizzes on car journeys or the walk to school.

Rest and Relaxation

Pupils need to spend plenty of time outdoors in the fresh air and to be doing activities that will give them a break from school and tests. We offer a variety of clubs which pupils can join and there are plenty of opportunities in the community for children to join in with. Our 'Ministry of Fun' have organised Friday afternoon 'Golden Time' and SATs stress busting groups will be starting in the Hub this half term.

We are very proud of how well the pupils have worked so far this year and we know they will continue to work hard as they are determined to achieve their best!

Thank you for all of your support so far this year. If you would like any more advice or information then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

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