

## Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter - Summer 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break and I hope you all took advantage of the glorious weather.

We are now less than four weeks away from the SATs, which are the tests that the children have to complete at the end of Year 6 to assess their attainment and progress. The test results will also inform secondary schools as to your child's level of ability to give them a starting point in September.

The tests will begin on 11<sup>th</sup> May and throughout the week, the children will complete the following:

### Reading Test

During this test, the children are required to read a booklet and answer a range of questions about what they have read. The test is 1 hour long.

### Maths Paper A and B

This test assesses all areas of maths. Each paper is 45 min long and unlike in previous years, the children may NOT use a calculator for either paper.

### Mental Maths

The children must listen to 20 questions that become increasingly harder and are given 5, 10 or 15 seconds to answer each one. Although it is a mental maths test, the children are encouraged to make notes and use strategies if the time allows it.

### SPAG

This stands for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. The children are tested on their knowledge of English language features e.g. verbs, adjectives and the use of punctuation marks. They also complete a spelling test of 20 random words.

### Writing

The children do not complete a writing test in SATs week. However in June, external moderators will visit the school to make a judgement about each child's writing ability.

In addition to this, some children have been selected to take Level 6 tests. The children have been informed if they have been selected.

As you can see, it is a very important time for the children and we are supporting them as best we can through a revision timetable over the next four weeks. It is really important that the children complete all homework that they receive as it contributes to their revision. We ask that parents check homework is complete and direct them to

the BBC Revisewise website or a teacher for support if there is something they are not sure about.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May, which is the last week of half term. The Year 6 class will be visiting Seahouses. This will be a great way to celebrate the end of SATs and we will be holding a meeting in due course to inform parents about the activities that we will be doing and the equipment that the children need to bring.

Ways of helping your child at home

In order to help your child as much as possible at home, the following are suggestions that will be invaluable during the tests:

- Practise times tables and related divisions.
- Practise the four operations +, -, x and ÷, including decimals.
- Allow the children to read the reading test booklets with you and discuss unfamiliar language.
- Once your child has finished their homework, cast an eye over it and help them with anything they have got incorrect.

**Homework must be handed in on a Thursday.**

Your support is greatly appreciated, our children would not achieve as highly as they do without your continued support at home.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Ramsay