

Tuesday 9th April, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Preparing For the End of KS2 Tests (SATS)

We hope that you have had an enjoyable Easter break. We are very pleased to welcome the students back to school for their final term this academic year.

For Year 6, this term is particularly important as they will sit their end of Key Stage 2 tests (SATS) which act as an attainment benchmark at the end of a child's primary phase of education. We hope that you have found the mock feedback sheets and support materials we have provided useful and that your child is feeling well supported as we near the tests which begin the week commencing 13th May, 2024. Whilst we recognise that the tests are important, we have aimed to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum for our students and we intend to continue to do so as we near the date, however, we will be providing some extra revision and enrichment sessions during the school day in the five weeks leading up to the tests.

We appreciate that some children will feel anxious about the tests which is why we aim to offer them a range of subjects and activities at this time. Through our mock tests, we have aimed to remove any mystery from the test process so that children know exactly what to expect in terms of routines and procedures. We have noticed that the provision of toast each morning during the tests has a really positive impact on most students.

Whilst the tests themselves conclude on Thursday 16th May, I would like to point out that children continue to be assessed for their writing grade until the end of June. This is not done via testing, but by teacher assessment of written work against stringent criteria.

The most effective way to support your child academically during this time is to ensure good attendance, completion of homework, attendance at any intervention sessions they have been invited to and use of the online support materials. Your child's Maths and English teacher will be happy to provide extra support and you can find their email address on our school website or you can request a call by contacting reception.

To support the children more generally, we will ensure that they still have a range of other subjects during the week and we have some inter-house events for them to look forward to, too. Form tutors are the first port of call if you feel that your child needs a little more support than usual and any concerns will be shared with other staff as appropriate, so that we can monitor and respond accordingly. At home, plenty of sleep and exercise would be our recommendation with clear routines as usual.

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During SATS week, children will come in to school in the usual way at their regular time. They will go straight to forms where they will have chance to organise their equipment – pen (black/blue), pencil, ruler and rubber. These are the only items that children are allowed in the room on their desk as well as a drink of water (although we would advise caution here as toilet breaks are not freely allowed under the test administration procedures and are disruptive to others). The children will also be given toast and a toilet break before heading over to the test rooms.

The diary for the week is as follows:

Monday 13th May – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) 45 minutes plus an untimed spelling test

Tuesday 14th May – Reading Test 1 hour (3 texts and 3 sets of questions)

Wednesday 15th May – Maths Paper 1 30 minutes and Paper 2 40 minutes

Thursday 16th May – Maths Paper 3 40 minutes

All papers are marked externally and we have to follow strict protocols with papers from the moment they are delivered until the time they are collected to be distributed for marking.

Writing is teacher assessed until the end of June with these outcomes open to external moderation. As good practice, we moderate with other local Middle Schools anyway, but the education authority can recommend external moderation for any school at any time.

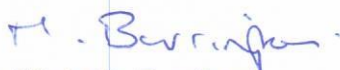
Once the tests are complete, we will fully resume our regular timetable and we will focus on ensuring that our students are ready for their transition to Key Stage 3; the first year of their secondary education.

Test results will be issued to parents and carers in July when they are shared with schools and we have checked for any papers to be remarked.

I hope you find this information helpful and I will finish by reiterating our message to the children as they go through this process: all we ask is that everyone does their best and sees this as an opportunity to show what they can do and what they have achieved throughout their time in primary education.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully



Michelle Burrington

Acting Headteacher