



9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers.

Firstly, welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you and your family had a pleasant break over the Summer period.

I thought it would be useful to write to you with information about the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) that Year 6 will sit in May 2025. Whilst that seems some way off, our primary schools will be working hard with your children to ensure they achieve as well as they can.

SATs are used to determine the learning and knowledge of primary-aged children. They assess how much children know and can do following 7 years of primary education. They focus on reading, writing, mathematics and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

A number of schools have mentioned to me, that Parents/Carers do not always understand how important SATs are. I therefore agreed to write to Parents/Carers about the tests.

### **Myth-busting**

- Some Parents/Carers believe that secondary schools do not use SAT results. **This is incorrect. SAT results are the primary measure used by secondary schools to group children and determine their ability on entry. SAT scores are used to set or band children in secondary schools. Pupils are rank-ordered based on their SAT score and then placed in teaching groups accordingly.**
- Some Parents/Carers believe that secondary schools re-test children and therefore SATs are not important. **This is also incorrect.** The success of secondary schools is measured by the progress pupils make from their Year 6 SATs to their GCSEs. Therefore, secondary schools are held accountable by the Government on the progress made from Year 6 to Year 11. **As such, the SAT scores attained by children, are something which secondary colleagues use to set targets for pupils when they enter secondary school and when they begin their GCSEs.**
- **Some Parents/Carers believe that if their child misses a SAT, for example, the second maths paper, that the primary school will be able to tell the secondary school that their child is a good mathematician. This is incorrect. The child will have failed their maths SAT and this will be the outcome passed to the secondary school.** Naturally, secondary school colleagues will spot pupils who are placed in the wrong sets as they work with them, but this can delay pupils being in the correct teaching groups. Being in the wrong teaching groups can hinder progress and put children off subjects. Additionally, secondary schools locally are at capacity and therefore sets are often full, making it difficult to move children from one set to another except at the beginning of an academic year.

- **Some Parents/Carers believe it is the school's sole responsibility to ensure their child performs well in their learning and therefore SATs. This is incorrect, where parents read with their children at home, practice maths and help pupils learn by talking to them about what they are doing in school, children do well. **Where parents do not support homework, or support school initiatives in learning, children often under-achieve.****

I hope the above examples demonstrate just how important Year 6 SATS are. I am not suggesting Parents/Carers should heap pressure on their children, but would ask that parents follow the requests of schools to help pupils with homework in Year 6 and ensure they attend well and do not miss any SAT papers in May 2025. Taking your child on holiday for example, during this week of SATs could seriously delay or reduce their progress in secondary school. Nationally, children who do well in SATs, generally do well at GCSE and then go on and have good employment prospects. Whilst some Parents/Carers may feel it is too early to talk about GCSEs, jobs and careers, we must make sure that children have the best foundations to be successful later on in life. That starts right back when they learn to read and write and of course continues as they grow and move through the school system.

### **What can I do to help my child get the best from school in Year 6?**

1. Ensure they attend every day unless really unwell. Aim for 97% attendance as a minimum. This may seem high, but over 65% of our children in primary schools last year, had 100% attendance.
2. Ensure your children get plenty of sleep – children need a lot of sleep for brain development.
3. Monitor and if possible reduce, the use of phones/electronic devices at least ½ an hour before bedtime. Research shows that the blue light from phones, etc fools our brains into thinking it is day time – this is why we might find it hard to sleep after using phones, etc.
4. Listen to your children read (daily if possible!), even just 10 minutes will help.
5. Ensure your child completes any homework set by the school to the best of their ability. If you think your child can do the work set to a better standard, or more thoroughly – you're probably right! We all tried to rush homework when we were at school and children today are no different to us!
6. Contact the school if you need advice on supporting your child at home with learning.

I am sure you will want to do the very best for your children and support their school to ensure they do as well as possible in their SATs in Year 6.

As always, thank you and best of luck this year and into the future as your child transfers to being a teenager – a whole new set of emotions and hormones to manage as a Parent/Carer!

Kind regards



Mr A Williams  
CEO