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Dear Year 6 Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you and remind you about Year 6 SATS, which are nearly upon us. I know that Year 6 children have worked extremely hard with their teachers in preparation for these national examinations.

In the final few weeks before the SATs, it is very important that children are in school every day to receive the final bits of teaching and be fully prepared for their tests. Excellent attendance is always important, but these final few weeks really do matter and can make a difference.

Parents and Carers often wonder if SATS really mean anything. They are a very important terminal assessment for children and demonstrate how much progress they have made in 7 years of primary education. All children sit these tests and the results are used by secondary and senior schools to place children in sets in Year 7-9. Missing a test in the assessment week will result in an incomplete set of SAT outcomes and therefore secondary and senior schools will find it more difficult to ensure children are in the correct teaching groups. Additionally, children's GCSE target grades are informed by their performance in SATS, so their SAT outcomes really do go with children throughout their time in secondary school.

Being in school in the next few weeks, completing assigned homework and completing all the SATs is the best way to avoid anxiety. Sitting a test when you feel unprepared is not ideal and many children find that any break in their school routine at this point can cause them to be worried. We want children to feel a sense of achievement when the results of the tests are communicated to them and you as parents/carers and hope therefore you will support your child to achieve as well as possible.

In my experience, Parents and Carers want their children to do well, but are not always sure what they can do to help. Therefore, I would make the following suggestions - some easier than others! Please ensure your children get plenty of sleep, try to reduce screen time and have breakfast. It would also be very much appreciated if you could support your children to complete set homework.

In schools, we are preparing to support children who need extra help and the Trust has funded additional staffing and interventions for pupils, to help them learn well and be ready for their first formal tests.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.

Yours faithfully,

Alun Williams - CEO