

So begin the final terms of Year 6.

Perhaps the most dominant feature of this first term is the SATs. These will be held in the week beginning 14th May and will be spread across four mornings. The timetable is as follows:

Monday 8 th	Spelling and Grammar
Tuesday 9 th	Reading Test
Wednesday 10 th	Maths: Paper 1 - arithmetic Paper 2 – reasoning
Thursday 11 th	Maths: Paper 3 reasoning

The tests will be held in the classroom under closely monitored conditions. There is no need for the pupils to worry about SAT's but we are in the middle of a sensible amount of preparation in order to increase confidence and technique.

By far the most important thing in the SAT's week is to make sure that everyone is well fed, gets plenty of sleep and most importantly, arrives at school in plenty of time.

In spite of the SAT's, all subject lessons continue this term as normal.

The English work will develop in both depth and range while grammatical skills will become more refined, being applied with more consideration to create different effects.

Alongside this, we will explore how to improve writing in other subjects such as science or history, to ensure that the quality of written work is consistent across the curriculum.

Maths will continue to focus on problem solving skills using the bar model while moving more deeply into data collection and analysis. This is an excellent opportunity to refine independent skills in preparation for secondary school.

There are some key skills which can be developed at home for those who are brave enough to face a Year 6 child approaching their mathematical peak. Tables remain fundamental to quicker, more efficient maths and where there are still weaknesses in the basics (up to 12x) these should be rehearsed at every opportunity. Similarly, being able to count is critical so try counting on and back from any number in multiples of 100, 1000, 10,000, 25's 75's as well as simple decimals such as 0.5, 0.25 and 0.75. On a similar theme, counting in fractions is an excellent mind expander. Try counting on and back in three quarters for starters. Now try it from 12.6...

When problem solving, these are some useful questions to ask at home:

- Have you extracted all the information?
- What else do you now know?
- Can you draw it on a bar model?
- What questions could you ask in class tomorrow?

In science we will now take a look at natural selection and evolution. Although the superficial principles are relatively easy to understand, developing a meaningful understanding is quite challenging so we will step slowly and carefully to begin with. It also raises some interesting philosophical debates, especially when comparing scientific and religious views on the matter which is something we will address sensitively and openly.

Geography and history will link together as we begin a broader topic which will study lots of the elements that we will encounter on the Isle of Wight residential trip including the Battle of Trafalgar, erosion and the English Civil War.

ICT will head back into filming to really push our skills forwards as we complete some much more technical projects. The children have already begun thinking about the progress they have made in Year 6 with a view to creating a well edited film describing their journey.

PE will develop skills in batting and fielding this term. We will look at different techniques that are applicable to different sports such as rounders and cricket and learn lots of different mini games. Sounds like an excellent cue for two months of debilitating rain...

Other News

After the SAT's, I will hold a short meeting about the Isle of Wight trip. I will work through a timetable for the week to give you a sense of what the trip will look like while talking about the hotel, sleeping arrangements, food and a kit list. There will be plenty of time at the end for you to ask any questions. I usually do this on an evening hoping that this makes it easier for you to attend. I will let you know once it is booked in.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Mr. Andy Silvester