

31 August 2022

Dear Parents

I hope you have all had a good summer, even if it has been a very busy one for many of you and your children! I write to clarify a few details regarding the next week.

The Year 6 Curriculum

Of course, it is always our aim that our children will produce high quality, well-presented work. However, this is especially important at the start of Year 6 as classwork may be required in the event that we need to make a Headteacher's Appeal on behalf of a child. We will be giving the children lots of opportunities to show off their many skills, not least in Friday's STEAM Day where they will be able to show high-level thinking and evaluative skills as well as their ability to work together and solve a problem.

Homework

The current Year 6 children have all worked exceptionally hard over the last few months. For children taking the Kent Test, last-minute cramming at this stage is likely to be counterproductive. Over the next few days, it is crucial that the children eat well, get fresh air, exercise and have plenty of rest. You know your child best but we would strongly encourage you to ensure that he or she gets to bed early each night, having had a chance to wind down in the evening away from mobile devices that are proven to inhibit good-quality sleep.

To help with this and enable you to have time to address any final areas of uncertainty, we will not set homework until after the test. If there are any topic areas that you or the children would like help with, please let us know and, as far as we can, we will go over these again in school.

Study Skills Classes

Study Skills Classes over the next week will continue in a similar pattern to Year 5 and children will work in their own classrooms for these sessions.

From Friday 9th September, Study Skills provision will change.

Planned sessions are:

Monday	Reasoning
Tuesday	Maths
Wednesday	English
Thursday	Enterprise
Friday	Drama

(other sessions will also be available to Year 6 pupils; details will follow)

Please note the following:

- The sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are particularly designed to help

- children prepare for independent school entrance tests.
- Children who wish to take part will need to be in the classroom for 8am. All other children should go straight to the court with their bags.
 - All study skills classes are optional but it is better for all concerned if the children who choose to attend do so regularly.
 - We may need to amend this timetable when we know what the demand is for each session.
 - The Enterprise sessions give a chance for all Year 6 pupils to generate ideas and then work on a coherent business plan ready to bid for investment from the St Faith's Dragons.

Kent Test on Thursday 8th September

The children taking the test need to be in school by 8.30 as normal. There will be no Study Skills on this day so all children should go to the court and benefit from a bit of fresh air and exercise before the test.

We will register as usual and then begin the test as soon as everyone is settled. In practice, this will be at about 9am. Most children will sit the test in their classrooms, unless they have been granted special arrangements. They will already be familiar with where they will be working and the layout of the room before the day.

Maths and English will be first. There will then be a break before the reasoning paper and the writing task will take place early in the afternoon.

All stationery for the morning will be provided by the school. Pens for the afternoon writing task will also be provided but children may use their own ink pens if they wish. It is a requirement that pen rather than pencil is used. It is very important that children bring a clearly-named water bottle on this day.

Children not taking the test will work elsewhere in the school during the morning on work set by Year 6 staff but will complete the writing task with their peers in the afternoon. We use this piece of writing as part of our internal assessment too.

If you have not already done so, you may find it useful to look at this year's familiarisation booklet by following the link at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-3>

Please note that the question types are illustrative and are unlikely to be the same in the real test.

We look forward to seeing you for the parent information evening on Monday when we will be able to explain more about what will happen in Year 6 and address any concerns you may have. In the meantime, we appreciate that this can be a very stressful time for parents and pupils alike. Please do ask if there is anything else we can do to support you and your children.

With best wishes,

Jo Woodhead & Lydia Johnson
Year 6 Teachers



An independent prep school and nursery for boys and girls aged 2 to 11

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