

Year six - Spring Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Thank you for the many Christmas presents and cards - I feel very spoilt! I thought I would take a moment to bring you up to date with some of the areas we will be covering in year six this term. As you know the SATs tests for all year six pupils take place in May. **The tests take place from 9 - 13 May.** This is drawing ever closer and so a lot of our work this term is focussed on the areas of the curriculum that will be tested; English and Maths. We will be holding a meeting about the SATS tests for parents later on in the term.

ENGLISH

Writing: In English we are learning how to plan and write in different ways. We will be learning how to write in different styles i.e. letters, diaries, posters and stories. For the final SATs level, the children's books are scrutinised and their work is levelled. They are getting used to redrafting their work - editing and evaluating to come up with final drafts of their work.

Reading: In reading we are looking at books of different types and studying how to make deductions from text. This involves reading beyond what is simply written in black and white - for instance finding out why a character in a book behaved as they did rather than just commenting on the action itself. To help your child in the reading SAT there are some things you can do.

- Hear your child read - however fluent a reader they are.
- Talk about the text with them. What is happening and why?
- Help your child make meaningful comments in reading records giving their opinion of the piece they've just read. It's perfectly acceptable to say they don't like it as long as they can say why they don't like it.
- Do a couple of skimming and scanning exercises. Choose 2 pages and make up a couple of questions then encourage your child to scan through looking for key words that might help find the answer.

The reading test is a one hour timed test, which involves reading several texts and answering questions to check their comprehension.

Spelling and Grammar: The children will also be tested on their spelling and grammar in a separate paper. Please support your child by ensuring that they learn their weekly spellings.

MATHS

In Maths we are looking at

- Problem solving - including money problems
- Angles (including using a protractor to construct and measure angles)
- Properties of shapes
- Using %, decimals and fractions

- Area and perimeter
- Measures - including reading scales
- Written calculations involving the four functions and decimals

Please support your child by ensuring that they complete maths homework - there will be increasing amounts this term. You can also help by asking your child to work out time and money problems - eg: If a television programme starts at this time and ends at this time, how long does it last? If I send you to the shops to buy 3 pineapples at £2.99 each, how much change will you get from £20? What weight are these scales showing?

SCIENCE

In Science we are studying classification and electricity. Encouraging your child to visit the library or use the internet to research these areas further will be a great help.

P.E. will be taking place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The children will always have two PE sessions per week and I would ask you to ensure that your child brings their PE kit to school on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday.

Finally can I remind you of the school's homework policy. Maths homework is given on a Friday to be **returned by Monday**. Spelling tests take place every Monday. Most West Hill children enjoy their homework and return it neatly presented and on time. Parents recognise it as necessary preparation for secondary school. Please continue to support us by stressing the importance of homework and making time available for the children to do it uninterrupted.

This term involves hard work from everybody - parents, teachers and, most importantly, children. They need to give **maximum effort** up until the SAT's. A more relaxed atmosphere generally prevails after this - much to everybody's relief. We will give more revision tips at the meeting for parents and details of materials that might help. For the time being those of you with the internet should encourage children to visit the excellent revision site provided by the BBC. The address is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/revision>. WHSmith also sells many revision materials for the Key stage 2 SAT tests that you may like to do with your child.

Thanks for your support

Janet Everett (Class teacher)