

Barnes Farm Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers of Year 6,

With the end of Key Stage 2 SATS tests less than two months away, we wanted to communicate with you some additional ways in which we are continuing to help your child prepare for these important assessments.

Revision study aids - homework for Easter

You will be aware that the children have been focussing their home learning on key skills through the use of the Rising Stars revision books and we are grateful for your help in encouraging the weekly completion of work from these study aids. This remains a key aspect of their preparation right up to the test week in May and sections of each book will be set as homework over the Easter break.

Focused Maths, GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Reading groups

Following evaluation of the mock SATS tests undertaken in recent weeks, a temporary restructure of teaching groups for different subjects has been put in place. In some cases, this involves working in their own class with their class teacher and in some cases they are working with pupils from across the year group with a different teacher. Mrs Gayther is teaching groups on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mr McIntosh and Mr McTaggart are doing likewise on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These are **not** ability sets - they are bespoke groups that have been set up to better meet individual needs at this time.

Achieve Online

The school has bought a brand new online resource, Achieve Online, to help with maths and with GPS revision. This can be accessed both at home and at school and is designed in such a way as to allow for self-directed revision and tasks that class teachers may also choose to assign. A separate information letter which explains how to access Achieve Online and how to log in will be sent home with pupils tomorrow.

As part of the SATS preparation package, we are putting on a free, daily, pre-school Achieve Online session in the ICT suite when Year 6 pupils can access this resource at school. The sessions will run daily from 8.15-8.45am and will be supervised by a member of staff, but children will mostly choose their own revision topics. The sessions will start on **Tuesday 27th March** and run until **Friday 11th May**.

So that we do not run out of computer places on any one day, we will need to operate a sign up system for the week ahead and children will be given a slip each week to complete and return by each **Friday** (for next week only, it will be given out tomorrow and will need to be back on Monday). We don't expect everyone to want to access this session at the same time but will allocate places on a first come, first served basis and in the unlikely event that numbers are too high on a particular day, we will let pupils know if they cannot attend.



SATS week breakfasts

In order to start the day calmly and help the children prepare mentally for the tests, we would like to invite your child to have breakfast in school. Children can arrive in school from 8:15am on Monday to Thursday (inclusive) and will be offered an optional light breakfast, free of charge. They will be supervised by a member of the teaching staff. A sign-up letter regarding this offer will be sent at the start of May.

We trust that with all of our combined hard work, commitment and focus we can ensure that your child is as fully prepared as they can be for this statutory assessment process. If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or indeed any aspect of the Year 6 curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R McTaggart
Headteacher

