

29th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6

We have always prided ourselves on our sensible approach to SATs at the Hamlet. I worked in Year 6 before the changes to the curriculum and worried that the added emphasis on progress scores would have created a lot more pressure in year 6.

I am delighted to say that, on the contrary, we have managed to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum; as you will see from our Humanities, RE, Science, PE and Art books, we have learnt a rich variety of interesting and important topics this year.

It would be wrong to say that we are against testing. SATs play an important role in holding schools to account and standards have improved greatly over the past few decades. We also recognise that, whilst SATs are probably the least important test a child will complete in their education, they are valuable. Firstly they provide an opportunity to practise 'test conditions' and prepare children for their secondary career and beyond. Secondly, the score a child attains in the SATs are a strong indicator for future performance. With these factors in mind we will be practising some tests to ensure pupils are ready to do their best in the real thing.

However, the practice test timetable is light: we have sat one "Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling" test and one English Reading test this year! I know lots of other schools in Southwark have light testing timetables, but there can't be many with a lighter touch than that. We believe this is the best approach for your children. And, as the SATs draw nearer, we will be sharing more SATs-style questions in day to day lessons in order to familiarise ourselves with the content domains and question types.

If your child is feeling anxious, please do reassure them that:

- a) they only have to do their best
- b) SATs can be really fun (sounds odd but its true)
- c) The best thing they can do to prepare is relax and enjoy learning

If you are concerned at all, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Best wishes



Tom Salomonson
Y6 Team Leader & Maths Lead