

18th January 2024

Year 6 SATs Talk

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

As we're sure you're aware, the children sit their first externally marked tests in year 6. These tests take place the week beginning **Monday 13th May** and finish on **Thursday 16th May**.

The time table is set nationally with the children completing their tests in a set order:

- Monday 13th 2024 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Tuesday 14th May 2024 - Reading paper.
- Wednesday 15th May 2024 - Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic.
- Thursday 16th May 2024 - Mathematics Papers 2 and 3: reasoning.

We have begun to look at past papers with the children in order to show them that there really is nothing to fear. Already, they've shown great maturity and enthusiasm which has made us proud. Our emphasis is on the children's well being and positive mental health. Rather than put pressure on the children to achieve, we're using it as an opportunity to develop resilience and strategies so that when they face exams later in life, they have the skills to cope and thrive.

It's also an opportunity for us to teach them test skills such as pace, identifying key words and linking back to their previous knowledge. Each week the children will be talked through the papers, with some areas retaught. We ask that they take these papers home and talk you through them as this helps to consolidate their learning greatly. This will be taking the place of the sheets of homework for the foreseeable future along with their weekly reading, times tables and spelling. They do not need to return these tests to us.

We realise that you want to support your children as best you can through extra work, however please **do not** do any past papers at home unless we have provided them. If the children have already experienced and attempted a question, it could stop us from identifying an area in which they need support. If you would like any additional materials, then please contact us to discuss this.

Each year we hold a SATs parent talk to discuss how we support the children and how the week will run. It's also an opportunity for you to ask us general questions about the process. Please note, we have a parents' evening in the spring term in which we will discuss individual children and the approaches to support your child.

The talks will take place, in person at each site on:

- Tuesday 6th February 2023 at 5pm (Greenbank)
- Wednesday 7th February 2023 at 5pm (Rooksdown)

Should you be unable to attend, the PowerPoint presentation will be shared in advance and we can answer any questions you may have via Dojo.

Kind regards,
The Year 6 Team