

The Grange School,
Staverton Road,
Daventry,
Northamptonshire.
NN11 4HW.

12th September 2022

Dear Year 6 parents & carers,

Welcome to Year 6!

As you are aware, this is an important year for your child in school. The work they complete this year is assessed partly through the national SATs, which they will sit in May 2023. However, there are other ways in which we assess your child's attainment and progress and these are equally as important. Also, it is vital that we continue to educate your child in subjects across the entire curriculum, so your child will continue to experience the whole range of primary school subjects. It is vital that this takes place and we would urge you to emphasise the importance of participating well in all subjects, not just those they are tested in.

Today, we began setting homework for the children across the school. Some of you may have been expecting very formal, SATs style homework. This email is to clarify our use of previous SATs papers in school and why we will not be setting previous SATs papers as homework.

We know that the 2022 SATs papers are not fully representative of the papers that your child will sit in May 2023. We will use the 2022 papers as a guide to the children's predicted performance, but know that we will have to adjust thresholds, in order to offset the slightly easier questions that were set. These papers will form part of our assessment and so we do not want children to practise these questions, as this will give us false information about the gaps we need to fill.

In addition, the 2019, and previous papers, were different to those expected and so, there is no benefit to practising these papers in their entirety. Please do not encourage your child to cram any of these tests, as this will ultimately hinder their performance in the real tests.

There is no research to suggest that practising papers wholesale brings any benefit to the children. However, that does not mean that we won't be using SATs style questions within the children's everyday learning activities. What is important is that teachers are on hand to address children's misconceptions as soon as they arise and we have a system of learning in school that does that. In addition, we have Mrs Ross and Miss Hunt within the Year 6 team, who are skilled at working with the class teachers to provide additional support to any and every child who needs it. In addition, the children may well receive a few SATs style questions as part of their homework at various points throughout the year.

Obviously, it is vital that we teach the children how to answer SATs style questions and I know that the Year 6 Team have this in hand. Please be assured that we want the same as all parents - for the children to be the very best that they can be. We will, of course, be doing everything we can to ensure this.

We will issue further information about SATs in due course.

Kind regards,

Vicki (on behalf of the Year 6 Team)

Dream Believe Achieve

