



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the summer term in Year 6 – the final term of your child's primary education! We would first like to say what a lovely opportunity it was to accompany the children to Skern this year; they were all fantastic and it was a privilege to watch them overcoming challenges and we couldn't have been more proud of them!

SKERN Photos:

We took well over 300 photos of the children enjoying activities so we will sort these out and present them in a slide show, which will run continuously in the hall on the last day of term, Friday 27th May 3.05-3.30. Please feel free to pop in and view these with your child on this day. This slide show will also be included at the beginning of the leavers's assembly to give you another chance to view them.

SATs:

As you will know, we have been working very hard in the lead up to the Statutory Assessment Tests, or SATs, as they are commonly known. As a school, we have provided booster classes to help the children cover gaps left by the pandemic and as a Year 6 team we have worked hard to ensure that the children have grasped the Key Stage 2 curriculum in readiness for both these tests and their transition to Key Stage 3.

SATs will take place nationally in the week **Monday 9th MAY- Thursday 12th MAY**

The children are invited to come into school from 8.30am if they wish for a SATs breakfast of sausage/ veggie sausage baps, fruit, yogurts and drinks. We will register them promptly at 9.00am and then we will do some revision related to the day's paper – this will usually be in the form of a quick quiz or a fun presentation to ease any nerves or worries.

For most children, the tests will take place in their usual classrooms by their usual teachers. The exception to this will be where special arrangements, which have been applied for, are in place. This could be because a child has a special educational need that qualifies them for an individual access arrangement. Therefore, some children will be taken into smaller rooms to help them concentrate or because they are entitled to extra time or a rest break. Any child who is given extra time has had this agreed beforehand by the STA (Standards and Testing Agency) following an application from us.

Test papers are not opened until it is time for the test to start except in one exceptional circumstance, agreed by the STA, for one child who needs the test modifying on to coloured paper as per this child's usual classroom practice. One member of staff completes this in isolation to other staff no more than 1 hour before the test starts.

Children do not have any help in answering the questions during the tests. They can however request an adult reads the question or part of it in the Maths and Grammar tests, but obviously not in the Reading test.

School trustees will be attending SATs to ensure oversight before, during and afterwards.

We recognise that for many children this may cause nerves and anxiety and we will have staff available in the morning for anyone feeling wobbly. Please be positive and encourage them just to try their best and remind them of the many talents they have!

Please do make sure your child is in school during SATs week. The results are not only important for St Margaret's Academy; they are also used to help secondary schools group the children in Year 7. Secondary schools also use them as predictors for your child's GCSEs. When you attend parents meetings next year they will likely be telling you whether your child is "on-track" or not; this will be a reference to what they achieved in their Y6 SATs. Tests are also a part of school life so taking part now will help build their resilience for the future.

In our experiences, children are often surprised to find that they really enjoy the week. It is a chance for them to show off everything that they have learnt and it will be run in the calmest and friendliest way possible. It's like a rite of passage.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Some other things to be aware of with exact timings to follow:

Transition:

We have now had correspondence with most of the secondary schools your children will be moving to and meetings between our staff and their staff, to ensure a smooth transition will be taking place this term. You will hear from your respective schools about transition days they might have in due course.

Year 6 Show:

More information about this will follow after SATs but we have scheduled the Year 6 play to take place in the evenings on 13th and 14th July, with one of those dates also being an afternoon performance.

Year 6 Leavers:

The Year 6 Leavers' disco will take place on 21st July and we believe there has also been a party bus following this organised by parents – what a lovely experience! The leavers' assembly and BBQ will take place on Friday 22nd July, which is the children's last day. Again, more information will follow.

Year 6 Apprentice Project

Saturday 7th July is St Margaret's Summer Fair. As part of this, the Year 6 children will be working in small groups to run a mini business. The group that takes the most money will win a prize from the PTA. More information to follow after SATs is over.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Mrs L Kerswell (AHT KS2 Lead) and the Year 6 team 😊