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Monday 9th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, the Y6 class will start their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) alongside millions of other children across the country. Today, the children will complete their Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation test, which we all call 'SPAG'. Tuesday is the reading paper where children read three separate texts and answer a range of questions. Wednesday and Thursday are the Maths days with an arithmetic test and reasoning papers. The arithmetic test features 40 questions with add, take away, multiply and divide in 'sums' whereas the reasoning papers place the maths problems within worded problems and scenarios. The test papers are sent off by courier and are marked in different places around the country.

Regardless of age, background or ability, all children find the tests hard and challenging because this is how they were designed by the government. In fact, from 2015 onwards, the tests were made more difficult as the curriculum changed. With Covid, children missed up to eighteen months of their learning and direct teaching so some people argue that children should not be faced with SATs. With our Y6 class, they have worked so hard to catch up and are always eager to learn. We are very proud of them.

Our current Y6 class have been a pleasure to teach and have been wonderful children to work with. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching them for the Autumn term in Y4. They work hard, they listen and they are very well behaved. This class have been a credit to their families and to school staff; we are very proud of the resilience shown. Well done and thank you for supporting the children.

People often feel sorry for children having to sit tests, but most classes across school, from Y1 upwards, actually complete tests regularly. This is something we carry out deliberately to remove the fear and anxiety of tests and many children would not even know they were doing one. However, Village Primary is about so much more than English and Maths or tests because we pride ourselves on educating the children across a wide range of subjects because we want our students to leave as nice people, well rounded citizens and children ready for secondary school.

If you ever want to ask any questions about SATs or assessment please feel free to ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Birtwhistle', written in a cursive style.

R Birtwhistle
Head Teacher.



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.