



Village Primary School
Windsor Road
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Stockton-on-Tees
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Headteacher: Mr R Birtwhistle

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Tuesday 9th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Year 6 pupils start their Key Stage Two SATs tests this week after a year of hard work in class. This is the same across the country with all children from Land's End to John O Groats completing the exact same tests. We know this can be a stressful time for the children, but as a school we do not put any pressure on the pupils and try to make the whole process as normal as possible. The children complete their tests in class with their usual adults as we think this is familiar and reassuring. Today the children have completed a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test, often referred to as SPAG, and tomorrow it is a Reading test. On Thursday and Friday, the children are tested on their Maths with an arithmetic paper and two reasoning papers. The arithmetic paper is more 'sums' whilst the reasoning is Maths in a problem format.

Thank you for your support and co-operation with the children; we very much believe parents/carers are crucial partners with school.

I had a very exciting email this morning from Nick Gibb, who is Minister for Schools. His email is copied below.



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Top 200 School

Dear Mr Birtwhistle,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's achievements in the 2022 multiplication tables check.

Your average pupil score of 24.4 out of 25 makes Village Primary School one of the top 200 performing schools in England for the multiplication tables check. The excellent achievement of your pupils is something the Government hopes to see replicated in schools across the country.

Knowing times tables is vital for school and day-to-day life. Recalling multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 is important for progression in maths. That is why we recently introduced these checks, as a helpful tool for teachers to identify those pupils who need extra support.

I would like both to congratulate your staff and pupils for their hard work and success and to thank you for your leadership in continuing to promote the important subject of mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister for State for Schools

Needless to say, I am absolutely thrilled with this news. A massive well done to all the children, staff and parents involved. This school has never been in a position like this before with such notable test results and assessment outcomes.

In the next few weeks, Ofsted should be sending us our report from the two day visits in March. Once we have it, I will send a copy for parents to read.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.



Mr R Birtwhistle.
Head Teacher