

Welcome to Year 6!

One aim of upper juniors is preparing the children for the challenges of high school. Regardless of which high school they go to, they will be expected to be responsible for themselves. This includes behaviour, equipment, PE kit, homework, revision and tests.

All high schools are extremely focussed on correct uniform, both every day and for PE, so these are things we work on in here.

The children will be given a reading record / diary to record reads and homework in. This should be in school every day, along with their choice reading book.

They will be expected to be more responsible for themselves and remembering things such as swimming kit, lunch boxes, homework. Please support us in this as we are attempting to develop them into more independent pupils so that they are prepared for high school.

As last year, homework is set every Monday and marked the following Monday.

It will consist of:

A page or 2 from a maths workbook. This will correspond to what we have done in class that week.

A spelling list to practise

A short reading comprehension

3 x reads a week

Absent

If a child is absent on a Monday, any sheets will be put in their tray, but it is their responsibility to ask us or another child which pages to complete.

Non-completion

We will spend time on a Monday morning going through the homework, discussing and marking it. If it is not completed, this is further time and learning wasted. As we are working to build responsibility, if homework is not completed, the child will miss a breaktime. The homework will then be expected in the following day but potentially not marked.

Tricky work

Some children may find the homework tricky. If it is a case of not knowing a particular word or meaning, then I encourage them to google it, ask Alexa, etc - put a bit of effort in!

However, if the child is unable to complete some of the work because it is too difficult for them, please get them to come to me and we can look at it together. This must be done before Friday. If they come on Monday morning and say they couldn't do it as it was too hard, this is not acceptable. It is the child's responsibility to get help with homework if they need it.

Maths

In the homework book, the answers are in the back. I encourage the children to work like this:

- 1) Complete the page of work independently.
- 2) Use the answers in the back to check their work
- 3) If they got any wrong, use the answers to see where they went wrong, but do not change their answers. This is learning!

When we look at it together, we can go over any difficult questions

We do expect the children to show their working out in the books. This proves that they have not just written in the answers !

SATs

The SAT's take place the week beginning *11th May 2025*.

They are statutory assessments and all children working within the key stage 2 curriculum level will sit the tests.

They consist of the following:

English - Reading paper

Spelling, punctuation and Grammar paper

Maths - 2 x Reasoning papers

Arithmetic paper

The children sit the tests in the hall, under test conditions. The papers are then swiftly collected by a courier, they are made into a digital copy then an external marker receives them digitally.

I have to submit teacher assessment in Writing and Science to the DfE.

What is the purpose of them?

SAT tests assess whether the child is working at the "Expected" level for the end of key stage 2 based on their scores in the test. This is sometimes called "being high school ready" or ready to begin their learning in Key Stage 3.

The data is then used by the high school to set a pathway towards GCSE grades. They track the progress of the child along this pathway.

Obviously, we work hard to make sure every child makes good progress and ideally all would be ready to move on to learn at key stage 3, so they don't struggle. But every child is different, with different strengths and weaknesses.

Parents' role

In Year 6 we need to be building independence or this aspect of High School will be a particular challenge. You can help them take responsibility by giving them opportunities to develop this, such as them packing their own bag the night before, taking responsibility for homework, messages, etc.

I ask that you sit down with a book with them at least three times a week. You don't have to listen to much of their story, just enough to ask a few questions or ask them about a tricky word or the characters.

You are in a position to read with them one-to-one, we aren't due to time constraints on the timetable.

We know they can read at this point, so it's all about reading fluency and comprehension of the texts.

APPLYING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL PLACE

You will need to find the dates of open evenings for the High Schools you wish to visit. You apply for a High School place online through your council website (even if the school you are applying for is in another council). This has a deadline of the end of October. You will be offered a place in March.

PE

We are back to swimming on Friday mornings. We also have a PE session the same afternoon. This is the only day they will need to wear their PE kit. Please make sure this follows our school PE uniform (Plain black or navy hoody or school jumper, plain black or navy shorts / pants, red Halsall PE top).

Remember that all spellings, a curriculum overview and examples of our work can all be found on our webpage.

We are looking forward to a fabulous year!

Thank you, Mrs Galley