St Hilary School

## Wednesday 2nd May 2018

Dear Parents

I am writing to keep you informed of the details of the fast approaching SATs tests and an exciting opportunity the Year 6 children will be taking part in over the course of the next term.

**SATs Week:**

The SATs tests take place in the week beginning Monday 14th May. Since Easter, the children have been revising extremely hard and should be feeling confident about showing off their talents and proud of their efforts and improvements!

**Timetable:**

The structure of the week is outlined below and although it is a busy week the children will have completed their daily testing by lunchtime at the latest every day - in the afternoons we will do some light revision and try and get outside for some fun and games to unwind!

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| **Mon 14th May** | **Tue 15th May** | **Wed 16th May** | **Thurs 17th May** | **Fri 18th May** |
| English - SPAG  Paper 1 (45mins)  Short answer paper | English - Reading Comprehension  (60 mins) | Maths Paper 1 - Arithmetic Test (30 mins) | Maths Paper 3 – Reasoning (40 mins) | SURF’S UP! |
| English - SPAG  Paper 2  Spelling Test |  | Maths Paper 2 – Reasoning (40 mins) |  |  |

**Testing Arrangements:**

All of the children will all sit each tests at the same time. However, we will divide the class into two groups, working in two classes in order to accommodate all children in appropriate test conditions, while keeping them in familiar working environments (the Year 6 Class and the Fun-zone Room).

In addition to this, a few children qualify for additional time in the tests or one to one supervision to allow support with reading; we have taken all appropriate steps to ensure we administer all tests within the strict rules of the testing process. If your child is in any of these groups, we will have informed you on an individual basis.

**For the test week please:**

* ensure that your child attends every day and is on time (8:55am), to allow daily preparation for the tests to be completed.
* inform the school as early as possible if your child is going to be absent due to illness so we can make necessary arrangements.
* assist your child in completing their SATs homework books.
* ensure that your child has sensible / early nights over the weekend before their SATs – late Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights have a considerable impact on the energy and concentration of your child on a Monday morning (blame me if this causes any minor grumblings!)
* make sure your child has a hearty and healthy breakfast each morning to keep their concentration and energy up.
* **BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY** - Please reassure your child that they are amazing, brilliant and have every reason to feel proud and confident in their own abilities regardless of the SATs – these tests are not worth losing sleep over (in fact as mentioned above, hopefully the test week will lead to increased sleep!!!)

Any questions regarding the testing process please do feel free to pop in and see me or give me a call and I’ll try to help.

**Surfing:**

The Year 6 children will complete **6 surfing lessons with ‘Shore Surf’, at the St Ives Bay Holiday Park**.

These sessions aim to provide the children with experience of sea swimming, develop basic surfing skills and provide high quality practical ocean safety training. They will be run by a team of professionally qualified instructors (there are enough to support the nervous, teach the basics and stretch the more able). From experience, we are sure that the children will have a great time and that the sessions provide an excellent extension to the swimming lessons they received earlier in their school career - it is amazing to see their increased confidence and capability!

The dates for the sessions are below:

* Session 1 – Friday 18th May (leave school 9.15 return to school for 1pm)
* Session 2 – Wednesday 23rd May (leave school at 12 and return for the end of the school day)
* Session 3 – Friday 8th June (leave school 9.15 return to school for 1pm)
* Session 4 – Friday 15th June (leave school 9.15 return to school for 1pm)
* Session 5 – Friday 22nd June (leave school 9.15 return to school for 1pm)
* Session 6 – Friday 6th July (leave school 9.15 return to school for 1pm)

Each session provides the children with at least two hours learning time. With Shore Surf’s help (fixing their costs for another year!) and the school continuing its financial investment in the swimming development of our pupils, we have done everything we can to keep the expense to a minimum. As a result, the cost of the sessions to parents is £40, this covers the teaching, equipment hire and transport to and from the surf centre.

Please can you make your ***payments for these sessions in advance*** ***of the lessons*** to Mrs Greygoose in class or via the gateway payment system; advanced payment greatly assists with organisation and administration of the lessons.

Your child will need to bring the following to each lesson:

* Swimming costume / trunks to wear under a wetsuit (this is particularly important if they are borrowing one of the centre’s wetsuits)
* Underwear – often when children wear their swimming costume under their uniform in preparation they forget to pack anything to replace their wet things!
* Towel
* Sun-block – applied to face, ears, neck before school (really important even on overcast days please!)
* Packed lunch and drink – please let me know if your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like the kitchen to provide this.
* Full-length winter weight wet suit. ***Optional – please do not rush out and purchase one as the centre provides excellent quality wetsuits to those without their own or children with summer weight / short length suits.***

I am sure you agree that this represents both an exciting and rewarding learning experience.

I will write again soon with further details of camp, transition, the summer term curriculum and end of year leavers activity dates. Thanks for your stamina in getting to this point of the letter and your continued support.

Kindest regards

Rob Hamshar