

Revision Guides and Arithmetic Booster Sessions

Wednesday, 8th January, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. There is quite a lot of information in this letter – maybe make a cuppa and settle in!

As we mentioned at the Parent information Evening and the SATS Information Evening, our children receive a wide and varied curriculum and we are adamant that this will continue to be the case for our Year Six children, despite it being such an important year. The children have loved the additional opportunities they've been given so far this year. Already at this point in the year, some schools choose to place a much greater emphasis just on those subjects the children are to be tested on.

We are very proud to say that we are not one of those schools. However, we do feel that the children could certainly benefit from some additional revision activities as we rapidly race towards May. We do not want to remove the joy from our curriculum by removing the topic work in the afternoons. We want to continue to give the children opportunities to sew, dance, sculpt, do science experiments, learn about the world around them and generally ensure that they are learning in **all** areas of the curriculum, not just Maths and English. Therefore, we are asking for support from parents in ensuring that the revision happens outside of the school day.

At the SATs meeting, we mentioned that we would be introducing SATS revision guides from January. These will be coming home with the children this Friday. The guides that we have purchased are specifically for revision, rather than for teaching afresh. There is one focussing on Maths and the other is Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Each page or chapter focusses on a different skill. It contains a refresher of the subject, a short reminder of how to answer the questions and then a few questions to finish. We will be setting a few pages from each of the guides every week, on areas that we have already covered in school. The maximum amount of time that should be needed is one hour a week. The expectation is that all children will complete their set work each week.

From experience, we know that all homes and families operate differently. Therefore, before Christmas, we offered two options to choose from in order to ensure that all of the children can complete their revision work.

- 1) They will complete the work at home, as homework.
- 2) A before or after school club to complete the revision book pages.

Following the replies we received, there will be an after-school club which will be available on Tuesday afternoons until 4pm to allow children to complete the work in school. This will be monitored by Ms Rochelle, one our Y6 TAs. Collection will be from the usual Year 6 entrance. **The club will begin on Tuesday, 14th January.**

We currently still have 5 spaces for this after school club, available on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Mrs Woodward if you would like your child to have a spot!
(swoodward@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk)

We ask for the revision guides to be brought into school on Thursdays. This gives us chance to see how the children have done and get them back to them in time for the weekend. If children have struggled with the activity, we will then scoop them up in the following week and do some additional work with them. If you are completing the work at home and they need help – please give it to them, it's not a test! But just leave us a little note to let us know they needed support.

The revision guides are something of a learning curve for the children as the answers are all at the back of the books as we want them to mark their own work to see how they've got on and try to work out where they've gone wrong. They could absolutely cheat and just fill out all the answers and hand them back in without us knowing. However, we also discuss with the children that the revision guides are there to help them improve, so they're the ones who will ultimately suffer in the long run!

We're also doing work in school on self-organisation and how the children can take responsibility for making sure that all of their home learning is completed on time, in readiness for September.

Arithmetic booster groups have started this week. There are also specific maths and reading interventions planned for during the school day. You will get information from Mrs Bennett in due course if your child is involved in these groups.

That's quite a lot of information to take on board in one go, but thank you for taking the time to get this far! As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Year Six Team