

 @RedHallSchool

 @RedHallPrimarySchool

Red Hall Primary School, Headingley Crescent
Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 2ST

Tel: 01325 254770
Email: admin@redhall.darlington.sch.uk
www.redhallprimary-darlington.co.uk



7th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you will be well aware, the government made the decision to cancel this year's SAT tests for Y6.

I informed Y6 parents that your child's final grading will be teacher assessed and that I intended to continue to use past SAT papers to help make that judgement. The children know from doing past papers in school, that if they are struggling with a SAT, I can plan appropriate intervention for them to help them as best I can to work on these areas which they are finding difficult. I explained to you that these SATs would be done in small groups and not necessarily as a whole class, formally sat down as they would have been in their 'real' tests.

Following a recent meeting with Ms Davidson, it has been decided that we will be carrying out a formal SAT week in **June** - once the children are settled back into school and concepts which are yet to be taught, have been taught. This will be not only for Y6 pupils, but for Y5 pupils too. The reasons for this are below:

- Y6 children are now preparing for secondary school. At Red Hall we do not do any formal assessments in any year group (apart from Y2/Y6 SATs), unlike some other primary schools who do termly assessment testing. It is important that the children are prepared for this way of working, as they move to their new secondary school.
- It is likely that when Y6 pupils do go into their new school in September, some sort of assessment test will be done and children need to become familiar with this.
- Any skills and knowledge which is not secure when these tests are done in June, enables the Y6 teacher to plan to secure this understanding before the children progress into their secondary school. These results will also be passed onto their secondary school to assist them with organising groups and also planning the curriculum.
- Y5 pupils are getting ready to transition into Y6, where they will begin to look at SATs and the curriculum to help them achieve the best they can in these tests.
- This has been done in previous Y5 cohorts too, as it forms a great understanding of where individual children are as they begin Y6, giving the teacher a clear focus for learning in September. We believe this will prove very valuable to that teacher, particularly considering this cohort of children has lost months of learning due to the pandemic in Y4 and some learning in Y5.

- Completing a series of SAT tests in Y5 enables their teacher to clearly identify those gaps in learning and prepare for what areas in the reading and maths need to be consolidated and made secure before they move into Y6.

I hope that you will be able to see the huge benefit to your child's progress through doing this. We are not doing this to put pressure on the children and this is something which will be made **explicit** to them. Our main reasoning behind choosing to do this is to identify gaps in learning, before those gaps grow bigger.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact us via our class emails or the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Henry & Miss Johnston

