TESTING TIMES

Summer Term (Terms 5 & 6) is a busy and active time each year but also a key time for young people focused on end of year or Key Stage exams. We try to get the balance right between preparing properly, practising so we can do the best possible and ensuring there is a balance of activities and a programme including breaks and distractions in order to avoid anxiety. SATs week for Year 6 begins May 13th with tests in English and maths each morning until Thursday 16th. This impacts slightly on the rest of the school and our pattern of lessons but only first thing. Other Year groups should also be preparing for their end-of-year assessments which run during lesson time in the week beginning 10th June. While only the SATs for Year 6 are actually public exams – National Tests – the internal assessments are helpful in establishing how students are doing and what progress they have made. There are times in our lives when we face testing times in all sorts of ways and learning how to deal with additional stresses is important in building resilience and determination. A number of Year 6 children enjoyed our Easter School, a two-day fun programme incorporating maths and English study too, during the Easter hols as part of their preparation.

Up For The Cup

Rev Pete led worship this week on the theme of ‘Excellence in Health’ and spoke of his nephew successfully completing the London Marathon last weekend. Keeping the goal, the end result, in mind in our spiritual lives too was an important part of his reflection. Congratulations go to our Year 7 football team for achieving excellence in sport by remaining unbeaten all season and making it to the regional Cup Final. We still do not know who our opponents will be at the time of going to press but it will take place on Tuesday 21st May at Abour Park (Slough Town FC) ko 9am! Good luck to the boys and well done our very own Pep Guardiola, Mr Miles!

STEM trip

A Year 7 group enjoyed a trip to Lambrook this week for another STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) event. We continue to positively promote participation and engagement with these subjects for all our students as part of our investment in their future and their own careers education.

Garden Planting

Planting will soon be taking place in the ‘well-being’ garden taking shape near the front of school next to the First School playground. The garden will be a space for calm reflection, chat and spending time with friends and is dedicated to the memory of Mrs Smith whose death was reported this time last year. We hope the space will be in use before the end of the school year and will update you and the children when the next phase is complete.

Welcome New Staff

We welcome one new member of our staff team this term. Miss Cartridge joins our PE staff team and will be working with classes and running extra-curricular activities too. We welcome back Mrs Turner who has been gaining experience in Windsor Girls over the past term. We wish them both every happiness and success.

Schools Direct Reminder

We sent out a flyer this week regarding Schools Direct and training to be a teacher. The Open Morning was early this week but we are attaching again in case you wanted to make contact and progress.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

W/C Monday 13th May
SATs Week—Year 6

27th May—31st May
Half Term

Monday 3rd June
PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 3rd June
WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO

Wednesday 5th June
Year 6 Liddington Trip Meeting

Leaving StERF?

If for any reason your son or daughter in Year 5, 6 or 7 is leaving StERF at the end of the school year please can you write and tell us so officially. Parents sometimes assume that another school or Local Authority or even another parent will have told us and this is not the case. We need YOU to confirm this and as soon as possible so that we can offer any spare places to pupils on our waiting list (Pending Admissions List)

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Green Fingers

Allotment Club started again on Tuesday of this week with 29 happy pupils digging, weeding, planting and watering. We are currently growing onions, leeks and a selection of other vegetables. Looking forward to a bumper harvest!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51

The Royal School & 175 Years!

The Royal School is celebrating 175 years of education in The Great Park in June this year. As part of their weekend of celebrations the current pupils will be singing in St George’s Chapel on Friday 28th June and they would like to invite as many ex-pupils as possible to join them. If you are an ex-pupil and would be interested in joining this Celebration Choir please e-mail the school in order to receive further details - theroyalschool@rbwm.org.uk

Sports & PE Update

Welcome back!! Pupils have already started their new activities in PE/ Games lessons this term. Year 5/6 are doing tennis in games lessons and athletics in PE. Year 7/8 pupils are doing cricket in games lessons and athletics in PE.

We are looking forward to the Year 7 football team playing in the cup finals. This will take place at Arbour Park on Tuesday 21st May. Mr Miles and the team are very excited and have been working very hard to prepare for this event. Good Luck boys.

Just a reminder pupils should now be in Summer PE kit which consists of technical top, skort/shorts, trainers, white trainer socks/navy football socks. As well as this pupils should not be wearing earrings in PE lessons. Fitbits and other active watches can only be worn when participating in running events. Please help us to follow these rules to ensure the safety of all pupils.

ATTENDANCE—EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

100% Attendance 0 Days Missed
95% Attendance 9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance 19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance 28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
80% Attendance 38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
75% Attendance 46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed

At the time of writing, our school attendance was: 96.6%