



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the summer term in Year 6 – the final term of your child's primary education! We would first like to say what a lovely opportunity it was to accompany the children to Skern this year. It was a privilege to watch them working so hard to overcome challenges.

### **SKERN Photos**

We took well over 250 photos of the children enjoying activities so we will sort these out and present them in a slide show, which will run continuously before and after the leavers' assembly. We will also print out a selection of these for your child at the end of the school year.

### **SATs**

As you will know, we have been working very hard in the lead up to the Statutory Assessment Tests, or SATs, as they are commonly known. As a school, we have provided tutoring to help many children cover gaps left by the pandemic and as a Year 6 team we have worked hard to ensure that the children have grasped the Key Stage 2 curriculum in readiness for both these tests and their transition to Key Stage 3.

SATs will take place nationally in the week **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

During SATs week, the children are invited to come into school from 8.30am. A breakfast of sausage/veggie sausage baps, fruit and drinks will be provided for children if they would like it. **All children must be in school by 8.55am when they will be registered**, in order to start the tests promptly at 9.00am.

For some children, the tests will take place in their usual classrooms by their usual teachers. The exception to this will be where special arrangements, which have been applied for, are in place. This could be because a child has a special educational need that qualifies them for an individual access arrangement. Therefore, some children will be taken into smaller rooms to help them concentrate or because they are entitled to extra time or a rest break. Any child who is given extra time has had this agreed beforehand by the STA (Standards and Testing Agency) following an application from us.

Test papers are not opened until it is time for the test to start. In order to meet the needs of children, there will be two sittings for each day's tests. Children and staff from the first sitting will be kept separate from those children who are in the second sitting until both sets of tests are complete, in order to abide by the government regulations for testing. Children do not have any help in answering the questions during the tests. They can, however, request that an adult reads the question or part of it in the Maths and Grammar tests, but obviously not in the Reading test.

School trustees will be attending SATs to ensure oversight before, during and afterwards.

We recognise that for many children this may cause nerves and anxiety and we will have staff available in the morning for anyone feeling wobbly. Please be positive and encourage them just to try their best and remind them of the many talents they have!

**Please make sure your child is in school during SATs week.** The results are not only important for St Margaret's Academy; they are also used to help secondary schools group the children in Year 7. Secondary schools also use them as predictors for your child's GCSEs. When you attend your parent

meetings next year, they will likely be telling you whether your child is “on-track” or not; this will be a reference to what they achieved in their Y6 SATs. Tests are also a part of school life so taking part now will help build their resilience for the future.

In our experiences, children are often surprised to find that they really enjoy the week. It is a chance for them to show off everything that they have learnt and it will be run in the calmest and friendliest way possible.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

**Some other things to be aware of with exact timings to follow:**

**Transition**

We have now had correspondence with most of the secondary schools your children will be moving to and meetings between our staff and their staff, to ensure a smooth transition, will be taking place this term. You will hear from your respective schools about transition days they might have in due course.

**Year 6 end of year show and Year 6 Relationships and Sex Education**

More information about this will follow after SATs.

**Year 6 Leavers**

The leavers’ assembly will take place on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> July starting at 9.30am. This will be followed by a barbecue and ice cream at lunchtime. Again, more information will follow about the children’s last day.

**Year 6 Apprentice Project**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July is St Margaret’s Summer Fair. As part of this, the Year 6 children will be working in small groups to run a stall. The group that takes the most money will win a prize from the PTA. The money they raise will hopefully be enough to fund an ice-cream at the leavers BBQ. More information to follow after SATs is over.

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and please do come and see us if you have any concerns.

The Year 6 team