

# Salhouse Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers of Herons' children,

03.01.18

## Forest School

As you know, we try to spend the last hour and a half on Fridays developing problem-solving skills, and building confidence through outdoor learning. As the weather gets colder, it is nice to do some cooking on the fire; please could you send an old mug for your child to use- named if possible- as they are safer and more environmentally friendly to use than polystyrene cups. Please advise if your child has any food allergies I need to be aware of. Extra layers of clothing will be essential- **just football or PE kit is not suitable** and may result in **disappointment for the whole class**. Perhaps there is a set of old clothes that could be left permanently at school as many children forgot regularly last term.

## Biscuit club on Fridays start 12.1.18

Last year, the year 6s banned the word 'SAT' (Statutory Assessment Tests) so revision sessions became known as "Biscuit Club". It will be Fridays; 3.15-4.15pm when I will offer free biscuits and revision of topics on maths, punctuation and grammar. It is aimed primarily at year 6, however year 5 and any parent or carer is welcome to come too if you want to brush up on your skills - I won't embarrass or ask you any questions - you can come as an observer if you wish. **All** year 6 children attended last year, no arm-twisting was required...biscuits seemed to work!

**The first session will be Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January when I shall start with a power-point explaining the format of the SAT tests, showing the new revision materials we have bought** and answering any questions about them, so please come if you would like more information or let me know if you want a copy of the slides.

## Homework

Year 5 homework will continue with spellings given by Mrs Tootill on a Thursday ( class test Thursday on words of similar pattern. I will set maths on Friday which will alternate between Study ladder on the computer and a worksheet due in by the next Thursday. Children receive a house point for bringing it back on time and a further house point if all completed.

Year 6 homework will be spellings on Thursday and then Maths will be 45minute SAT papers. (I will explain more on 12<sup>th</sup> January). **It is essential this is returned each Friday along with the SAT revision books they will be given as we will need them to mark together and discuss in the morning maths lesson and then for "Biscuit Club" later on.**

Reading comprehension skills will be covered in lesson time but I will send a weekly one hour test paper so children can get used to working to the time limit- as a large part of success has shown to come from knowing how to take the test and being able to read fast and concentrate for that length of time. I would suggest splitting it up into 3 sessions to start with, making a note of how long is being spent and if you help with the answers. This will be marked and returned as and when the children bring it back- it is entirely up to you when they do this homework. I realise this is a lot of homework –prioritise the maths in the 45 mins (as needed for Friday lessons) and at least one reading paper a fortnight. If they get too far behind then lunchtime working will be an option...It is only until May 14<sup>th</sup> which amounts to 14 homework's, allowing for holidays etc. and then suddenly it will be planning for Holt Hall and the summer show!

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents) provides information and on last year's tests and has useful videos too.

If you would like to discuss this or you have any concerns about the SATs or your child's progress, please do make arrangements with Mrs Constantine to see me after school on Monday or Wednesday or before school at 8am. Hope to see you on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jo Edwards