

# Sycamore News

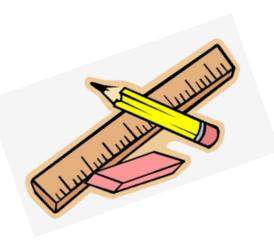
## Spring 2 edition

## 03/03/25

Hello everyone! Welcome to our newsletter this half term and an overview of our new topic Utopia vs dystopia! This topic will help us unpick how a utopian world is one that is perfect and whether it can ever be achieved? We will then compare it to a dystopian world, where it is the complete opposite! Take a look at our learning for this half term and how our theme links to our subjects! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask or email me at sycamore@mundford.dneat.org. I look forward to another exciting half term of learning!



## Homework:



As well as spellings and daily reading, the children have a weekly Maths or English to complete. The aim of these activities is to revisit learning within lessons, to ensure knowledge is embedded. Sometimes the Maths or English task might be replaced by another subject but will still require the use of English or Maths skills. The children will also be given some revision books for the Year 6 SATs and these will be issued this half term. Sometimes the homework set may be a section from the revision guides. The children are also expected to record some reading in their reading record book daily. They can record this themselves if they have read alone, but ideally they should still be reading to an adult twice a week.

Attached to this newsletter are some top tips for SATs preparation in the lead up to the tests in May.

The SATs this year will run from: Monday, 12 May to Thursday, 15 May 2025.

The children will be well prepared, but any questions, please do ask.

Our Mundford Junction this half term will be Monday 31st March 9.15-10.15 and our next showcase is Thursday 24th April 9.15-9.45 to show off all of our wonderful work from our previous topic.

Our PE days will be Mondays and Thursdays.

The children will have a spelling test every Friday and need to remember to learn their spellings for the test. These will be given out on the Friday the week before the test.



## SATs Tip 1: Help your child understand their mistakes

There is nothing wrong with making a mistake, as long as it is learned from.

## SATs Tip 2: Focus on the gaps in your child's knowledge

It might sound obvious, but the most important thing to help your child revise is the topic(s) that they struggle the most with.

## SATs Tip 3: Put most of your efforts into boosting your child's confidence

Often children think, especially with maths, that they are bad at a certain subject or topic.

You might be used to hearing:

"I can't do fractions" or "Times tables are too hard".

Sit with your child and attempt to change this perception

Work with them on the areas they lack confidence in, and change:

"I can't do fractions" to "I don't know the answer to this fractions question yet, **but** I am going to figure it out."

Confidence is key when it comes to SATs and learning in general in primary school.

## SATs Tip 4: Take revision online to keep things fresh and exciting

As well as playing host to a number of games and other ways to waste time, the internet can provide a plethora of revision resources for your child.

## SATs Tip 5: Make sure you're both aware of what's coming up

Preparation is everything here. Look at practice papers, find out what sorts of questions come up, and know which SATs papers your Year 6 will be sitting on which days.

## SATs Preparation By Working On Exam Techniques

Something that is crucial but often forgotten about, exam technique is very important for Year 6 children.

This will likely be the first time they have sat an official test/exam though, so here are some top tips of ways you can help them with their exam technique! Take a look at the handy checklist for some examples of good exam technique:

5 Circle the largest number.



## SATs Tip 6: Teach your child to eliminate any wrong answers

For any questions that have multiple answers in the SATs paper, only one of them is going to be correct and this is why you should remind your child to eliminate any answers they know

to be wrong. By doing this they are removing any doubt they may have had about the question and it can be a good way to focus during an exam. Getting them to explain their reasoning for each question will also help you to spot where they are making mistakes or doing the right thing.

#### SATs Tip 7: Make sure they pay attention to the connotations and context of the questions

Sometimes the questions in Year 6 SATs papers use words that can help to indicate certain actions that your child will need to take, so it is worth keeping an eye out for these.

For example, if "Johnny has four more apples than Ben" the question is likely to be about addition.

Whereas if "Ben has 15 fewer apples than Johnny", the question is likely to be about subtraction.

Run through some examples of these types of questions with your child, helping them to identify the words that may help them answer the question as you go.

9	Cara needs £135 to buy a new phone. She got paid £62.70 for working on Saturday. She got given £54 for her birthday. How much more money does Cara need to get to buy phone?

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What would help?

Cross off items Use a drawing/model Check units of measure Estimate answer

e key information

## SATs Tip 8: Remind them to underline/highlight key parts of the question

This is another simple tip, but if children are not reminded to do it they can often forget when they are immersed in their SATs test.

By simply underlining key parts of the question they are working on, it will help them to focus on specific calculations or problems that need to be solved.

In the reading paper they should highlight where they found the last answer from in order to carry on from there as the questions are mostly in the same order as the text.

## SATs Tip 9: Make up and make use of mnemonic devices

E.g.

I View X-Rays to remember the order of the Roman Numerals for 1,5 and 10;

KFC to remember the way to divide fractions (Keep the first fraction. Change the sign from divide to multiply. Flip the last fraction)

## SATs Tip 10: Remind them to take their time in the tests

Rushing equals mistakes, so one of our most important SATs tips is to remind your child to take their time and start with the harder questions on the paper.

It can be easy for children to try and go through the paper as quickly as possible in an attempt to make sure it is completed, but this is not best practice when it comes to any type of exams!

#### SATs Tip 11: Revise in small chunks

The children can easily get overwhelmed with the amount they have to do, short activities can help with this.

## SATs Tip 12: Put the tests into perspective for them

When you are a 10 or 11-year-old, SATs can seem like a much bigger deal than they should do.

At that age you see these tests as something that you have been working towards for a long period of time, and whilst they are important, SATs are not the be -all and end-all.

#### SATs Tip 13: Talk to your child about their stress and listen

It is very important that you speak to your child throughout the entire SATs period and discuss with them anything they may be finding stressful.

Your child trusts you, and by just lending your ear to their worries and fears you will find that they are a lot less stressed than they otherwise might be.

## SATs Tip 14: Use the right language around the home

There should be no mentions of "passing" or "failing" in the run up to, or during the SATs. It is up to you to set the right tone around your home.

## SATs Tip 15: Discuss the concepts of anxiety and stress with them

With your child being such a young age when they sit the SATs, this could be the first time they experience anxiety or stress so they may not know how to describe what they are feeling.

The best thing to do is to simply sit with your child and discuss both the physical and mental effects stress and anxiety can have to help them articulate anything they may be feeling.

SATs Tip 16: Get the correct test dates in your calendar early (see dates on previous side of the newsletter).