



Friday 17th May 2024

Dear **Year 6**

I'd just like to thank you for all your hard work throughout the year. Also, I'd like to thank you for your approach to the SATs this past week. You kept calm & focused – there's no point in getting worked up – it won't do you any good. Of course, there were parts of the SATs that were tough, but, like we'd expect, you knuckled-down, stuck at it & tried your very best. Trying your very best is all anyone can ask of you.

I wanted to remind you that while we want you to do as well as you can in the SATs, they are not the only way you are judged as a person; **there is so much more to you than reading, spelling, grammar & maths.**

Your contribution to Woodlands has been outstanding. There are so many ways you have made a difference this year: Sports Leaders, House Captains, School Councillors, Playground Pals, Tech Crew, representing Woodlands in various sports. You have set up your own lunchtime extra-curricular activities for younger children: **Dance** Club, **Acting** Club, **Sports** Club, **GAMES** Club, **Dance/Cheer** Club & **Craft** Club. Without you, Woodlands would not have been quite as wonderful as it has been this past year.

The SATs don't even measure how well you can do in other 'educational' subjects: the **brilliance** of some of you when it comes to playing a musical instrument; the **PHENOMENAL** skill & understanding you show when using information technology; the **grace & power** you show through your dancing; the way you have **practised** your close control so that the football looks as though it's glued to your boots; your **knowledge** of history *{divorced, beheaded, died... divorced, beheaded, survived}*; the **exquisite** paintings, sketching & drawing you produce in art (or on the back of your jotter); the hours you have spent **perfecting** your handspring in gymnastics.

I wish there was a SAT in *working well with others* or maybe one that judged how **honest** you are. It would be great if your ability to *look after your friends* when they're having a tough time was given a mark and then sent off to the Department for Education. There should be a SAT that tells people just how well you *keep going* when things are difficult or one that shows how well you *stand up for what you believe in*. As Jude, from the Anthony Walker Foundation, said, **"be an upstander, not a bystander"** – **stand up for what is right & make a difference in this world.**

Maybe they should have a SAT that measures your ability to *tell really good jokes* to make people laugh. Maybe they should have a SAT that measures your ability to tell *really bad jokes* to make people laugh.

SATs in reading, spelling, grammar & maths just measure a **tiny** bit of what makes you who you are.

The SATs don't even measure in a whole range of important things:

Creativity self-control **wisdom** motivation **intuition** affection **peacefulness** loyalty
perspective **rhythm** **faithfulness** **HONESTY** determination kindness **courage** patience
perseverance **spirituality** **gentleness** joy thoroughness **generosity** helpfulness flexibility **discernment**
LOVE character **friendliness** **COMPASSION** sensitivity **CONFIDENCE** **resilience**

The list could go on & on & on ... on & on & on ... on & on & on ... on & on & on ... on & on & on ... on & on & on ... on & on & on ...

Of course, we want you to do as well as you can do in your SATs – you deserve to do well. **However, we are proud of you because of who you are as a person**, not just because you get good marks in tests.

Personally, I couldn't have asked for a better Y6 in my final year of teaching. **THANK YOU.**

Mr Williams
Mrs Hughes
Miss Pickford
Miss Rathe
Mrs Rimmer
& all the Woodlands staff

P.S. Only 33 days to PGL...