



South Hiendley Primary School



May 2019

To Year 6 pupils at SHS,

Over the past few weeks and months you have put in lots of effort in preparation for your SATs. You have worked extremely hard and we know you will all do your best next week.

At the moment, you've been doing lots of English and Maths, but you have lots of other skills too. Not every skill is taught in school and even fewer are tested. You might be a great skateboarder, fantastic at fashion design or have green fingers... You might be a people-person, a problem-solver or a poet.

SATs are never going to show off all these amazing skills. They don't test whether you're a creative person, can write code, whether you are good at teaching IT skills to your granddad or have a rapport with animals. They don't test your speaking skills or whether you can mend anything put in front of you. They don't measure whether you're arty or sporty, musical or love science. Although subjects like Maths and English are important, never forget you've been given talents in plenty of other areas too.

Please try your best to think of these tests as 'something I've got to do, but not the most important thing in the world'. The problem is that sometimes we teachers can make them seem really important, without noticing what we're doing. We have school targets we hope to meet and our school has Government targets it hopes to meet. It's like one big chain and there's only one person at the end of it... YOU!

But remember this: When you were born, no one said, "What I want most for this child is for them to be Meeting Age Related Expectations at the end of Year Six!" (that would have been slightly weird!) The big things - the most important things - are things like your personality, what you believe and think, your ideas and that spark inside you that makes you **you**. Your parents know it and, as a school, we know it.

There is a video on the internet that asks you to count the number of passes a basketball team make. The passes come quick and fast and you really have to focus on the ball flying from left to right to count them all. At the end of the video it says, "Well done on counting the passes, but did you notice the moonwalking bear?" You see, you were so busy focusing on watching the basketball, you missed a bear in the background, moonwalking across the screen!

Moonwalking Bear video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB_ITKZm1Ts

SATs can be like that video challenge. We promise as a school not to be so busy focusing on your SATs that we don't notice the amazing individuals we have in Year 6.

Good luck for next week!

We are proud of everyone one of you - well done!

Mrs L Sanderson (Headteacher - South Hiendley Primary School)