

April 2010

Dear Parents

Year 6 SATs 2010

You may have read in the press that the NAHT and NUT unions are proceeding with industrial action to boycott the Year 6 SATs tests this May.

At a recent meeting, the Headteachers in the Swanmore Pyramid of schools made a collective decision not to boycott the tests, but to administer them as normal. We have not taken this decision lightly and have many reservations on the current nature of SATs tests; the erratic marking; and over reliance on the use of these results in making judgements on schools.

We do not agree with the current testing procedures, but have reached our decision with pupils, parents and staff in mind. We recognise that a great deal of work has gone into preparing the children through booster sessions, targeted support, specific homework and revision; children have worked hard to prepare for these tests and we would not wish for this good work to be wasted for "political gain".

As a cluster we agree that we want to see a fairer and more rounded perspective on school performance and are wholly supportive of the unions' desire to move towards a broader, more balanced picture of school achievement. We also want to see every child making good progress in order to achieve their optimum potential whilst retaining a love of learning that will stay with them into their adult lives. However, these changes will take time to implement and we wouldn't want to disadvantage our current Year 6 children with only one week to go before the SATs tests.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Andy Yeoman
Headteacher