

UPPER JUNIOR NEWS - SPRING 2



It's another busy half term for the Upper Juniors with Year 6 working hard in preparation for their upcoming SATs. Last week, we celebrated the success of the Dragon's Den project, with a staggering £1050 raised for charity! Well done Upper Juniors!

What's on this half term?

Coasts (Geography)

Children have been looking at the different features of coastlines and investigated how our coastlines are changing due to erosion and deposition. They then compared the advantages and disadvantages of the use of various sea defences used to protect our coast.

Properties of materials (Science)

Children have been using their 'working scientifically skills' by investigating and developing an understanding of how microplastics are affecting our planet. The children then identified ways they could reduce or remove the amount that enter our environment.

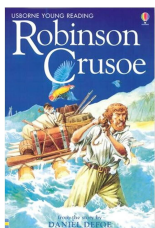
You can find more information on the Upper Junior curriculum [here](#).

English

Shipwrecked In this topic, children read extracts from Robinson Crusoe and Kensuke's Kingdom, creating their own exciting shipwreck stories..

Sea Fever Inspired by their geography topic, this poem explores the wonders of the sea.

Foundling Children study a range of traditional tales based on foundlings and create their own foundling story.



Maths



Children will:

- Convert between metric units of length, mass and capacity, applying these skills to real-life problems;
- Convert between miles and kilometers;
- Develop their understanding of ratio and practise enlarging shapes using scale factors;
- Interpret and solve algebraic expressions, including function machines;
- Develop their knowledge of position and direction in geometry, focusing on translation and reflection.

How can I support my child ahead of the SATs?

SATs can be a daunting time for some children so it is important to help them feel calm and prepared during the few weeks running up to the tests.

1. **Talk to your child** about how they are feeling and discuss any worries.
2. **Look at practice papers** together. Knowing what to expect can help relieve anxiety.
3. **Use the weekly arithmetic papers** to address gaps in knowledge. Watch the Century videos together and try again.
4. **Take revision online.** Century is an AI tool which personalises the child's pathway, TTRS will help boost times table knowledge and Reading Plus will help with reading comprehension and fluency.
5. **Keep practising key areas of maths:** times tables, telling the time and discussing everyday weights and measures.
6. **Look at the spelling cards** that were sent home to check children are familiar with the Year 6 patterns that they will be tested on.
7. **Remember to remain positive** in the run up to, and during SATs week. If you are anything other than positive about the KS2 tests, then this can trickle down to your child and affect their attitude about the SATs.
8. **Take time to switch off** over Easter. While we do expect homework tasks to be completed, Easter is a great opportunity to reset with some quality family time.

Here in school we focus on wellbeing. Many children find the week enjoyable with SATs breakfast, the Leavers' Hoodies, which we get on the Friday, the show clues and even the biscuits and squash after each paper - all these little treats help make the week run a lot more smoothly.

"The thought, care and preparation and attention to the child (rather than the tests) was amazing. My child was equipped emotionally and mentally for SATs thanks to the school." - former Year 6 parent

Supporting your child at home

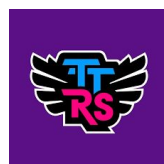
Reading - we ask that children read 4x per week and that this is recorded in their reading challenge. Reading challenges are expected to be in school every day.

Homework - Maths or SPAG homework is set and checked each Wednesday. Please check Century for due assignments.

Spellings - We really appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their weekly spellings. They will be tested each Friday.

TTRS - Regular times table practise helps with many areas of the Upper Junior maths curriculum. We encourage children to complete 10 garage sessions per week.

If a child is unable to complete homework tasks at home, they will be invited to a lunch time catch up club.



Home learning links

SORA

SORA is a free app from Hampshire's school library service. When you download the app, children will have access to hundreds of quality e-books or audiobooks - perfect for long car journeys or bedtime listening.

Key dates

Please visit the [school calendar](#) regularly for updates.



Attendance

We monitor attendance carefully as there is a strong link between attendance and achievement. Days off add up to lost learning. We appreciate your support in allowing your child to access the education they deserve.

Getting in touch

Teachers are happy to help and are generally available at the end of the school day or by email. Please do not try to catch them in the mornings while they are settling the children. Urgent messages can be passed to the school office.

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ellie.dawson@hordleprimary.co.uk

Please allow up to 2 school days for email responses as teachers are child-facing during the day.