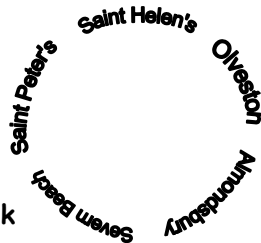


Chairman  
Mr K. Purvis  
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Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**SATs boycott 2010**

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have heard that the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has decided, after long deliberation, to campaign to end the SATs system in Primary and Special Schools. It believes that these 'high stakes' tests damage the educational experience of children in Year 6, and are used to create unreliable league tables that misrepresent the often excellent work being done in schools. The NAHT has therefore balloted its members about stopping the SATs. The ballot resulted in a yes vote so the NAHT has called upon its members to take action. This means that the 2010 SATs tests (scheduled for the week 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May) will not be undertaken at these and many other schools. In writing this letter, we hope to reassure you that the key aim is to provide your child with the best possible education. This aim is not achievable in the current environment and there has to be positive change.

The NAHT has evidence to support this campaign. A brief summary of that evidence is as follows:

- The current system narrows the curriculum;
- Nationally, children are spending up to 10 hours a week rehearsing for the tests;
- In a poll of more than 11, 000 parents 90% said that they would trust their teacher's judgement of their child's attainment and 85% said that they would like to see an end to SATs;
- The quality of education in Year 6 is damaged because of the testing regime.

It has proposed the following to the government:

- Children's work should be assessed by the teacher;
- That assessment is subject to external moderation;
- Tests should be used at a time, in a place and in a manner that is right for the children;
- Testing should underpin teacher judgment, not override it.

To give us accurate information on your child's attainment in Maths and English, we will make use of past papers to validate teacher assessment. However, these will be done in the same way as other testing: throughout the year, broken up over a period of time, and in the normal positive classroom environment, rather than cramming into the pressured system of testing within SATs. These assessments will provide you with detailed and more accurate information on your child's progress. The end of year report will be sent to you as usual and will contain information on your child's progress together with the national curriculum level he/she has achieved.

Although your child will not be doing the SATs tests, we would like to emphasise that you will still receive all the information that you need without your child's Year 6 education being interrupted unnecessarily.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F. Bertham  
Head Teacher

Mr P. Smith  
Head Teacher

Mr K. Tinline-Purvis  
Head Teacher

Mr. J Cooke  
Head Teacher

Miss J. Daffon  
Head Teacher

Olveston CEVC  
Primary

Almondsbury  
CEVC Primary

St. Peter's  
A/M VC Primary

St. Helen's  
CEVC Primary

Severn Beach  
Primary