

## To Parents of Upper Dart Summer Newsletter 2017

A big welcome back to you all, we hope that you have all had a lovely Easter break, and the children are ready for the exciting term ahead.

Our topic this term will be 'Chain Reaction Contraptions'. During the term, the children will study the domino-like installation artwork of Fischil and Weiss and the machine designs of Rube Goldberg. They will be looking at marble/ball runs and will hopefully get down to study those on display at the House of Marbles in Bovey Tracey. We will be investigating some famous inventors and have a go at creating our own remote control devices.

This theme will run through much of the children's studies, particularly within science, maths, ICT and art and design.

If any family members have any experience with inventing or machine design, we would love to hear from you, moreover, if you have any cardboard tubing or guttering lying about you don't need, we would be grateful.

Regarding home learning this term, children will have some occasional consolidation work for numeracy and literacy, depending on those groups each week that would benefit from further practice. They will also be given some project-based home learning in the form of two to three week assignments. A note will be posted in homework books every week with details about current home learning, this will also give parents the opportunity to add any comments they wish the teachers to read. Home learning and weekly spellings will be given out each Thursday to be handed in on the following Thursday.

Swimming will hopefully start next week. We will swim every Thursday this half term. Children will have an athletics PE lesson on Mondays, however, please could they have full, named PE kits and swimmers in school at all times as we may change days due to weather conditions or fit in extra sessions during the summer term. The Year 5 and 6 summer residential to Lee Valley in Hertfordshire is from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. All members of Upper Dart not heading out of the Shire will take part in a mixed curricular activity week in school.

Please see below the SATs timetable coming up in May. We will be emphasizing to the Year 6 children that they must not get anxious about the tests. They are very much about measuring the levels of achievement reached by the children during their Primary School years. While we want them to show their ability, and do their best, nothing will be gained by them worrying about the outcomes. Leading up to these tests, we will be doing some revision in class time, and, in lieu of homework, we will encourage the Y6 children to take some time to look at past papers or go online to Bitesize Revision or Khan Academy for particular points they would like to revisit at [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize) or [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

### SATS timetable for May 2017

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will be administered in the week commencing 8 May 2017.

The **2017 SATs schedule** is as follows:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	English - reading
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	English- grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1:questions  English -grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1:spelling
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Mathematics Paper 1:arithmetic  Mathematics Paper 2:reasoning
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mathematics Paper 3 reasoning

