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Dear parents and carers,

The summer break has almost arrived and, as you know, the entrance exams are due to be taken in September of this year. The children have worked very hard this year, not just in their verbal reasoning lessons, but in all areas of the curriculum.

I thought it might be useful to write to you with a few thoughts for the summer. I know that you are aware of the importance of maintaining focus whilst allowing children to rest and recuperate.

Progress Review

We are completing practice papers in school and, following the marking of these, I will send out an individual email detailing how the children have done in this assessment. I will also include:

- how your child is managing the papers that are being administered in school
- areas that they would benefit from additional practice in
- Any other issues

Work Over The Summer

In terms of continuing work over the summer, parents obviously know their children best and will need to manage their motivation levels carefully. I have listed a variety of activities; from 10-minute quick fire questions to full papers and **will send these home via a digital link (sent separately)**

This is also intended to be supplemented by regular reading, practising times tables, mathematics and vocabulary practice.

10 Minute Tasks (CGP)

One of the main reasons I advocate the 10 minute tasks is that many children find the parameter of 10 minutes for a task more motivating than a whole book. You can, for example, say to children that they will do 20 minutes (i.e. two tasks) then take a break before returning and doing a little more, if you wish. This way, they see their tasks broken down into more manageable chunks. The obvious exception to these are the practice papers, which I have outlined below.

Practice Papers

There are a number of papers included in the pack which do get progressively harder as they move through. As GL do not produce a practice pack in the way in which Wirral's will be produced, I have put together these papers from the packs that I have. There will always be some maths, some NVR and some VR in each "paper". There are normally around 70 / 80 questions but some papers may even have 90 – 100. I will also provide the answers. Once you have marked the paper, try not to dwell on the actual score your child has achieved when talking to them. Instead, go through the paper with them to help them understand any areas of difficulty or unfamiliar vocabulary, because this maximises their learning from each paper. Children's aim is to get as much practice as possible in before the test.

Some aspects of assessments are very hard indeed and the vocabulary, in particular will cause children some difficulties. However, it is important that children realise this and accept that in some cases, they will have to guess and move on to the next question. It is likely that they will come across words that are so



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challenging they cannot decipher it. If this is the case, they should first try deduction (eg. looking at endings – angelic / demonic, negative and positive prefixes eg disparage / encourage etc) if this is not helping, then they will simply have to guess and move on. With respect to the mathematical elements, I have tried, wherever possible, to balance challenging areas with confidence building areas. I believe that building confidence going into an assessment is of paramount importance.

I will also send parents a link which gives whole CGP books available for parents to print. However, as in previous years, I understand that many parents choose to purchase the books for their children rather than printing copious amounts. I do tend to use the CGP 10 minute books as they offer short structured activities which may appeal to children alongside the full papers.

You can purchase the CGP 10 minute books via Amazon, Lingham's or other retailers. You should ensure that they are for the GL assessment, not the CEM. The VR, NVR and spelling / vocabulary ones would be most useful.

Vocab

Below are some vocabulary assessments that you might find useful. All of the words are taken from GL assessment papers over the last few years and give a good indication of the level of vocabulary that they may face in the real assessment. There are a large number of questions for each one and they are multiple choice. As with all these programs, there may be some questions that the computer deems wrong but, on discussion with an adult, children realise that they are correct. This is a good area for discussion and will prompt some thought.

Children can take these tests as many times as they like but they should aim for as close to full marks as possible.

Finally, there will be 3 “refresher” sessions on **Wednesday 28 August 2024 from 9am until 12pm and Thursday 29 August 2024 from 9am until 12pm and Friday 30 August 2024 from 9am until 12pm** These will be held in the current Y5 classroom. These are not compulsory but children are very welcome to join us. Children will not need their uniform but should bring their pencil cases. Children should bring their water bottles and a snack. In the first few weeks, we will operate an adjusted timetable to allow children additional practice in curriculum time.

Yours sincerely,

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