

Homework –

Friday 10th May 2019



**Miss Gathercole and
Miss Brown**



Dear Parent/Carer

The picture in the picture box today represents the incredible complexity of the processes that the Department for Education expects the school to manage.

Whilst giving the school less money each year, the DfE expects us to jump through more and more hoops which constrain us rather than free us up to give the very best education possible. Having said that, we have such a good staff at Ivanhoe that we still manage to deliver a first class education for all the children in our care.

Next week is SATs week for KS2 – something that involves incredible planning and hard work and which affects every member of staff over the four days (Monday-Thursday.) It is a stressful time for children and teachers – but we do try to make it as smooth as possible for everyone. This will be the third year of having SATs Sunday (this Sunday) when children and teachers get together to try to relax so that Monday goes as well as possible – and we are taking the Y6 out on the Friday when SATs finish to give them a bit of a reward ☺.

Once we get through SATs, we have Sports Week, which should be good fun, and then we have the last half-term of the academic year when we all transition to the new classes and start our 2019/20 that little bit early so that we can hit the ground sprinting in September.

Part of my job at the moment involves trying to think about where all the classes will go in the next academic year and which teachers and LSAs will be in which year groups – this is more complex than one might imagine due to increasing numbers and shrinking resources. Next year we are employing three NQTs (newly qualified teachers) which will also take some juggling – but this will allow us to have reduced class sizes despite having more children.

I hope that lots of parents have had the opportunity to read the story that goes across the back of Nuala's Garden. Nuala wrote it just before Christmas in 2017. It is a beautiful story and the signage has been very attractively designed. We have some plants that are to go in and the area around the garden is going to be tidied up and we are buying a couple of benches to go inside. Once it's completed, we will be inviting back last year's Y6 for an official 'opening' so that they can see what we have done. I see the garden being used as a quiet place for reading and reflection. In summer months, I expect children to take bean bags out to sit in there and enjoy the opportunity for reading a favourite book or for just watching the world go by.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...

Signed:

Please make sure that your child's medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.