



17th May 2021

P6 practice papers and AQE – update May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since the summer term began, we have been working in class to complete one Heinemann AQE-style practice paper per week. As we explained in our April update, the AQE tests are based on the English and Maths that we are already covering in P6 and P7. Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at these AQE-style practice papers with all our P6 pupils as part of our class teaching to familiarise the children with the format of these assessments. We have been using the P6 versions of these papers which are easier and much shorter in length and therefore less intimidating. We have looked at a few questions each day, talked about them as a whole-class and completed them together with no pressure on the children as they learn how to set out their working-out and begin to think about time management. These are important skills for all pupils to develop, whether or not they will be taking the AQE assessments, which is why we have included every child throughout this initial stage.

On Friday, AQE aqe.org.uk confirmed that the grammar schools plan to go ahead with this year's tests which are due to be held on three consecutive Saturdays – 20th November, 27th November and 4th December 2021. At the time of writing, no further details have been released and the online registration process has not yet opened. However, we expect that the AQE website will be updated with additional information during the course of this week. As always, we aim to keep you informed at every stage of the process and we will provide you with a further written update next week.

We are now asking you to consider whether you wish for your child to continue doing further practice tests as you are planning to enter your child for the AQE tests or you no longer wish to do further tests as your child will not be entering the AQE tests. Taking the AQE tests in P7 allows your child to apply for a grammar school place but, if you know that a grammar school will not be the right place for your child, there is no need to sit the AQE tests and therefore no need to do more practice papers. **If you are unsure, we would suggest that your child continues to sit the practice papers until at least the end of P6.**

If you wish to continue doing practice papers, you do not need to contact your child's teacher. From Monday 24th May, your child will sit one paper per week under test conditions and then go through it in class the next day. The test paper will then be sent home for you to look at together with your child and attempt some corrections. At this stage, scores do not matter – our emphasis is on helping the children to become more familiar with the assessment process and considering the best way to approach each question. There may be some questions which cover areas of the curriculum which we have not yet covered in class. The children who are sitting the practice tests will also be provided with an additional Windmill weekend paper to complete at home. The answers to these weekend papers will be provided

on the school website to allow you to go through the paper and mark it together with your child.

If you do not wish to continue doing practice papers, please contact your child's class teacher in writing as soon as possible. Your child will complete separate English and/or Maths activities while the others are sitting the paper. When we are going through the paper the next day, a copy of the paper will be given to every child in the class and they will all be included in the teaching and learning as we work through particular questions together.

A local company "The Transfer Tutor" provides additional support and online quizzes for those children who are taking the AQE tests. Access to these resources usually costs £50 per child but we have arranged a 50% discount for Brooklands Primary School parents. Please see the attached leaflet for further details and, if you wish to sign up, visit their website www.thetransfertutor.co.uk/parent-school

Please feel free to contact us if there is any way in which we can help you. Thank you once again for your support and for everything that you are doing at home.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bell, Mr Massey, Mr Coetzee and Miss Steele

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