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Dear parents,

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

### 10 minute tasks

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 15 "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 CGP 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.



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## 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.

## Links:

- Test 1 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=3f1c2f4ea217>  
Test 2 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=545e83d03ff1>  
Test 3 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=c758fb72f11e>  
Test 4 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=c4d1178c8356>  
Test 5 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=3c4f95cf8aff>  
Test 6 <https://www.wordsmyth.net/?on=05b1920d9bf9>

## For Upton Hall and St Anselm's preparation

1. Complete **both** IPS 10 minute test books and other VR papers which I have made available to you.
2. Complete the antonyms and synonyms book (photocopied).
3. Times tables. Regular, quick fire practice of these is essential, including corresponding divisions.
4. Use mathematics regularly.

Finally, there will be 2 "refresher" sessions on **Tuesday 30 August 2022 from 9am until 2pm (children will need to bring a packed lunch for this day)** and **Wednesday 31 August 2022 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 (on Tuesday 30 August, they should bring a packed lunch with them. Please could you ensure that all packed lunches are nut free. We are a nut free site). In the first few weeks, we will operate an adjusted timetable to allow children additional practice in curriculum time.

Regards,

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