



# Iona Star

Friday 12th May 2023  
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## SATs week

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who have worked tirelessly this week completing their SATs papers. The tests have challenged the children in reading comprehension; grammar and spelling; arithmetic and maths reasoning. In total, Year 6 have completed six papers in four days.

Without exception, the children have worked incredibly hard and the concentration levels have been unbelievable! All of the staff involved commented upon how diligently and calmly the children worked through each question showing such resilience. We were very proud of them all - especially as there were some tricky questions in some of the papers! Well done Year 6!

A huge **thank you** must go to all of the staff who have helped to prepare and support Year 6 over the last few months: a big thank you to Miss Quinn, Mrs Carr and Mr Keilty.

Sincere thanks must also go to our fantastic team of SATs helpers this week and to the adults who have prepared breakfast each morning - we've gone through a lot of loaves of bread since Tuesday!

Well done everyone and thank you to our parents for your support and understanding in this statutory assessment process.

As Year 2 parents may be aware, we are now also in the Key Stage 1 testing period. There are no set dates for the Year 2 tests; they can be completed throughout the course of May. The children are very often unaware that they have completed anything other than a 'special job'! If parents have any concerns, please speak to Mrs Whitelaw or Mrs Maddison.

## School Gateway Accounts

Please could we remind all parents to top up their child's School Gateway account if school meals are paid for. Quite a number of accounts are in deficit and this is having a wider impact upon our school budget. This large, collective, outstanding debt has to be paid to Mellors, our catering company, by the school.

Please remember to add credit to your accounts regularly if your child orders a school meal. Ideally, it is best to top these up on a **Monday**, ready for the week ahead. This will save parents going into arrears by the end of the week. Thank you.

If parents wish to speak to Mrs Wallace or Mrs Garbutt about any concerns or queries they may have, please contact the school office. Thank you.

## Term Dates

A reminder for parents that our May half term will be from **Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023**. School will open again to all pupils on Monday 5th June 2023.

Attached to the Iona Star tonight is a very important letter. This is from Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and explains about a change to the published date for February half term 2024.

This break has been moved a week later and will now take place from **Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 23rd February 2024**. This is to align the week with the three Local Authorities our Trust is connected with. An updated list of term and holiday dates will be sent to parents in due course.

## Sacramental Preparation

Tomorrow, Saturday 13th May, our first Year 4 group will make their Holy Communion at Mass at St. Columba's Church at 5pm.

They have worked incredibly hard for this day. Our sincere thanks goes to Mrs Watson, Mrs Doherty and the team of Catechists from school and the parish who have worked so hard to prepare the children for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

We ask you to keep all of our Year 4 children in your thoughts and prayers and we pray especially for Jack, Violet, Lila, Emily and Theo this weekend. We wish them all a wonderful day on Saturday and many congratulations.

## Swimming Lessons in Year 6

A reminder that Year 6 will begin their swimming sessions this Monday, 15th May until Friday 26th May. The coach will pick the children up after lunch and they will receive their lessons during the afternoon. Girls need to have full costumes and boys must wear swimming trunks, not baggy shorts. All children will need a towel but will not be allowed to use shampoo, shower gel or deodorant spray. If parents have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Quinn or Mrs Garbutt. Thank you.

## Earrings

We have noticed a number of pupils wearing earrings for school over these last few weeks. Some of these styles have included hoop earrings. These are incredibly dangerous in a school setting and can cause damage if they are caught.

If something must be worn in the ear lobe, policy states these are **retainers only**; clear, plastic stud retainers. These are small, flat and much safer than metal studs, dangling earrings or hoops. Clear plastic stud retainers can be purchased in bulk on Amazon.

Thank you for your help and support in this matter.