

# SUMMER HALF TERM NEWSLETTER



## FROM THE SCHOOL ROOM TEDDINGTON

Dear All,

I can't believe that I am already writing to wish you all a final happy half term for this academic year. Where has the time gone? In my experience, time flies, not only when you are having fun, but when you are in flow - truly engaged with something. I have seen the children experience just this at The School Room Teddington. We often reach the end of a lesson with a child saying, "What, is it time to go already?" Having fun, aiming high and being rewarded for effort is central to what we believe here and it is clear to see that the children respond to this. It is such a privilege to teach them- they bring with them a wonderful energy and enthusiasm, providing a unique window into the world as they see it. Wonderful!

And... as we are all working together for their greater good, I am excited about the imminent webinar initiative that we are launching here at The School Room. We want to help you help your child. Read on to find out more about this. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with any feedback, concerns or general questions.

HAPPY HALF TERM

Janette 



Our own mini woodland garden at The School Room Teddington, earlier in May.

## TERM DATES

The final half term will run from  
**Monday 5th June to Friday 17th July.**

## BOOKINGS FOR JAN 2018

Places for January 2018 are filling up fast. Please pass on my details to anyone who might be interested.

**NOW: One space available for Year 3  
Maths on Mondays at 4pm.**

## SUMMER PROGRAMME

Over the summer holiday, I will be running various sessions during August. You will find a detailed outline of each on the final page:

1. 10+ preparation
2. Secondary Ready Maths
3. Booster 1:1 sessions
4. Creative Writing Workshops



## 10+ PREPARATION

Kingston Grammar School and Hampton School both offer 10+ Advance Place examinations. These are timetabled for 6th January 2018 (KGS) and 4th November 2017 (Hampton School) for Year 5 children. I am offering introductory 10+ preparation lessons, focusing on writing and comprehension skills, in addition to key maths concepts and problem solving. Please contact me for further information.



## WEBINAR

Earlier this year, I piloted a series of maths lessons for parents to teach some of the methods children are taught in primary school. I am excited to say that I plan to run a series of webinars (web-based seminars) to reach a wider audience and hope to be offering these soon, so look out for an email regarding this. I will be emailing those parents who were on the initial pilot about trialling this webinar at the end of June. We will let you know how we get on.



## SECONDARY READY MATHS

This is a maths refresher to prepare children for their transition to secondary school. Within the first week or so of the new term, children are assessed in maths, the result determining which ability group they are set in. An inevitable “summer learning loss” is experienced by children over the extended holiday, meaning that children are unprepared for this initial test. It is not uncommon for children to find themselves in a lower set than is appropriate to their ability and this can lead to unnecessary frustration and anxiety.

A short, sharp boost of maths prior to the start of term can help your child make a positive start to their new school and help them prepare mentally for the new journey ahead.

## BOOSTER 1:1 SESSIONS

These individual sessions will provide your child with a bespoke learning experience in which they can address any areas of English and/or maths where they lack confidence or need support. The classroom can be the most daunting place for a child when they haven't grasped a concept. Worried about what their peers might think or too shy to ask the teacher for help, gaps in learning can easily occur. Often children are taught a new concept, for which they are simply not ready. Having a 1:1 experience offers your child the freedom to ask the questions they daren't ask in class and the opportunity to explore concepts that have historically seemed too challenging.

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR 7-11 YEAR OLDS

Children love to write for fun. What better way to spend a couple of hours on a summer's day doing just that. No holds barred, your child will be given a writing stimulus, to respond to, expressing their ideas in any way they choose: poetry, prose, narrative, comic strip etc. More information about this to follow. Please register an interest as soon as possible and tell your friends about it.

These will take place between 31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August and  
21<sup>st</sup> August- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

## SHAPE OF 11+ PROVISION

Some of you have been asking what the shape of 11+ provision is going to look like in the run up to the 11+ exams. I will be sending parents of 11+ tutees an overview of what the children will be covering in the next half term and what homework to expect. I am also in the process of compiling a guided summer programme for these children and will be offering this as a means of tuition to ensure that they remain on track in their preparation for their exams. More news of this to follow. It is crucial that these children continue with their learning over the summer holidays as it is well documented that this long break results in what is known as 'summer learning loss'.

## TESTIMONIALS

"Harry very much enjoys your sessions - the biscuits, juice and prizes are a big pull but more importantly he is energised by being challenged and consequently enjoys school more. The work he does at school now feels "like revision" as he is more confident in his own knowledge and understanding. He also finds it fun working in groups alongside other likeminded children. We never have to drag him along to the sessions and he comes back inspired to learn more. Thank you for all of that!"

Antonia Mudunkotuwe, parent of Harry, Yr 5 11+

"Fran really didn't like going to school before she met you! You taught her how to love learning, to be excited at mastering something that she never thought she could. She went from an average learner with average grades to a top table maths pupil within a year. She now

loves going to school and both she and I couldn't be more grateful to you!!"

Steph Hopping, parent of Fran, Booster group

Ali: 'I was worried that tutoring might be too too much of a hot house, but Janette clearly makes her sessions fun. Working in small groups of four is less intimidating than a one-to-one set-up, and Cameron always comes out smiling. But I can see from his workbook that the work he is doing with Janette is challenging and stretching him.'

Cam: 'Janette always has a great strategy for learning new things. It's much easier to learn things than when I'm in the classroom at school.'

Ali Thomson, parent of Cameron, Yr 5 11+

Wishing you all an enjoyable break. Invoices will be sent out for the coming half term on Friday 26th May to be paid by Friday 9th June so please look out of these in your inboxes.



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