

Class time

This book belongs to

It is their record of achievement

I sincerely hope that they are as proud of their
endeavours as I am to teach them

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Term Times and Cost 2024/25

Autumn 2 nd half	First day 06-11-24 Last day 19-12-24	£182.00	
Spring 1 st half	First day 08-01-25 Last day 13-02-25	£156.00	
Spring 2 nd half	First day 26-02-25 Last day 03-04-25	£156.00	
Summer 1 st half	First day 23-04-25 Last day 22-05-25	£130.00	
Summer 2 nd half	First day 04-06-25 Last day 17-07-25	£182.00	
Autumn 1 st half	Dates to be finalised when we know the 11+ dates for 2025		

Payment is via PayPal, we will email you when the payment page is published at the beginning of each holiday.

Absence If you can't make a class we will email you a pre-recorded 11+ class with worksheet which lasts about an hour. This will remain available until the 11+

Mock Exams 2025

Salisbury Sea Scout Hall, SP1 3DD

These are booked via our website. If the mornings get full, then we can usually open an afternoon session. There will be more up-to-date information on our website about dates, times and exam style as people's needs and wants become apparent over the year.

Mock Exam A	11 th January
Mock Exam A	18 th January
Mock Exam A	25 th January
Mock Exam B	15 th March
Mock Exam B am	22 nd March
2-Paper Exam pm	22 nd March
Mock Exam B	29 th March
Mock Exam C	14 th June
Mock Exam C am	21 st June
2-Paper Exam pm	21 st June
Mock Exam C	28 th June
2-Paper Exam	To be arranged
Mock Exam D	when we know
Mock Exam D	the dates for the
2-Paper Exam	2025 11+

2-Paper Exam or Mock D?

Only use the 2-Paper Exam if you have a boy studying for Bishop Wordsworth's School or a 2-paper exam elsewhere. The 2-Paper Exam is much shorter.

Holiday Workshops

Anyone is welcome to come to these workshops, whether or not they come to the weekly lessons.

Booking is on our website

Non-Verbal Reasoning Bishop's will include Non-Verbal in 11+. South Wilts doesn't but girls are welcome too. Non-Verbal Reasoning usually turns up for one or two questions in the girls' Maths paper. Also, there will be girls who are training for other exams that do include Non-Verbal Reasoning.

All workshops are different except for Exam Technique Classes which are all the same, so one should be enough unless we are seeing repeated problems thrown up in the Mock Exams.

Where The Scout Hut in St Mark's Avenue SP1 3DD

Time 8:15-12:15 and 13:00-17:00

What if there is over-demand? I may be able open another session.

What if my child is ill? We will send you three pre-recorded video classes and accompanying worksheets

I have an idea..... Please tell me, I would like to hear it.

Cost £60.00

Holiday Timetable

Check the website for extra workshops which may appear throughout the year

Christmas Holidays	Thursday am	02-01-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Thursday pm	02-01-25	Non-Verbal Reasoning	
	Friday am	03-01-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Friday pm	03-01-25	Exam Technique	

Spring Half Term	Wednesday am	19-02-25	Comprehension	
	Wednesday pm	19-02-25	Non-Verbal Reasoning	
	Thursday am	20-02-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Thursday pm	20-02-25	VR Codes & Vocabulary	

Easter	Wednesday am	9-04-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Wednesday pm	9-04-25	Comprehension	
	Thursday am	10-04-25	Maths	
	Thursday pm	10-04-25	Spatial Awareness	

Summer Half Term	Wednesday am	28-05-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Wednesday pm	28-05-25	Maths	
	Thursday am	29-05-25	Non-Verbal Reasoning	
	Thursday pm	29-05-25	English	

Summer Holidays	Wednesday am	06-08-25	Comprehension	
	Wednesday pm	06-08-25	Non-Verbal Reasoning	
	Thursday am	07-08-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Thursday pm	07-08-25	English	
	Wednesday am	13-08-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Wednesday pm	13-08-25	Spatial Awareness	
	Thursday am	14-08-25	Maths	
	Thursday pm	14-08-25	Comprehension	
	Wednesday am	20-08-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Wednesday pm	20-08-25	Vocabulary	
	Thursday am	21-08-25	Maths	
	Thursday pm	21-08-25	Exam technique	
	Wednesday am	27-08-25	Exam technique	
	Wednesday pm	27-08-25	Maths	
	Thursday am	28-08-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Thursday pm	28-08-25	Comprehension	
	Friday am	29-08-25	Maths English Verbal	
	Friday pm	29-08-25	Non-Verbal Reasoning	

What is the difference between the girls' and boys' 11+ exams?

South Wilts Grammar School uses GL Assessment to examine the 11+. The exam will be 3 papers of Maths, English and Verbal Reasoning.

Bishop Wordsworth School also uses GL Assessment but will have two papers: The first one is Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning and the second has English and Verbal Reasoning.

Both exams are multiple-choice and are held at the relevant Grammar School in mid to late September.

Both Bishop Wordsworth School and South Wilts provide some familiarization tests on their websites.

Whatever the exam provider (many schools write their own), the exam will always be based on the National Curriculum, Key Stage 2, plus a bit of Non-Verbal Reasoning and maybe an essay (always check; these things frequently change). The children will not be asked to give an account of the discussions between Socrates and Plato and their influence on Aristotle, write an essay in Welsh or do Highland dancing.

Whether you use the folders I provide for free or buy The Scholar's Course books you will cover all you need.

There will always be things in the exam that you are unfamiliar with but the more practice you do, the fewer surprises there will be, and the more coping strategies you will have.

Expect surprises

My pass rate is the same for boys and girls.

General Advice

Why it is really dumb to ask for a prize for passing the 11+

As a rough rule of thumb, children who get paid for 11+ work fail. This includes payment for work and payment for passing. The larger the remuneration: the worse the result.

Why do parents pay?

- Because they are loving
- They want to allow you to choose your reward
- You are growing up – adults work, adults get paid. No work; no money! Surely you deserve the same privilege?

Why does it fail?

Suppose you are given £1 for a section of 15 questions. Great! The next day there are 17 questions – shouldn't you be paid more? If not, you will feel cheated. But then when you go back to 15 questions, you have had a pay cut, which is never a nice feeling. Then you have just 10 questions – but they are really hard. Now what? You will end up in constant negotiations about pay, which will mean you spend more time on 11+ but without actually doing anything. Now you are pitted against your parents – sometimes winning, sometimes losing – not a comfortable situation for either of you. And then if you work hard Mum & Dad will simply run out of spare cash and will not feel motivated to make you work; in essence they are punished/fined every time you get

on with your work. They are not stupid – they won't do that for long.

If you are promised a reward for passing and then fail you will feel doubly battered: you failed, and the people who should be supporting you are kicking you in the teeth: punishing you by withholding the much-coveted prize. This, inevitably, really undermines the trust between you. I've heard Granddads in their 80s who are still bitter that they were promised a bicycle for passing which they didn't get, ever.

Computer Games (of all sorts)

Trust me on this one. Put them away until after the exam. If you need to know the whys and wherefores, then look it up; there is plenty of published research for and against. Suffice it to say; when you get to Secondary School they will also be saying "put it away".

No ifs, buts, or just-at-weekends. If you start this whining and wheedling, then you are an addict and sound about as attractive as any other addict. The first fortnight is hard on you and your family but it will get easier. In three weeks, you will be calmer, much, much more able to concentrate and more conversational (listening as well as talking!). You will be substantially less confrontational and significantly less in need of instant gratification.

Try it and see. If you have problems with it, tell me – I can help.

The difference between pass and fail

Over the years I have been struck that the difference between Grammar school pupils and the others is only in part intelligence. Maybe more important is a positive “can-do” attitude, curiosity and an ability to enjoy a challenge rather than be crushed by it. If you don’t have these skills – develop them.

How to get your parents to help you

First and foremost, your parents are spending a king’s ransom on my tutoring and will have to make real sacrifices to accommodate this. However, time is always at a premium; like you, your parents have been busy all day and you are both tired. They won’t necessarily have either the time or the inclination to help you with the work that I will set. They may not have done this sort of thing for a number of years and may have become a little bit rusty. If you punish your parents by putting up obstacles to getting on with the work, the whole business becomes deeply unattractive. Your parents love you and time with you is short- they really don’t want to be spending this precious time rowing with you. So, you need to earn your parents’ time; this can be achieved by laying tables, washing and drying up, cleaning bathrooms, whatever it takes to give your parents the time they need to help you. Ideally, do these chores with your parent and before they ask: they will appreciate the company and the gesture.

Always thank your parents at the end of an “11 plus session”, and if it got heated acknowledge this and thank them for sticking with it. You might even consider giving them a hug. This will make starting next time much easier.

Your parents don’t have to help you with this exam – they can either choose to or choose not to. Look around your school class and I think you’ll find that most parents choose not to. This is not bad parenting, but if you want more from yours, you will have to help them. You are old enough to take on this responsibility. There will be ups and downs, and there will most certainly be rows, frustrations, tears and misunderstandings, that is part and parcel of any big project (like organising a wedding or a house extension). But this will be one of the most intimate things you do with your parents in your childhood. When you yourself are an adult you will look back fondly and with gratitude on these days.

Didn't quite do all the work....didn't quite pass!

The Full Course is:

- At least 50 folders or Scholar's Workbooks
(the average is about 90, the highest 153)
- Four Mock Exams, with full reports, with me
- Completing the Free Daily Maths sheet every day
- On YouTube and our website we have more than 1000 videos for you. Take your time navigating your way round, there is usually a video for most 11+ problems.

Those children who have prepared but fail, usually do so by just a few marks. For some children this is a reason to rejoice; that they got so close. For others, it is a tremendous source of disappointment.

moment it is ghastly. Now put that energy and drive into getting a pass. Leave no stone unturned. You are the parents, take responsibility and make it happen.

Imagine the energy you would put into launching an appeal, really imagine what it feels like to have to try and persuade a panel that your child should be in the Grammar School. The panels are always courteous and polite but you would feel as though your guts have been stretched out on the road for the birds to peck at. At that

Internet Classes

We have 857 You Tube videos and another 200 on our website, which is more than enough to keep you busy between now and the 11+. We will probably add to these over the course of the year.

How to navigate your way round our channel on YouTube

1. Load up YouTube
2. Type in Sarah Beswick and find my face in a circle. Click it
3. Scroll up and down and have a look at the playlists, they have been grouped together.
4. Supposing you want “Need help with Maths?” Double click the title to see all the videos in this section.
5. Hopefully you will find what you want. If not ping me an email

Missed Weekly Classes

If you miss a class for some reason, we will send you a pre-recorded video and worksheet on the following Friday.

Homework Folders and The Scholar's Course

Plastic A4 folders

You will be given workbooks to borrow and work through at home. These go from one child to the next and from one year to the next. If you write on these you will get spots on your bum.....yes, you will! Moreover, the children who repeatedly do this tend not to pass the 11+. This isn't a curse but an observation.

The Scholar's Workbook

If you would prefer workbooks that you *can* write all over you might prefer these, which you can buy online or at class time. The first books have complete internet support and we continue to add to these. Being A5 size, it might be useful to have in your handbag or to go on holiday and relieve you of the burden and bulk of a number of heavy folders. They follow the same format as the folders I lend you.

The Scholar's Workbooks can be bought on line or from me. They cost £10.00 for three books. You can download the first for free from the website. I will give you a copy in week one so that you can use the YouTube videos that accompany it. I hope this will ease the frustrations of the first week.

Internet support for the Scholar's Course

We are working on free internet classes that accompany the Scholar's Workbooks. The idea being that the children can do the book, and then, instead of relying on their parents' free time and good humour, they can summon me up on the computer where I will be to explain every question. Books 2 to 5 have been completed, as has the first Non-Verbal Reasoning book, others are still under construction. More will be rolled out. As I have said there are 857 videos, with the best will in the world there are only so many videos a child can watch in a 10 month period.

Mock 11+ Exams General Information

The Standard Mock includes a 50 minute Maths paper, a 45 minute English paper, a 50 minute Verbal Reasoning paper, and for the boys a 35 minute Non-Verbal Reasoning paper. Sit these in January, March, June and August. Now, this format is considerably longer than the boys' actual 11+ will be, but it will maximise the feedback we can get and therefore show us what needs fixing.

The 2-Paper Exam: we do this in August. It will give the boys an idea of what their exam will feel like in format. Many will do both the 2-paper and the standard mock in August/September. The 2-paper reports are emailed to you.

The **Nervous Exams** can be booked and used at home any time. There is an accompanying video that will talk you through the morning so you can replicate an exam in the comfort of your home. You then photo-and-email, or post back the papers and answer sheets and we will process them, and if you have a full report we will send you videos that will go over every question as well as specific comments on your child's performance.

The content of the standard mock, 2-paper-mock and nervous mock are essentially the same: it is all Key Stage 2 maths, literacy and Non-Verbal Reasoning for those who need it.

The papers have been written by me, specifically for these mocks; so the

children cannot have done them before and thereby get a "false positive". This is why I do not give the papers out.

Of all the things I do, I think this is probably the most useful; most children have never sat a formal public exam before. A surprising number of issues are usually highlighted, from keeping quiet, not constantly asking for help, to writing their name and blowing their nose, quite apart from all the academic stuff. There are many rules of etiquette that you and I take for granted, that are completely unknown to the children. The aim of the mocks is to ensure that they give of their best in the real 11+, but also that they aren't fazed by the occasion or embarrass themselves through honest ignorance. They can iron out any problems in a safe environment and can go on to concentrate only on the academic content of the exam.

The evidence from the reports may well be needed in the event that we want to appeal for a child should they just fail the real 11+. Children who have prepared well generally don't fail, but if they do it is by a very small margin. Whilst it is not the real 11+, the reports do independently show where your child is compared with other local children who are preparing for the 11+. Remember, every child who fails the 11+ has a story. Few children ever say "I worked really hard and just didn't manage it". Find out what your story would be and eliminate it.

Times They run from 8:15am to 12:00, or 12:30 for those doing the Non-Verbal Reasoning paper. Please arrive somewhere between 08:00 and 08:15. The 2-paper exam times are different. You can find these on our website and your PayPal receipt.

Who? Anyone, regardless of whether they are regular pupils or not.

Where? The Sea Scout Hut in St Marks Avenue. Map on www.sarahbeswick.co.uk
Post code SP1 3DD. This may be subject to change

Tickets This is your PayPal receipt, but you won't need it.

Booking deadlines? If you want a particular weekend, it may be prudent to buy tickets sooner rather than later. The final deadline, if spaces are available, is the day before.

Post or email There is a charge for post should you be unable to pick it up in person. The post has been becoming increasingly unreliable but the children do like a paper report and many keep them for years. The 2-paper reports are emailed to you.

Basic report £50 per exam with raw scores and class position.

Presented in a bound A4 folder with bar charts showing the scores of all the children in each paper and each exam, but only your child is identifiable.

There are also some general notes on the performance as a group. About 7 A4 pages of information.

Full report £60 per exam. In addition to the information given in the basic report there are:

- We will give you directions to YouTube videos explaining how to do every question type that your child got wrong. This is personalized for each child. This usually amounts to hours of free individually directed tuition. The 2-paper exam videos are the actual questions that turned up in the mock exam plus some extras.
- Close observations are taken of each child.
- A detailed report on each paper explaining any inevitable distractions and how the children responded.
- Where relevant, we will include samples of your child's workings or answers to illustrate where things need improving.

You don't fatten a pig by constantly weighing it.

Four exams are enough to identify problem areas. The rest of your time should be spent playing and fixing the problems.

What to expect from each exam

The four exams are of the same level of difficulty: that of the 11+. No one expects the children to do well in the first exam, its purpose is to give the children an idea of what they are preparing for and why. Until their first mock the whole experience of 11+ preparation is rather like playing your first ever football match in thick fog, where you can neither see the goals, your teammates, the opposition, or even know that they exist. If you are going to have a "car-crash", do it as far away from the actual 11+ as possible and practise enough so that you can look back on these mistakes and laugh. Nine-year-olds make the mistakes of nine-year-olds: not writing their name, crying, forgetting pencils, writing their answers in the wrong place, cheating, chatting....the list is almost endless. These are typical responses to each exam:

First Mock

- Nerves
- Finding out what the 11+ feels like and looks like
- Really silly mistakes
- A baseline by which to measure progress
- How it feels to await results
- They find out that they really can concentrate for a whole morning
- Interestingly, nearly everyone who does the first January mock passes the real 11+

Second Mock

- Tearfulness
- Better concentration
- Keen to see results
- More silly mistakes but a growing realization that it isn't all Sarah's fault!
- Learning the drill: when to get up, what snacks, hair, pencils etc

Third Mock

- Settling in well
- Getting on with the exam
- Finding out which I's to dot and which T's to cross before the Summer Holiday
- The children start to believe in themselves

Fourth Mock

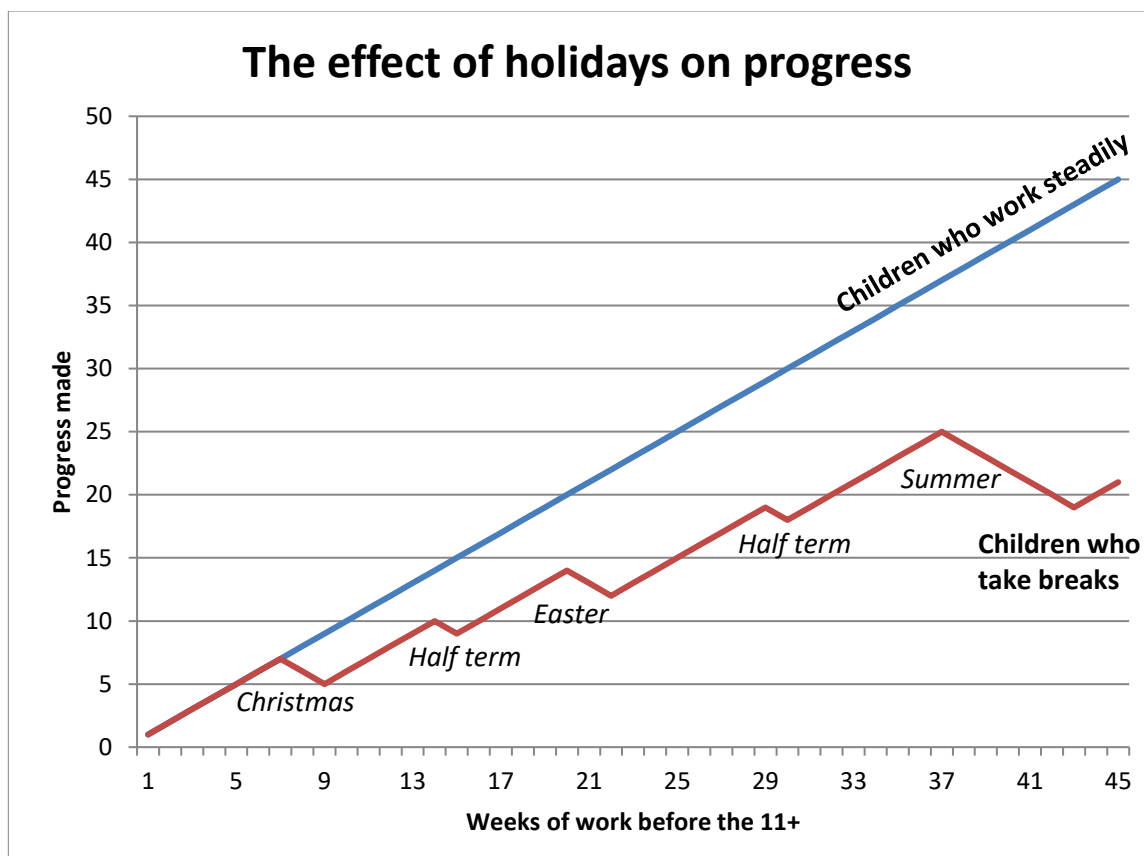
- A really strong positive energy towards the exam
- At ease with the process: concentrating on the questions
- They enjoy the morning
- They now recognize many children preparing for the 11+
- We identify how to use the final few weeks most effectively

Remember that the children will experience the difficulties of the first exam whether they sit it in January or August. What we want to achieve through these exams is a sense of familiarity with the exam process so they can just concentrate on the questions and getting them correct.

Picking up reports I will give weekly pupils their reports in a sealed envelope at their next class. Generally, the reports are ready by the Tuesday lunchtime following the exam. You can pick them up in person or, for a fee, we can post them out

What is needed?

- **Snacks**, not too sticky or salty.
- **Four layers of clothing.**
- **Drinks** with non-drip top.
- **Stick a note** onto their snacks telling them that you love them. It makes a huge difference!
- **Clear pencil case** or plastic bag.
- **Pencils** I like the *Papermate* see-through, non-stop pencils. Bishops asks for ordinary pencils, SWGS doesn't specify.
- **Rubber.**
- **Sharpener.**
- **Hairbands** etc. for boys and girls with long hair and floppy fringes.
- **Warm socks**, for the kickers, so they can take their shoes off and kick freely without disturbing anyone.
- **Glasses** if needed: close for reading, distance for clocks and instructions.
- **Watches** are largely discouraged these days. Timings will be given.
- **Check** their bags for calculators, iPads, dictionaries etc. In the past children have bought them not realising: it will lead to trouble. Exam boards are very twitchy about espionage: so no phones or cameras. Seriously, they will disqualify you.
- **No** scrap paper. It will be confiscated. Written workings should go on the question sheet. Though in 2023, BWS introduced scrap paper for workings.



For every week the children take off, it takes them a week to get back to where they were, therefore six weeks off during the Summer Holidays leads to twelve weeks of stagnation.

The 11+ is in September, so impact of the summer holidays is huge. There will be children who could pass the 11+ but don't because they got rusty over the Summer. There are also less naturally able children who will pass because they kept trundling away. Of course, the children need fun and relaxation but they can still put in an hour a day of practice and then play, sleep and eat for the other 23 hours. Degrees, A levels, GCSEs all take place *before* the holidays, not after. No one

would expect to pass their driving test having neglected the car for two months. This all sounds rather harsh and stark but I think it is better to have a bit of straight talking now rather than next October with the results.

The advantage of the September exam is that you have a clean run up to it, unencumbered by flu and vomiting bugs, school plays and concerts. You can choose how to spend your time. One of my less popular phrases is ***"Your choices and actions are your priorities!"*** That one doesn't win me friends!

Daily Maths Sheet

It costs me £650 a year to put this up, plus Internet hosting fees. I do this because so many children struggle with the core skills. Most can't add, subtract, multiply or divide when they start. Many still are unreliable when they finish. This breaks my heart. Please do the Daily Maths sheet. When you are good it will take just 10 minutes, if it takes longer then you need practice. When you get quick, and you soon will, keep Maths-fit. Maths is like running a marathon, it is not the final race but the practice before that wins the day. I will collect the Maths sheets from the children each week and these will be their raffle tickets for a weekly draw.

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
45							22						
44							21						
43							20						
42							19						
41							18						
40							17						
39							16						
38							15						
37							14						
36							13						
35							12						
34							11						
33							10						
32							9						
31							8						
30							7						
29							6						
28							5						
27							4						
26							3						
25							2						
24							1						
23							0						

Record of the books you have worked through

Plastic folders

1	11	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	101	111
2	12	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92	102	112
3	13	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93	103	113
4	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94	104	114
5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	105	115
6	16	26	36	46	56	66	76	86	96	106	116
7	17	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	107	117
8	18	28	38	48	58	68	78	88	98	108	118
9	19	29	39	49	59	69	79	89	99	109	119
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

Scholar's Course Books

1	11	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91
2	12	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92
3	13	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93
4	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94
5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95
6	16	26	36	46	56	66	76	86	96
7	17	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97
8	18	28	38	48	58	68	78	88	98
9	19	29	39	49	59	69	79	89	99
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

It helps to keep a track of your books. Put a line through the number of the book when you have borrowed it and colour it in when you return it. Then you have your own independent record. I will also have an independent record.

I fondly remember one boy asking me just before the exam *“Does it still count if you borrowed the book but didn’t do the work?”* Actually no, it doesn’t. Just carrying the books down the hill and back up again doesn’t really help anyone. The children who want to please me do this, and that is nice. But the books will only help you if you open them up and find everything you can’t do and have a go at fixing it.

It is normal and quite acceptable to struggle in some, indeed all areas, for months. Have courage and keep going. There is no achievement without endeavour. And when you have learnt something no one can ever take it away from you.

Congratulations you have embarked on your quest you are now an Apprentice you must now complete 2 folders to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 20 books you are now an Exalted Being you must complete 23 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 40 books you are now an Exalted God you must complete 45 to reach the next level
Congratulations you have completed 2 books you are now an Expert you must complete 4 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 23 books you are now a Lesser Deity you must complete 25 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 45 books you are now a Supreme God you must complete 50 to reach the next level
Congratulations you have completed 4 books you are now a Master you must complete 7 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 25 books you are now a Greater Deity you must complete 28 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 50 books you are now the Ultimate Ruler of the Universe
Congratulations you have completed 7 books you are now a Grand Master you must complete 10 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 28 books you are now a Lesser Demi-God you must complete 31 to reach the next level	Ideally, I would like you to complete 50 folders before the exam (the average is about 90). If you still don't pass, then the Grammar school really isn't the right place for you: another school would be better at making the most of your talents. The more practice you put in, the fewer surprises on the day and the better you will be at tackling new problems. There will be questions you have never faced before. Remember borrowing the folders only works if you work through them, and correct your work with an adult.
Congratulations you have completed 10 books you are now a Lord you must complete 13 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 31 books you are now a Greater Demi-God you must complete 34 to reach the next level	
Congratulations you have completed 13 books you are now a Lord Master you must complete 16 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 34 books you are now a Lower God you must complete 37 to reach the next level	
Congratulations you have completed 16 books you are now a Higher Being you must complete 20 to reach the next level	Congratulations you have completed 37 books you are now a Higher God you must complete 40 to reach the next level	

