



# SERENA'S TUITION NEWSLETTER



Week 31

[www.serenastuition.co.uk](http://www.serenastuition.co.uk)

Hello, and welcome to our third newsletter. I hope you're finding these interesting and helpful. If anything that is raised in the letter gets you thinking, or brings a question to mind, do feel free to 'reach out'. I always love hearing from parents!

## LKS2 Boosters

We were continuing our learning about FRANCE this week, with a look at the Impressionist movement, and specifically the art work of Monet. The children found it quite difficult to 'get past' the idea of NOT painting for accuracy but for mood. What better way to test understanding, than to roll-up your sleeves and have a go yourself. We also did some work on contractions with apostrophes, and wondered why 'Be not' wasn't a contraction, creating 'Been't' as our very own contraction!

## UKS2 MATHS BOOSTERS

There were a couple of birthdays amongst the Boosties this week, so I opted for a birthday magic theme. We also worked through a set of Harry Potter-inspired' maths activities. From Riddikilus Rounding to Comparison Conundrums, we work out to work out the mythical creature that the Hogwarts student would be studying next term!

## UKS2 English Boosters

### Vive le Tour!

I just LOVE the variety here at Serena's Tuition. One day I'm doing my best to paint like an Impressionist, the next, I'm creating my own Yellow Jersey design as part of a lesson about the Tour de France. Did you know, it takes 23 days to complete, and covers over 3,500km! It's starting in Barcelona this year, and the students were fascinated to learn how the teams work together to 'reduce drag' and increase their aerodynamics. What an hour!

## Preparing for KS3! Maths Boosters

It was another 'hands-on' session for the Monday night KS3 Boosties this week, but they found it TOUGH. We were looking at plotting, labelling and comparing coordinates on along a straight line in order to calculate its gradient. The following formula came in handy throughout the hour!

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{\text{vertical change}}{\text{horizontal change}}$$

## HOME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are so many fun and practical ways you can consolidate (and build upon) the work we've done in class this week. Here are some ideas you might want to try over the course of the upcoming - sunny - weekend:

1. Create your OWN impressionistic piece of art. Check out the Musee d'Orsay website for 'inspo'. I'd LOVE to see your creations
2. Carry out your OWN aerodynamic experiment. Practise riding down a hill, sitting-up and (possibly) wearing some billowy clothing (!). Time how long it takes. Then, repeat the exercise, bending forward, getting low and donning some Lycra. Does it make any difference to the time?
3. Look out for road gradient signs. What do these mean? Can you explain how it is still based on the change in height over a given horizontal distance?



## Bond 11+

Just a quick reminder to all our 11+ students. Most of you are subscribed to the comprehensive Bond 11+ website. PLEASE make the most of this resource to develop comprehension skills, alongside those SPaG basics. When I logged-on and checked earlier this week, some students were yet to complete a single activity. EEK!





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## 11+ Group Session Dates

- Tuesday 21 July, 10am-12pm, Southfleet
- Tuesday 28 July, 10am-12pm, Southfleet
- W/c 10 August, 11+ Intensive Course, Southfleet, details TBC Tuesday 18 August, 10am-12pm, Southfleet
- Tuesday 25 August, 10am-12pm, Southfleet
- Tuesday 1 September, 4-6pm, Southfleet

## 11+ Intensive Course - UPDATE

The inaugural 11+ Intensive Course has been **FILLED**, so... we've taken the decision to run a parallel group for an additional **SIX STUDENTS**.

If you would like to sign your child up, please email Jo, at: [enquiries@serenasrochester.com](mailto:enquiries@serenasrochester.com)

- **LOCATION:** Haydon Cross, Southfleet
- **DATES:** 10th-14<sup>th</sup> August (incl.)
- **TIMES:** 9.30am-1pm daily
- **COST:** £400

## Maths Zooms - £20ph - EMAIL TO SIGN-UP

- 22 July, 9am: 2D & 3D Shape; 11am: Fractions
- 29 July, 9am: Probability; 11am: Algebra
- 12 Aug, 9am: Angles; 11am: Number Knowledge
- 19 Aug, 9am: Fractions, Decimals & %; 11am: Interpreting Data
- 26 Aug, 9am: Averages; 11am: Ratio & Proportion

## Building Comprehension Skills @ Home

One of the loveliest ways to build comprehension at home is simply to chat as your child reads.

Pause now and again to ask things like:

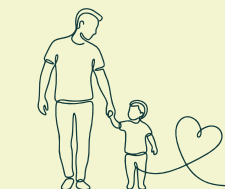
- 'What do you think might happen next?'
- 'How is that character feeling, and how can you tell?'
- 'How has the setting been described? Have they used any devices?'

Encourage them to look for clues in the words, actions and dialogue, rather than just retelling the story. You can do the same when watching films together too; pause to talk about mood, music, facial expressions, setting or why a character has said something. These little conversations really help children read between the lines and grow those inference skills.

## GOOD NEWS GALLERY

I'm always on the look-out for positive, uplifting news. I think we all need to this to remind us that, on the whole, **LIFE IS GOOD**. This week, I spotted a most 'up-cheering' headline:

Children and young people's **enjoyment of reading** has risen for the first time since 2021, according to new research. More than one in three (36.1%) said they liked picking up books in their spare time - an increase from 32.7% in 2025. Daily habits have improved too, with one in five children and young people (20.3%) aged eight to 18 saying they **read every day**, a rise from last year's figure of 18.7%. The research, carried out by the National Literacy Trust (NLT), surveyed 125,375 children and young people from 479 schools across the UK.



And finally, a very **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY** to all the brilliant dads, grandads, uncles and father-figures in our Serena's Tuition family.

For every: football practice drop-off; swimming lesson pick-up; forgotten-water-bottle rescue mission; muddy boot moment; evening spent listening to reading; and 'Can you just help me with this homework?' moment, we say... **THANK YOU!** This weekend, we hope you are celebrated properly, given the comfiest chair, allowed control of the remote, and generally treated like the legends you are.

Here's to every dad, grandad, uncle and dad-shaped hero who is absolutely smashing it. ♥

Happy Father's Day from all of us at Serena's Tuition.