

SERENA'S TUITION

ENGAGE CHALLENGE GROW

Week 5 Newsletter

Place Value Games

We've been consolidating our understanding of place value this term in our LKS2 and UKS2 Boosters. This sounds simple enough, but when you consider that p.v. covers everything from rounding to Roman Numerals, you'll realise that it's a VERY broad topic. A great way to consolidate - and even extend - understanding in this area is to play 'What's my Number?' Choose a 2-digit number at random, and give your child a 100-square/use an online version, and 10 questions to work out the number. Questions can include: Is it even? Is it prime? Is it a multiple of 5? Is it greater than 50? Have fun!

Show Don't Tell, with Chekhov's Moon!

Take inspiration from Anton Chekhov's classic advice: "Don't *tell* me the moon is shining; *show* me the glint of light on broken glass." Think of 5 boring "telling" sentences, and challenge your little one to change them into sensory mini-scenes. Here are some categories to convert:

- The weather: "It was a hot day." This could become: "The asphalt softened under the tyres, and the air smelled of baked tar and hot dust."
- A setting: "The old house was creepy." This could become: "The floorboards groaned under the weight of an invisible step. The wallpaper peeled from the damp plaster like old skin.
- A character: "She was angry." Could become: "Her jaw locked tight enough to cut through a sheet of steel."

Week 5 @ Tuition Towers...

Wow! What a week. We've had the 'usual' mix of interactive lessons – this time that's included: F1 art; crafting aerodynamic gliders; homophone matching games; 'Product Ping Pong' and so much more. On top of that, we've also had the results for the Kent, Medway, Mayfield and Bexley Tests. So far, we've heard from 25 students, and 21 of them secured a 'pass'. That's an 84% pass rate. My colleagues and I are all enormously proud of last year's 11+ cohort. Whatever their result, they worked hard and did their best, and none of us can ask for more than that. We're excited for your Year 7 + adventures, and are proud to have played a part in that journey.

NOTICEBOARD

📝 Mon 2nd November: Start of Term 2

💻 Thurs 5th November 11+ HOMEWORK CLUB ONLINE

📱 27th-28th October 1-2-1s in Gravesend and Southfleet with Serena/Amanda. Scan the QR above to book:

🎃 31st October - HALLOWEEN! We'll be at home (Portland Road) if you wanted to swing by and 'Trick or Treat' yourself some sweeties

📃 6th November 2026: Entries close for the BBC 500 Words Competition. If you want to write something and email it to me, I'd more than happy to take a look. I marked entries for this competition for several years in the past. www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

📮 Fri 6th November: Next newsletter

SUPERSTAR LEARNERS

🌟 **Evie - For supporting her classmate with her homophones work, and producing an amazing piece of F1-inspired art.**

🌟 **Emilia - For working really hard to use a Gattegno Chart to find the same product using a range of different combinations**

🌟 **Alice - For some fantastic letter sequence work this week, and for rocking her birthday sash!**

🌟 **George - For not giving up when confronted with some tough stuff in this week's 11+ lesson.**

🌟 **Rose - For showing amazing determination when tackling the VR sequence questions. She would NOT let them win! GO ROSE!**