



SERENA'S TUITION NEWSLETTER



Week 33

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Phew! What a week! We've had so much to celebrate in our lessons, which have covered everything from shape and long division, to similes and 'The Royal Order of Adjectives'! No... I'd never heard of it until this week either! I love that my colleagues and I have the chance to learn alongside our students. How lucky we all are.

LKS2 Boosters

Our LKS2 Boosties enjoyed a Ratatouille-inspired food review lesson. After spellings and a speedy SPaG test, we explored similes and expanded noun phrases, thinking carefully about how writers can describe taste, texture, appearance, smell and even sound. The children watched Anton Ego's famous food critic moment, before becoming mini critics themselves and tasting a selection of French foods. Their challenge was to move beyond 'nice' or 'yummy' and create more thoughtful, ambitious sentences. There was some excellent vocabulary bubbling away, with plenty of carefully considered munching.

Try this at home: Ask your child to describe something they eat using one simile and one expanded noun phrase.

UKS2 MATHS BOOSTERS

This week, we tackled long division with remainders. This is one of those topics that can look rather alarming at first, with its columns, carrying, subtracting, checking and occasional mathematical fog. We slowed the process right down, breaking it into manageable steps and showing how it links to short division. We finished with a long division Snakes and Ladders game, because even division feels better with ladders, snakes and a bit of fresh air.

Try this at home: Can your little one remember what the DMSCB acronym stands for?

UKS2 English Boosters Making a Good Impression!

This week, our UKS2 English group focused on putting adjectives in the correct order, using the OSASCOMP rule to explain why some descriptions sound natural and others sound rather like they have been through a grammatical blender. The children tasted French foods and created carefully ordered, adjective-filled sentences to describe them.

Try this at home: Give your child three adjectives and a noun, then ask them to put them in the order that sounds best.

11+ Group Sessions

Our 11+ students had a fast-paced, 'against the clock' session this week, with speed and accuracy firmly in the driving seat. They began with spellings and a buzzer-style SPaG quiz, before tackling an 85-question Verbal Reasoning assessment in 50 minutes, using dictionaries for support. The second hour focused on super-speedy punctuation practice, with short tests covering full stops, commas, inverted commas, apostrophes, brackets, hyphens, dashes, colons, semicolons and ellipses.

A busy session, but a really useful one for building confidence before September.

Try this at home: Set a 3-minute timer and complete five SPaG questions together. There are some at the bottom of this page if you'd like some 'inspo'!

FOOTBALL FEVER: MATHS IN THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

With World Cup excitement in the air, football is a brilliant opportunity for some 'sneaky' maths talk. Shirt numbers, scores, timings, substitutions, goal difference and match statistics all give children a chance to play with numbers in a real and exciting context. They could add and subtract players' shirt numbers, calculate the mean number of goals scored across a week, find the mode score-line, compare the range of goals between teams, or talk about probability before a penalty shoot-out. It is maths without the worksheet, which is ALWAYS the best kind.

Quick Fire SPaG Quiz!

1. What word class is *silently*?
2. Which uses *Standard English*? A) If I was you... B) If I were you...
3. Add *punctuation*: Although it was tricky the pupils stayed calm focused and cheerful
4. *Passive or active*? The papers were marked by the tutor.
5. Spot the *subordinate clause*: When the timer started, the room fell silent.

Answers:

1. Adverb
2. B, subjunctive form
3. Although it was tricky, the pupils stayed calm, focused and cheerful.
4. Passive
5. When the timer started



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Please email me to sign-up for any of these 11+ sessions if you haven't already done so!

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

If you would like to sign your child up, please email Jo, at:

- enquiries@serenasrochester.com
- **LOCATION:** Haydon Cross, Southfleet
- **DATES:** 10th-14th 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

Tuition Leadership Day 2026

On Friday (3rd), I'm heading up to London for a Tuition Leadership Day. This is a professional event for tuition business owners, tutoring teams, suppliers, platforms and education leaders. With just 90 guests, it is designed to be a thoughtful day of conversation, practical learning and ambitious thinking about the future of tutoring. I'm always looking for ways to improve what we do here at Serena's Tuition, from lesson design and resources to tutor training, parent communication and student support. Hopefully, I'll return with a notebook full of useful ideas and only a mildly frazzled brain!

GOOD NEWS GALLERY

There was some welcome news for teachers in England this week, as the government announced a 3.5% pay rise from September, followed by a further 3% the year after. The Department for Education has also confirmed additional funding, alongside tighter controls on very high salaries for top academy trust leaders. As ever with education funding, the story is not entirely straightforward, and unions have raised concerns about how much schools will need to find from existing budgets. Still, it is good to see teacher pay, recruitment and retention being kept firmly in the spotlight. Great teachers matter, and recognising their work matters too.



Do You Know Your SPaG?



The English Curriculum expects our nation's ten-year-olds to know a whole LOAD of punctuation- and grammar-related terms that simply weren't taught when we were in school. I didn't know what a determiner was 'til I was in my thirties... and I still have to work hard to spot the 'subjunctive mood'. If you ever need help understanding any of the terms your little-ones have been learning at school, feel free to email me. I LOVE questions, from parents (and students) alike.