



Dear Parents and Carers,

Ahead of the parents' evenings, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November, I am writing with an update on the National Curriculum we are teaching in school and the arrangements we have in place to monitor your child's learning and progress. I hope this will be useful information to you when you meet with your child's teacher.

## **The new National Curriculum.**

As you may be aware the new National Curriculum was introduced into school last September and Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 followed the new objectives and expectations in their learning. The new National Curriculum is part of the government's initiative to improve the level of academic attainment of young people in many areas of the curriculum and the standard of knowledge, skills and understanding has been raised. Additionally, the new curriculum has a greater focus on broadening children's learning and ensuring they are 'secure' in their new skills.

From September 2015 all children from Year 1 to 6 are being taught from the new National Curriculum. As highlighted in our first newsletter, this transition forms the focus for our school improvement.

## **Assessment of your child's progress in their learning**

As you know the school assesses your child's learning and their progress every term; 3 times a year. We do this in three ways: by setting tests, by assessing their classwork and by their teacher's professional judgement. I will be meeting with your child's teacher every term to discuss progress and what additional support the teachers are putting in place, especially if we feel that a child is not making as much progress they should to realise their full potential. The governors of our school review the 'data' which shows progress of all children across the school anonymously and this is discussed frequently at our governor meetings. We are confident that we know how your child is progressing with their learning and that we can put extra support in place for them if they need it.

## **Life without levels!**

With the introduction of the new curriculum has come a new method of assessing progress which has replaced the old 'levels' (i.e 2b, 5c) which you may have been familiar with. We are now using a system called Target Tracker which measures children's progress in 'steps'. The majority of children in each year group, will start from the beginning of the year on step "B" for beginning. There are 6 steps to work through in a year. For example, if your child is in Year 3 they may be assessed as 3w+. This does not equate to the old level 3, but the 3 refers to Year 3 and the w+ relates to Working Within Plus.

				Step 5	Step 6
	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4		
Step 1					
Beginning (b)	Beginning Plus (b+)	Working Within (w)	Working Within Plus (w+)	Secure (s)	Secure Plus (s+)

## **Our expectations**

We hold high aspirations for our children and we know you do too. At the end of the school year, our expectation is that the children will be on the 'Secure' (step 5 of progress) or above which indicates that they have reached an expected age-related level of attainment. However, there is no expectation that children will necessarily progress 1 step per half term as all children progress at different rates.

## **Reporting your child's progress**

We are hopeful that the new assessment using steps will be easier for parents to understand and recognise their child's progress in their learning. At Parents' Evenings your child's teacher will discuss with you what has gone well this half term and the targets that will be set for the weeks ahead.

Throughout this year we will be reviewing the ways in which we report this information to you. The reports will continue to reflect your child's progress so far; however the format of the report may change.

## **Further help for parents**

I hope that this letter will help you to understand more about the new curriculum, how we will be monitoring progress across the school and how we track your child's progress and put in extra support if we feel that they need help to realise their potential. As with anything new we expect you will have questions for us and we encourage you to raise them with your child's teacher at Parents' evening, post a question in the assessment parent box at the school office or speak to me or any of the governors who will be available on both dates.

Details of the National Curriculum for your child's year group can be found on our school website under each year group's page and the Parent group tab, Curriculum option; you might want to take a look at the expectations and overview before attending your appointment to get the most from your appointment. A copy of this letter will also be available on the website. Next term we will be running Parents' Forums on the National Curriculum and Assessment to help you further.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of your child's learning,

With kind regards,



Adrian Hall  
Headteacher

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