

## Assessment Without Levels

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on an aspect that the Government has asked all schools to work on this year. Previously children had been assessed in Reading, Writing and Mathematics with a level, for example a child at the end of year 2 was expected to be a 2B. This enabled us to inform you as to whether your child was working at age related expectation (average), if they were working below age related expectations (below average) or above age related expectations (above average.)

The Government has asked schools from September 2015 to establish their own methods of assessing children's progress and attainment. Consequently, throughout the year, we have been working with all partner schools in our Pyramid to adopt a new assessment system. Headteachers within all the schools felt it was vital that we have a common system of assessment which is consistent across the pyramid. The only exception this year is that our current Year 2 children have been assessed using the old NC levels (2c, 2b, 2a,3). They are the last year group to be assessed in this way.

### National Curriculum 2014

As you are aware, we have been delivering the new National Curriculum since September 2014. Any assessment system we adopt needs to reflect the change in focus in the new curriculum: that is, children learn fewer things in greater depth **and** it is critical for children to have depth of learning and be entirely secure with **their** year group expectations. The Government have put greater emphasis on children 'mastering' skills within their year group, rather than moving on to the next year group's expectations.

### How will our assessment system look?

Children will be assessed on a 9 point scale using the same categories that the Early Years children are currently assessed on - emerging, expected and exceeding:

Point	Assessment Meaning
	<b>Emerging (below average at the end of the year)</b>
0	If they are not meeting 25% of the year group expectations
1	If they meet 25-50% of the year group expectations
2	If they meet 50-75% of the year group expectations
3	If they meet more than 75% but not all of the year group expectations
	<b>Expected (meeting all the year group expectations - average for the end of the year)</b>
4	Make the occasional error, however they understand the concept fully
5	Rare mistakes and very confident at meeting the statements
6	Confident and works at a rapid rate, meeting more than 50% of the exceeding statements
	<b>Exceeding (above average for the end of the year)</b>
7	All the exceeding statements are met
8	Very confident and rarely make a mistake in meeting the exceeding statements
9	Exceptionally confident and shows exceptional ability for their age (previously gifted and talented)

The examples below are based on a year 4 child. If your child is in a different year group the end numbers will be exactly the same - it will simply be the start number that changes, for example, e.g. a year 1 child may be a 1.4 at the end of the year and a year 3 child may be a 3.4.

A term by term explanation based on a year 4 child:

#### **Autumn Term**

Average - 4.0 or 4.1

Above Average - 4.2 or above

Below Average - anything that starts with a number that is not a 4 to indicate they are not yet working on the year 4 curriculum

## **Spring Term**

Average - 4.1 or 4.2

Above Average - 4.3 or above

Below Average - anything that starts with a number that is not a 4 to indicate they are not yet working on the year 4 curriculum or a 4.0

## **Summer Term (End of year)**

Average - 4.4 or 4.5

Above Average - 4.6 or above

Below Average - anything that starts with a number that is not a 4 to indicate they are not yet working on the year 4 curriculum or a 4.0, 4.1, 4.2 or 4.3

## **Reporting to Parents**

Our end of year reports will show the wording 'working towards year group expectations', 'meeting year group expectations' and 'exceeding year group expectations' for all subjects. Year 2 children will still have their end of KS1 assessment level of attainment. Detailed class teacher comments will be included for the core subjects and a general comment. This year, children's attitude towards their learning and learning behaviours will be graded.

In September, we are hoping to obtain information from the Government as to how we will report standards of attainment at the end of KS1. As we don't yet have this information, our assessment system may have to be amended to fit in with the Government's expectations.

Attached to this letter is a 'National Curriculum Guide for Parents' which details the expectations for each year group.