



June 2015

Dear parents & carers

### **Assessment in the new National Curriculum**

As you may know, a new National Curriculum came into operation this September for children in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5. It is a statutory requirement from the Department for Education (DfE) that schools teach these year groups according to the new curriculum. However children in Years 2 and 6 are still working to the previous National Curriculum. From next September, all Years 1-6 will be working to the new curriculum.

One of the features of the new National Curriculum is that it no longer uses a system of numbered 'levels' to describe children's attainment. This is because it was felt by the DfE that the use of levels had at times been detrimental to children. For example, talking to children about their attainment using numbered levels could contribute towards their developing a "fixed mindset" about their ability, whereas we want to foster in all our children a "growth mindset", meaning that we believe that we can all improve our abilities with practice, effort and persistence. We would also like to further enrich our pupils' learning by developing a greater breadth of skills and knowledge, so that they are confident to apply their skills to different areas of the curriculum, rather than focus on moving to the 'next level'.

Pupils will still be familiar with their 'next steps' learning targets as a way of ensuring maximum opportunity for progress but there will be no emphasis on what numerical level they are working at.

This national change – the removal of levels – means that, **when we discuss your child's attainment with you, either in meetings or written reports, we will no longer be reporting levels\***, as these no longer have any relevance to the curriculum. (Levels will be reported at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 this year only. After that, levels will no longer be in use for any year group.)

Instead we will refer to your child's current level of attainment using phrases such as:

- working broadly within the expected range of attainment for his/her age of the new curriculum
- working towards the expected range of attainment of the new curriculum
- working beyond the expected range of attainment of the new curriculum

We will also give details of any specific areas of the curriculum where he/she has achieved well and any areas where further development or support is needed.

We are currently writing our annual pupil reports, which are due to be sent home on Friday 10 July. If you would like more details about how your child is progressing in school there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's report with their teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Halls  
Headteacher