



Peace, Love, Service - a Church of England School  
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## **New National Curriculum and Assessment**

Dear Parents

Since September, children in all primary schools (including Little Thetford) have been learning from the new National Curriculum, bringing in some significant differences including the way children are assessed, which has changed completely. Therefore, this year things will be different as levels have gone. Your child will no longer be assessed as a level 2a or 5c etc as they no longer exist. The curriculum for English (reading – word reading and comprehension and writing – transcription, composition, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation and spelling), and for mathematics is now organised by Years, 1 to 6; and there is an expectation that children will secure the requirements of their year group by the end of that academic year.

The expectations of the new curriculum are more challenging than the last one. For example, many of the knowledge, skills and understanding in maths that would typically have been taught in Year 4 under the old curriculum are now expected to be taught and mastered in Year 3 or some even Year 2. There is no national method of assessing a child's achievement of the objectives for each year or their progress within the new curriculum. The responsibility for this has been given to schools. Please feel assured that we are working extremely hard to develop our own system of assessment.

As we are in the process of introducing a new curriculum and a completely different approach to assessment, this will have an effect on the information we give you at Parents' Evening. Your child's teacher will be able to give you information on how your child has settled into the new year, how well they are working, their attitude to learning, how much effort they are making and progress so far that can be seen in their work. They won't, however, be able to give you a level, as they don't exist. They may be able to give you an indication of whether your child is on target to be working towards, working at or on course to exceed end of year expectations but please be aware this will only be an indication at this stage in the year and could be lower than before, due to the new expectations.

If your child is in Year 6 or in Year 2 they will be assessed using national statutory assessments as before which will take place in May. However the content of these has changed and is more challenging. These will be assessed using 'scale scores' rather than levels with the expected level being a score of 100.

Children in the EYFS will continue to be assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. This consists of Ages and Stages criteria for nursery learners moving into Early Learning Goals for Reception aged learners. At the end of Reception these are reported as Emerging, Expected or Exceeding the Early Learning Goals in each area. I appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in at this point but, hopefully, this letter gives you an insight into the changes and, as the year progresses, the assessments we make of your children will make more and more sense.

Yours sincerely

Jonny Wallace  
Headteacher