

10<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Information about assessment in the new National Curriculum**

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to send you a copy of your child's assessment summary in reading, writing and maths – this shows how your child is achieving in relation to the new age-related expectations.

When we sent the mid-year reports in February, we also sent you the following information about the new curriculum. I have added it again below for your reference:

***Information about assessment in the new National Curriculum***

*From attending the meetings held earlier on this year, you will hopefully all be aware that a new National Curriculum came into operation last September for children in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5. It is a statutory requirement from the Department for Education (DfE) that we 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 children will be working to the new curriculum.*

*One of the features of the new National Curriculum is that we no longer use 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 the children developing a fixed idea about their ability, whereas we hope the DfE want to foster in all our children a belief that the children can improve their abilities with practise, effort and persistence. The DfE also hopes that the system will allow opportunities for schools to further enrich 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'. This does match closely with our new vision which promotes development of the whole child.*

*At Watton, children will continue to be familiar with what they are doing well and what their 'next steps' and learning targets are. We feel this ensures maximum opportunity for progress and we will not emphasise the numerical level they are working at.*

### Changes to assessment sheets sent in July:

We are now replacing the assessment data sheet (which traditionally showed levels) with a new summary sheet. In the new summary sheet, we provide you with information on how your child is attaining in reading, writing and maths. We refer to your child's level of attainment using the following statements:

Below age-related expectations	Not yet ARE
Towards age-related expectations	
Entering within age-related expectations	Within ARE
Developing within the age-related expectations	
Securing the age-related expectations	
Working beyond age-related expectations	Above ARE

Expectations are relating to age related expectations (ARE) i.e. how is your child attaining in line with the expectations for their year group within the new National Curriculum.

It is important to note, that the expectations within the new National Curriculum have been raised. As an example of the raised expectations, about a quarter of the new learning for children in Year 1, 3, 4, and 5 for Mathematics has come from the year group above. For example, last year, the children in Year 4 were expected to "Find fractions of numbers, quantities or shapes, e.g.  $\frac{1}{5}$  of 30 plums,  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a 6 by 4 rectangle"- this objective has been moved to Year 3.

This year, as we make the transition to the raised expectations of the new National Curriculum, some of the children's summaries in July may show that they are no longer working above expectations or that, indeed, your child may be working below expectations. This does not mean your child is failing, rather that your child is not yet achieving the wider breadth of expectations now required with the new curriculum. Over the next few years, as the new curriculum becomes embedded, our high expectations will ensure that we will again see children achieving in line with and above expectations. Our response as a school, as always to any changes, is a positive one! We will work hard to support, nurture and challenge all our pupils to enable them to excel and be the best that they can be!

We trust that you will continue to find the information we provide about your child's education useful and informative. **Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you would like to know more details about how your child is progressing in school.** Both Mrs Gill and myself will be available during the open afternoon next week and we are always happy to listen!

With very best wishes

Zoe Hussain  
Headteacher