

26 February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to your child's assessments.

In April 2014, the Department for Education released a document called 'Assessment Principles'. This document outlined changes to assessment which all schools had to implement when the 2014 National Curriculum was introduced.

The key changes are:

- Children in Year 1 and Year 3 are no longer assessed using levels (1c, 1b, 1a etc).
- Children in Year 1 and Year 3 are now assessed using 'steps'.
- Year 2 children will continue to be assessed with levels (2c, 2b, 2a etc) for this academic year only. After this, Year 2 will not be assessed using levels and will be assessed by 'steps'.

How we assess children with 'steps'.

- Each year group has its own collection of targets to work towards. Each collection of targets is called a Band. Year 1 work within Band 1, Year 3 work within Band 3 and so on.
- The proportion of targets achieved by your child within the Band is communicated using 3 descriptors – beginning, working within and secure.

Beginning (b)	Working Within (w)	Secure (s)
Up to 40% of the statements achieved	Between 40% and 70% of the statements achieved	Over 70% of statements achieved

- **The aim is that all children will be Secure in their year group's Band by the end of the year.**

- The steps are then broken down into finer steps, using a plus, so we can demonstrate when your child has made progress throughout a band.

Beginning (b)	Beginning+ (b+)	Working within (w)	Working within + (w+)	Secure (s)	Secure+ (s+)
Approx 20% of statements achieved	20-40% of statements achieved	40-55% of statements achieved	55-70% of statements achieved	70-85% of statements achieved	85%-100% of statements achieved

- We track the step your child is on each half term. We expect them to progress by at least 1 step per half term in order to reach the 'secure' judgement by the end of each year.
- If a child is not likely to reach a 'secure' judgement or they aren't making 1 step progress each half term, we will discuss this with you and organise support so that we can work together to boost their progress quickly.
- If a child achieves a 'secure' judgement before the end of the year, they go onto 'secure+' which is where they achieve mastery of the statements and a more thorough grasp of the content and concepts.
- Children with SEN will be assessed either on 'steps' or on the 'SEN p-scales', as appropriate.

You will see these changes in your child's school report later this term so it may be handy to keep this guide in a safe place so you can refer to it. This can also be found on our school website under the 'Parents' section and 'Assessments using steps'.

If you would like some more information on this, please talk to your child's class teacher who will be happy to discuss this with you in more detail. Alternatively, I will be on the back school gate most mornings and can explain it in more depth then.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Bull

Acting Deputy Head