

A New Approach to Assessment and Reporting in Years 1-6 Information for parents: Autumn Term 2014

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, there is a new curriculum that has been statutory in primary schools from the beginning of this term. With this has also come changes in the way that pupils are assessed. This document aims to give you information about some of these changes and how these will be communicated with you.

The system of levels that has been in place will not fit the new National Curriculum. This is because the curriculum content has changed or moved around. The new curriculum sets out what is to be taught within each year group and now pupil attainment and progress is assessed against the learning objectives for each year group. When reporting on pupils, teachers nationally will no longer be using levels but instead will report on whether or not pupils have met the objectives for their year group. Generally, much of the subject content is now expected to be taught a year ahead of previous expectations, especially in maths, so it is expected that many pupils nationally will not be secure within age-related expectations this year.

Please note: pupils currently in Year 2 and Year 6 are nationally still working from the previous curriculum and will be the last groups to take the old-style SATs, so for this academic year these year groups will be awarded a level from the previous system. From 2016 onwards a new style of test is being introduced in English and mathematics to fit with the new curriculum.

As you will appreciate, this has meant a huge amount of change within the education system. As a school, we have spent a considerable amount of time working on how to implement these changes and how to best keep you informed and report to you on your child's attainment and progress. As such, you will find a difference in the way that we will communicate with you this year.

Parent Consultations

In previous years, we have held our first parent consultations in the first half of the autumn term. This year we have decided to move the meetings back to towards the end of the term so that this can tie in more effectively with pupil targets, giving you more meaningful information. We maintained the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings at the beginning of the school year and can be easily contacted via email so that you can still address any issues with us before the end of term. There will be another consultation with appointments towards the end of the spring term and then open evening towards the end of the summer term.

Reporting

Instead of the usual end-of-year reports, this year we will be sending out new, shorter reports towards the end of each term. The report for the autumn term will cover general content coverage for English and mathematics, a grade for effort in these subjects, information on next steps in your child's learning and what you can do at home to help. It will be too early at this stage to be able to assess whether your child has met age-related expectations, so this will be reported on later in the academic year. Please note, the grade given in the autumn report is for **effort** (how much effort your child puts into his/her work) and **not** for attainment (how well your child is achieving against the learning objectives set for his/her year group).

Subject focus: maths

Please note that the subject focus for this term is mathematics and you will receive guidance on what is expected of your child. Information on the other subjects will follow. An information evening for parents on mathematics has been scheduled for Thursday 8th January (6pm for Key Stage 1 and 7pm for Key Stage 2 - this date has already been given in previous correspondence to parents).

We hope that you find the information helpful in this year of huge change. We are continuously working on ways to improve our practice and would welcome any feedback from you to help us review our communication with parents. Please email me on teacher5@stpauls909.herts.sch.uk to let me know if you wish to attend the mathematics evening on 8th January, indicating which Key Stage meeting(s) you wish to attend, so that we have an idea of expected numbers.

Best wishes,

Caroline Moore
Deputy Headteacher