



ASSESSMENT WITHOUT LEVELS - LEARNING LADDERS

Below is the information/hand-out shared with parents at our recent assessment meetings on 15th and 16th October 2015. We hope you find it useful - please do pop in and see us if you were unable to attend the meetings and have any questions.

Information for parents

Background: From September 2015 all pupils in primary schools across England will be taught and assessed against the new National Curriculum. Alongside this, the government has removed 'levels' as a guide to measuring progress and attainment (e.g. level 3c, 3b, 3a etc.) and as there is now no national requirement or directive from the government, schools must develop their own system. The tests children take in year 2 and year 6 (SATs) have also changed to reflect the new emphasis on reasoning, knowing and applying. Children can no longer whiz quickly through the curriculum, they are now expected to spend time consolidating and mastering the skills they are learning and applying them accurately to different contexts and challenges.

Changes to year 6 tests (SATs): Children in year 6 will still take national tests in May, but they have changed to reflect the new, higher standards of the curriculum. Writing will still be teacher assessed and a judgement made about each child's writing over time and over several pieces of work. Maths will now consist of two mathematical reasoning tests, and a mental arithmetic test. The reading test will focus much more on comprehension and inference.

From May 2016 there will be just one test for all children (i.e. no level 6 paper). Each child will have a raw score which will be converted to a scaled score where the average is 100. Schools will have to report and confirm to parents whether their child has met the national standard in that subject.

How will Leas Park assess progress and attainment from September 2015? We have started using a system called 'Learning Ladders'. Each child has their own booklet for reading, writing and maths which will stay with them as they move through the school. These will be used to assess the progress they are making and to help the children understand their personal targets to improve their work. The booklets have lots of little statements closely linked to the National Curriculum which the teachers will use in lessons to support and assess children's learning. In lessons, the teacher will focus on a particular ladder (e.g. fractions) using the booklets with the children to identify personal targets for improvement.

Teachers will 'sign off' a particular rung of a ladder when a child is secure in their understanding - often this will be in a different lesson, using that skill in a different context to show depth and breadth of understanding. This will be a constant system of observing,

discussion and assessing with the children and therefore the booklets must stay at school - we don't want them to get lost even for one day!

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How will I know how well my child is doing? We will continue to have parent's evenings in October and March every year and we will continue to send a formal report home in July. We will also send little targets home for you to help at home, if you would like to, based on your child's Learning Ladder booklets.

The language of our discussions, however, will change. Teachers will talk to you in terms of whether your child is working towards/working within/ achieving/exceeding (mastering) their year group expectations. Whilst there will be no measurement in terms of levels, teachers will be able to give you very individual and specific targets for your child to make further progress and at parents evenings will be able to share your child's Learning Ladder booklets with you. This new language will also be reflected in your child's end of year report.

Why did Leas Park choose Learning Ladders? We looked at lots of different systems and methods and spoke to lots of other schools to see what they are doing. We chose Learning Ladders for several reasons:

- It doesn't involve lots of formal tests - it is an ongoing process
- Nothing is hidden and secret from the children - they use the booklets every day
- Everything is recorded in one place for reading, writing and maths
- The booklets are easy to understand and use - they are child friendly and teacher friendly!

Any questions?

Thank you for coming to this meeting - I hope you have found it useful and informative. If you still have questions about Learning Ladders, assessment or the National Curriculum please do pop in to see your child's class teacher and hopefully they will be able to answer your queries.

Mrs Atkins - Head Teacher

October 2015

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