

## **A parent's guide to curriculum and assessment**

Things change very quickly in education, and at no time in the past 25 years has this been truer than from September 2014 when the whole school curriculum and assessment system changed for schools throughout England.

We have worked collaboratively within the CLF to embrace these changes and design a new curriculum and assessment system that will support our children.

This guide is intended to inform and support our parents so that your child can make the most of their education.

### **What's changed in the national curriculum?**

The new National Curriculum was introduced to schools in September 2014 and is now being taught in years 1 – 6.

English, maths and science remain important and are considered the 'core subjects'. The foundation subjects are: art, computing, design and technology, foreign languages (age 7+ only), geography, history, music and physical education.

The main change in the new curriculum is that it is significantly more demanding than in the past, with children being taught concepts at a younger age. The reason for these changes are part of the Government's initiative to ensure that the curriculum broadens children learning, allows children to secure new skills and ultimately to raise the level of academic success for all children.

If you would like to know more about the new curriculum then please follow this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum>

### **What's changed in the assessment system ?**

The way that we assess children has also changed significantly. Previously children were assessed using national levels and their progress was tracked throughout their time in school. These levels were awarded through a range of assessment tools such as marking books, setting tests and teacher professional judgement.

Schools have now been given the chance to design their own assessment systems. We have been working with other Primary schools within the CLF to create a system that will support children, teachers and parents to ensure that every child achieves their full potential.

### **How will you assess my child?**

Children will still be assessed in a similar way through work in books, reading, writing, ongoing testing and teacher professional judgement. We assess children to find out what they already know, what they have understood from a lesson and what we need to teach them next, so assessment is part of everyday teaching in all classrooms.

Children in all year groups may still have some more formal tests at the end of the year to prepare them for SATS tests which are taken in year 2 and year 6.

### **How will you assess if my child is on track with their learning?**

The new system that we have developed within the CLF focuses on teachers assessing children against the national curriculum objectives. Teachers will then make a decision about how much progress a child has made towards achieving that objective or whether they have already exceeded that objective.

The language that we will use is described here

*Deepening:* child has understood the year group expectation and is now taking this deeper into more abstract work ( D: turquoise colour)

*On track for current year expectation:* Assessment to date tells us that the child should meet year group expectation (O: green)

*Yet to be on track:* The child shows some working at year group expectation but not on track to achieve the year group expectation (Y: orange)

*At an earlier stage in their learning journey:* The child is not working towards current year group expectation (A: red)

Teachers will use this language on a daily basis to understand and check pupils progress. At the end of the year teachers will make an overall judgement for each area (reading, writing and maths) depending on a child's progress towards the individual national curriculum objectives

### **How will this information be shared with parents?**

We will continue to send home topic reports throughout the school year, and a final report at the end of the school year, which will share information about your child's progress and what you can do at home to help your child.

Parents evenings will be held throughout the year and teachers will talk to you about the individual areas that your child needs to focus on in their learning.

### **Will children still have SATS?**

The government is still creating SATS test papers for children in year 2 and year 6 so children will still be tested in these year groups. Children in year 1 will also still sit a phonics screener to assess their phonic knowledge. If you would like to see samples of these tests then please follow this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>

### **What can I do to help my child?**

There is so much that parents can do to help children in their learning at school. Completing homework every week, reading daily, learning spellings and times tables all help greatly.

All year groups will send home curriculum newsletters to share information about what is being taught in class. We will also hold meetings to keep parents updated on how we are teaching maths and reading in school, we know that things are sometimes different to how parents were taught in school. Most importantly our classroom doors are open to all parents every day and we are always happy to answer any questions.

We hope that you found this information useful and if you have any questions or comments then please speak to your child's class teacher.

