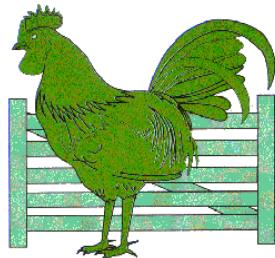


Lower Farm Primary School



Assessing without Levels: A Parents Guide.

There is a new National Curriculum from September 2014 and the existing system of assessment levels has been removed and not replaced by the Government. Schools have created their own non levels based assessment systems.

This information and advice has been put together to inform you of our school assessment procedures for this and coming years, including any changes. We hope you find it useful.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



Children in the EYFS will continue to be assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP for short). This consists of Ages and Stages criteria for nursery learners moving into Early Learning Goals for Reception aged learners.

At the end of Reception these are reported as **Emerging**, **Expected** or **Exceeding** the Early Learning Goals in each area.

Evidence is gathered across the year to create a profile for all children in EYFS and we value contributions from parents and carers to these documents.

Assessment in EYFS is gathered through observations of learners, samples of learning, photographs and conversations which demonstrate the child's understanding of a given concept.

In addition to this, staff plan lessons and activities to develop a wide range of learning skills in preparation for the next stage in their education Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2).

YEARS 1, 3, 4, 5



From September this year, children in years 1, 3, 4 and 5 will no longer be assessed against the national curriculum levels that parents and carers will have been familiar with.

In line with the New National Curriculum and raised expectations, children will be assessed in a number of ways.

Lower Farm staff will be teaching from the New National Curriculum and covering all requirements for the specific year groups. These are called 'Year End Standards'

The 'Year End Standards' have been taken from the New National Curriculum and state the minimum requirements a learner must meet in order to ensure continued progress throughout school in line with age expected standards.

A copy of the 'Year End Standards' for Reading, Writing, Maths and Science for the year group your child is in will be attached with this information leaflet.

Any gaps identified in learning for the children due to the increased expectations will be covered and staff have worked together to ensure that the coverage for children is in place.

Staff continue to differentiate all activities to ensure that all learners needs are met. Differentiation is very well developed throughout school and is a strength at Lower Farm.

Lower Farm has decided to use a new assessment progression framework in line with the 'Year End Standards' developed by 'Rising Stars Education'.

The assessment system we use refers to "stages". Each stage is split into six parts to show the attainment of pupils. Each stage is split into:

beginning, beginning+, developing, developing+, secure, exceeding

Learners are assessed half termly in Reading; Writing and Maths using our tracking system to see which part of each stage they are working within and to check they are progressing.

New Curriculum focuses very much on ensuring children have a breadth of understanding within the concepts and skills they learn. The application of skills and understanding across a wide range of

curriculum areas is key. Rather than moving ‘up’ the stages, the focus is on moving ‘outwards’ developing a deeper understanding. Teachers at Lower Farm are now planning extension and challenge activities into lessons which allow pupils to “master” a skill before moving onto new learning. This means that children are less likely to have “gaps” in knowledge over time.

Gathering evidence of learners progress and development will continue with a wide range of **Formative Assessment**; (day to day assessment through learning completed, observations, conversations and guided sessions) which will inform staff’s planning and also **Summative Assessment** (more formal assessment/tests) which will play a part in the overall assessment and progress checks for learners at set times in the year.

YEARS 2 AND 6



For this academic year, (2014 – 2015) both Year 2 and 6 children will be assessed against the previous curriculum as the transition takes place. Parents of children in either of these two year groups will still receive information on their child's progress relating to 'National Curriculum Levels'. Outcomes for children in these year groups will still be reported on in this way after the children's SATs tests in the summer term. (National expectation for Y2

learners will still be Level 2, and for Y6 learners will still be Level 4)



Children entering Years 2 and 6 next year will, however, move onto the new system for assessment without levels. Results from external national tests will be published in a new format in line with the new requirements.

If parents and carers require any further information at this time, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Milner or the appropriate member of the leadership team as listed below:

Mrs O'Donovan – Deputy Head (Year 5/6 Phase Leader)

Mr Turner – Assistant Head (Year 3/4 Phase Leader)

Mrs Dobson – Key Stage 1 Leader (Years 1 & 2)

Miss Wright – EYFS Leader (Nursery & Reception)

Miss Jenkins – English Leader

Miss Starkey – Maths Leader