



St Stephen and All Martyrs' CE Primary School
Radcliffe Road
Bolton BL2 1NZ
Headteacher: Mr M A Cummins
Deputy Head: Mrs R Galloway
Telephone: 01204 333155
Fax: 01204 333156
Email : office@ssam.bolton.sch.uk
School Website: www.saintstephen.co.uk

Friday 16th January 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Curriculum 2014 and the End of Curriculum Levels

For generations, parents have found themselves visiting primary schools with their children only to hear themselves saying "It's not like when I was at school". Things change quickly in education, and at no time in the past 25 years has that been truer than September 2014 when the whole school curriculum changed for schools throughout England. This pack is intended to support parents in understanding some of the details of those changes and whilst it is not practical to set out in detail everything your child would be learning during their seven years of primary education it does provide an outline of typical content for your child this year. It also provides information about the way assessment has changed and how in the future we will let you know how your child is progressing with their learning.

The Department for Education (DfE) has decided that the children who are currently in Years 2 and 6 will be the last pupils to be awarded a level in their end of Key Stage tests (Summer 2015). The feeling from the government was that the old national curriculum and the levels system failed to adequately ensure that children had a breadth and depth of knowledge at each national curriculum level.

The DfE announced last year that there would no longer be National Curriculum levels, and that schools would have to set up their own way of assessing pupils. The format which most schools have adopted is one that measures the progress children are making against their End of Year Expectations.

Under the old levels system children who were exceeding might have moved into the next level. The DfE now want children who are in the exceeding bracket to add more depth and breadth to their knowledge, and to have more opportunities to develop their using and applying skills. They are calling this phase of learning Mastery and Depth.

The biggest difference is how we will talk to you about how your child is progressing during the year. With the old National Curriculum levels, each year children were given a target for the end of the year, and during the year we would tell you what National Curriculum level your child was at.

We are currently introducing a new assessment system into school and by the end of spring we will be able to provide parents with a report on the progress their child is making. Our new system of monitoring your child's progress will identify whether they are working Below, At or Above Age Related Expectations.

Parents will also be informed of their child's progress towards the End of Year Expectations and whether they are on track to meet their end of year target. It may well be that they are above or below where they need to be, in which case their end of year target will be adjusted. Children working well below expectations will be identified as Low Attaining and children working well above expectations will be identified as More Able.



'A School where every child can achieve success'

During Parent Conferences and at key moments throughout the year we will continue to share your child's learning targets with you and provide you with information on how to best support your child's learning at home.

Tests your child will take

Lots of schools use tests at all stages of their work. For the most part these are part of a normal classroom routine and support teacher assessment. However at certain stages in your child's school life they will also take national tests which must be taken by all children. Often informally these are known as SATs, the National Curriculum Tests are compulsory for children at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. Children in these year groups will undertake tests in Reading, Mathematics and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling. The tests will be sent away for marking, and results will be reported to schools and parents at the end of the year. Children in Year 1 will continue to take the Phonics Test.

Where previously these tests – and other teacher assessments were graded in levels from 2016 the tests will be reported as a scaled score, with a score of 100 representing the expected level for each year group.

Please find enclosed:

- Information relating to the changes to your child's maths, English and science curriculum this year. There may be some science topics that are taught in different year groups but all the elements of the National Curriculum will be taught as your child progresses through school.
- Year Group End of Year Expectations
- Your child's current maths, reading and writing target
- Curriculum Newsletter
- Spring term Newsletter
- Data Collection Sheet
- 2015-16 School Calendar

I am encouraged by the strong partnership that exists between home and school and my staff are looking forward to supporting you throughout the rest of this year. If you have any questions regarding this information I am available by phone or appointment. Alternatively you can always talk with your child's class teacher about any matter concerning your child's learning. We will soon notify parents of the dates of our Spring Term Parent Conferences and I would encourage all parents to attend if they are able to do so.

Yours sincerely

M A Cummins

Michael Cummins

(On behalf of the Governors)

ENC.



'A School where every child can achieve success'