



MICKLEOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mrs Lynne Gerver

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you may be aware, the Department for Education has recently removed assessing with levels for children in primary schools. Schools have been encouraged to create their own non-level based assessment system. This was to tie in with the New National Curriculum which came into schools in September 2014.

Key Curriculum Changes

So, what are the changes to the curriculum? It would take far too long to cover the whole curriculum, particularly in any great depth as there have been lots of changes; the new curriculum is a lot more prescriptive in English and Maths, but less prescriptive in other subjects.

The expectations of the children are now much higher than ever before, with much of the curriculum being shifted down into lower year groups, particularly in Maths and English. For example, some of the old KS2 expectations can now be found in the Year 2 curriculum and likewise, Year 5/6 expectations in Year 3.

The raised expectations mean that children need to have a very secure knowledge of the program of study for their year group and depth of understanding and application. (See end of year expectations leaflet)

How do we assess your child?

DfE – statutory assessments:

- Reception – Baseline, EYFS profile
- Year 1 – Phonics check
- Year 2 and Year 6 – end of Key Stage assessments (SATs)

Other assessments:

- On-going teacher assessment
- Termly data check-points in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Years 3-5, end of year annual progress test in Reading, Grammar and Maths

Statutory Assessments

Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage – EYFS)

Your child's teacher will use a combination of the EYFS profile and the new September baseline assessment to measure your child's progress.

Baseline:

The baseline assessment will result in a score that forms part of your child's baseline profile. By having a good understanding of your child's abilities when they start school, your child's teacher will be able to measure their progress

The baseline assessment is face-to-face with a mixture of tasks and observational checklists. This will be statutory from September 2016.

EYFS Profile:

The EYFS profile assessment is carried out in the final term of Reception. The main purpose of the EYFS profile is to provide a reliable, valid and accurate assessment of individual children at the end of the EYFS.

EYFS profile data is used to inform parents about their child's development against the early learning goals (ELGs) and the characteristics of their learning. It also helps Year 1 teachers plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of your child. Evidence is gathered across the year to create 'Learning Journeys' for all children in EYFS - we value all 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 identify the learning behaviours of children and plan lessons and activities to develop a wide range of learning skills in preparation for the next stage of their education in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2).



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Year 1

Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check demonstrates how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify pupils who need extra help with their phonics. The checks consist of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read one-to-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below or above this standard. Children who do not meet the required standard in Year 1 will be re-checked in Year 2.

Year 2

English

Pupils are teacher assessed at the end of Key Stage 1; however, this teacher assessment must take into account statutory SATs tests as well as work completed in class.

Pupils will take the following tests in May:

Reading

The reading test is made up of **two papers**; the first paper is an integrated reading and answer booklet whilst the second paper is a reading booklet with a separate reading answer booklet. Children will sit both papers, but teachers can stop the test for an individual child at any stage of the test that they feel is inappropriate to that child. The total testing time is approximately 60 minutes.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Children will sit two papers:

Paper 1 Spelling - 20 spellings to write.

Paper 2 Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary questions. This paper is made up of 2 sections and is a mixture of multiple choice and writing short answers. It will assess grammatical terms, use of words in the right context, punctuation and verb tense.

Handwriting will also be assessed

Maths

Children will take two maths papers:

- Paper 1 - arithmetic – this is a written arithmetic paper
- Paper 2 – this assesses fluency, solving problems and reasoning

NB a big change is that the children will not be allowed any equipment to help them work out their answers.

Reports

It is very important that parents recognise that the expectations of the new national curriculum are much higher now at the end of each year group. Pupils being judged on the expectations for the end of Year 5, for example, may still have gaps and may not reach the expected outcomes for their year group this year.

In Years 1, 3, 4 and 5, as in previous years, the report will inform you if your child is working at, at greater depth, or hasn't yet reached the expectations for their year group.

All year group end of year expectations will be put onto the website, so you can refer to these as your child moves into a new year group.