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Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought it would be helpful to share an update on the Government's overview of statutory assessments this year and how we, as a multi academy trust and school, are planning to assess your child's learning at the end of this year.

Due to the pandemic, children have missed significant time in school, and as a result some of the curriculum content that would normally have been covered. We are, however, very pleased with how children and parents continued learning at home, and how children have quickly settled on return. Thank you for your support during this time.

The Government has decided that it would be inappropriate to measure children in key transition years (Year 2 and Year 6) in the same way as they had been pre pandemic. This year, as was the case last year, there will be no statutory testing (SATS) in Year 2 or Year 6. Year 1 Phonics tests and Year 4 Multiplication formal testing has also been put on hold.

This does not mean that we won't be assessing children's learning and progress in school. We will be assessing learning in Year 4 Multiplication, as we think it will help plan for the end of the year and the year ahead. The same will be in place for Year 1 Phonics - neither of these outcomes will be formally reported.

As always, we will continue to use day to day assessment from teachers to inform judgements on whether a child is working below/at/exceeding their age related standards. The standards can be found in the National Curriculum - a link is on our school website. Teacher assessment grades will be shared on their school report this year. Alongside this, we will also be carrying out more formal assessments (papers or quizzes) to see how our children compare with others their age in the MAT and nationally. These will also help inform the overall judgement of progress and learning shared with you. The Government will provide guidance on exactly what information they want schools to share and in what format, and I will update you as and when more information becomes available.

In school, senior leaders meet with teachers at least three times a year to discuss next steps for all children (pupil progress meetings), and on-going assessment is present throughout the year. For us, true and informative assessment is about identifying the children's next steps on their learning journey: what they know, how well they remember and apply knowledge and what their next steps are. This also helps us to see where children need more support or more challenge.



We will, as usual, continue to prioritise a smooth transition for all children in school, including a thorough transition with all secondary schools for pupils moving from Year 6 to Year 7. We recognise that a smooth, happy and well-informed transition process helps children in every year to feel settled. With this in mind, we are planning a longer transition time this year in school. We cannot fully plan until Government guidelines are shared on 21st June, but look forward to updating you when I can.

Thank you for your continued support,



Elizabeth Ennew
Headteacher

