



Long Sutton County Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr B Lord

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Changes to the National Curriculum and Assessment

Recently, the Department for Education (DfE) introduced changes to both the National Curriculum and the way in which schools assess children in terms of their progress in both Key Stage 1 and 2.

What does the new curriculum mean for my child?

The new curriculum is more challenging than the previous National Curriculum and there are higher expectations of what children need to know, understand and be able to do.

However, as a school, we have spent a lot of time planning our curriculum and preparing both staff and children for these changes to ensure that we can help them to achieve their very best. We have worked hard to design a curriculum that is engaging and motivating to help your child learn and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world in which we live and how together we can flourish through mutual respect and responsibility. All the curriculum plans for this academic year are displayed on our website, and class teachers will send home an overview of each topic every half term, so that you can support your child with their learning at home.

How will my child be assessed?

The level descriptors previously used to measure your child's progress have been replaced with the term 'age related expectations'. This means how well your child is able to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to children of the same age. The DfE has produced programmes of study for each age group in the primary age range which details what children are expected to know.

Without levels, schools are free to set up their own system of assessing children's progress. We have spent a lot of time researching different assessment systems, and decided on an electronic tracking system called 'Target Tracker'. The biggest difference parents or carers will see is how we discuss your child's progress at both parents evening and in their annual report. From September, children will be judged to be **beginning**, **working within** or **secured** year group expectations at different points in the year. For example, at the start of the year, a Year 2 child may be assessed at **beginning** to meet the end of year 2 expectations, and by the end of the year assessed to have **secured** end of Y2 expectations in preparation for Year 3.

As in the past, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will continue to complete statutory tests (SATs) for Reading, SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Maths. These tests though have been re-designed to match the expectations of the new curriculum. As levels have been abolished, children will instead be given scaled scores. The child will receive a raw score (the actual number of marks they get), alongside their scaled score and whether they have reached the national expectation. This will be reported to parents and carers at the end of the school year.

In order to ensure we are accurately judging your child's performance within our school, judgements are moderated both within and across each of the Year Group Teams, these being Key Stage 1 – Year 1 and Year 2, Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 3 and 4, and Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 5 and 6. We also work with other schools in the locality and have bought in the services of an external consultant to ensure accuracy of judgements. Staff will also be attending training from the Local Authority to ensure that their knowledge of assessment is up to date with the many changes stipulated by the DfE.

How can I see the difference between the old and new curriculum?

Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills. In English there is a stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling; with the use of commas and apostrophes now taught in Key Stage 1. Handwriting is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy. Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children taught debating and presenting skills.

In Maths, Year 1 children will be expected to learn to count to 100 (compared to 20 previously) and learn number bonds to 20 (previously 10). Simple fractions will be taught from Key Stage 1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions. By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12. **Support from parents in helping your child to learn their times tables will be invaluable to aiding their progress.**

In Science, there is a stronger focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms. Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time. Other topics will include the human circulatory system.

Other changes include Computing replacing Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater emphasis on programming rather than on operating programs. From Year 1, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data. From Year 3, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet and E-Safety. A modern foreign language will also become mandatory in Key Stage 2 with children expected to master basic grammar and accurate punctuation, and to converse, present, read and write in the language.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions or would like to find out more information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Lord.

Kind regards

Paul Singleton
Assistant Headteacher