

23 November 2020

Dear parents

As a school we recognise the importance of positive relationships between school and home and as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times it is important that we work closely together to ensure the continued academic progress and wellbeing of all pupils.

With this in mind, the leadership team felt it would be useful to clarify our assessment process this year and how this will feed into teaching and learning. We hope that this will enable you to feel confident in continuing to support your child's learning at home.

During the first half term, teachers carried out a baseline assessment of children's knowledge and understanding. This is different to our assessment cycle in typical years and was necessary in order to determine where children were in their learning after, in many cases, several months away from school due to the unprecedented school closures. Outcomes of these assessments have identified many children performing below age related expectations, including many for whom this has not previously been the case. Please let me reassure you that, at this point in the year, this is not a cause for concern and is in no way a reflection of the wonderful work that many children completed at home during lockdown, with your support. Children across the country have been out of school routines for many months and we, as practitioners, expected this to have impacted on their attainment on first returning to school. We have been so impressed with the resilience and positivity that your children have demonstrated throughout this period and many of them have already made excellent progress since their return to school in September.

As a result of the baseline assessments, the leadership team have held pupil progress meetings with each year team. At these meetings, the progress and attainment of the year band as a whole has been discussed as well as that of individual children, and any additional support agreed in the form of a robust plan led by staff to ensure maximum progress for all pupils.

If it was agreed at this pupil progress meeting that your child would benefit from any additional support in order to ensure they reach their full potential this year, then over the next couple of weeks your child's teacher will send home details of how we will support them in school and what you can do at home to help them. In addition, Mrs Karim and Mrs Sandilands will be sending all parents some key objectives for their child's year group in Reading, Writing and Maths and how you can be supporting at home to help your child achieve them.

We will have our second assessment checkpoint in January so your child's teacher will be able to discuss their progress since the start of the year with you at our virtual parent consultation in February 2021.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to working with us in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children.

Yours sincerely



Nina Greenstone
Deputy Headteacher

