



Hollybrook Infant School



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Wednesday 23rd March 2016

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you may be aware children are tested at the end of Year 2 which is the end of Key Stage One. There have been many changes in Education recently with the introduction of a New National Curriculum in 2014 and more recent changes in assessment. Previously parents/carers would have been informed of their child's attainment using levels such as 2c, 2b, 2a, 3. These levels have now been scrapped and this year an 'Interim Assessment Framework' will be used to make judgements at the end of Key Stage One.

Rather than using levels, judgements will be made for reading, writing and maths using the following wording:

- **Working towards the expected standard**
- **Working at the expected standard**
- **Working at greater depth within the expected standard**

The children will have to complete two reading tests, two maths tests with the focus on Arithmetic and then Reasoning and a Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) test. **These tests are a National requirement and must be completed so we ask that your child is in school every day during the month of May.** Hollybrook Infant School, along with some other schools, has also been selected by the Government to administer the Maths tests early in **April** to help them formulate the pass mark for the rest of the Country and so we ask that you support us with this by having your child in school during this time.

The tests are timed, so the children need to practise recalling information at speed particularly for the Maths papers. The questions will be worded in a variety of ways such as:



- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show in which order they happened in the story'
- Matching, e.g. 'Match the character to the job that they do in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that shows what the weather was like in the story'
- Short answer, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended answer, e.g. 'Why did Lucy write the letter to her grandmother? Give two reasons'

You may like to use some of these question formats when talking about stories with your child at home or when supporting them with their Home Learning!

We wish to make the tests as **non-threatening** as possible for your children. We will be preparing the children for the tests, exposing them to test style questions in advance so that they are not surprised or confused when the tests come around.

Please support us with this by **not panicking** your child about the tests, and making a big deal about them- in school we refer to them as quizzes which they are used to completing.

As a school, we appreciate all the support you give your child to help them along on their learning journey through school! Here are a few more ideas on how you could continue to support your child at home in preparation for the end of Key Stage One:

- Read every day with your child and talk to them about what they have read to check their understanding.
- Ask why questions.
- Support your child with practising the common exception words (see list) and using these correct spellings when they write.
- Correct your child when they speak: grammatical errors ("*Can I toilet?*" "*I runned outside.*") and pronunciation errors ("*I fink I've got it.*")
- Use the correct terminology where possible e.g. noun, conjunction, adjective.
- Practise extra mental maths skills (with quick recall) such as 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables, counting in 2, 3, 5 and 10 patterns (forwards and backwards), number Bonds (to 10, 20 and 100!), mental addition and subtraction, adding / subtracting 10 to/from any 2-digit number. Start easy, and then get harder.
- Get your child to test you... do they notice when you get it wrong?

The main thing is to not worry your child about these things. Do some of the following things as part of your daily routines, in short but regular bursts. Use lots of praise, and try to boost your child's confidence so they become happy and confident learners.

We are approaching these changes with excitement, and will be working really hard to make sure that your children will be prepared so please do not worry.

We hope that this letter is useful for helping you feel more informed about the changes with testing. This information is as up to date as possible however a little caveat should be that this information could still be subject to change. The government and local authority are still likely to make slight changes, but we wanted to inform you of what we know as soon as possible.

As always if you have any queries, or need any support please do ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large capital 'C' followed by the name 'Clifford' in a cursive script.

Clare Clifford