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Dear Parents

How do we let you know how your child is doing at Saltford School?

As your children are now well settled into their new classes and our first Consultation Evening approaches, we would like to give you some information about the way we report your child's progress to you.

At Saltford, we believe strongly that we work in partnership with you to encourage your child to develop in many aspects of their life. We do this in a range of ways - by offering a rich broad and balanced curriculum; the opportunity to take part in performances and a wide range of sporting activities; a great emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to name a few. The development of the 'whole child' who is a confident, resilient, well behaved and independent learner is very important to us and we believe that all these experiences contribute to this.

In 2014 the government introduced a **new National Curriculum** (for Y1 to Y6) without levels. The emphasis since then has been on children meeting the **national standards** for their year groups with the expectation that almost all children will be able to meet those standards by the end of each year.

More information about the expectations for each year group can be found in the booklets accompanying this letter. It is worth reminding you that many of these expectations are raised for each year group compared with the previous curriculum.

When we meet you at Consultation Evening, as well as discussing your child's achievements and effort at school, **for children in Years 2-6 we will also let you know if your child is on track to meet their year group standards by the end of the year** and will also discuss actions we can take together to support them to meet those standards. As some of the children in year one are continuing to work on their Early Learning Goals and others have only been working on the National Curriculum for a maximum of seven weeks, the information that you receive from the teacher will relate more to their transition and how they are accessing the work on the National Curriculum so far. Teachers will still give you clear information on their strengths and next steps to help them achieve the end of year expectations. When children are meeting and applying the standards securely, we aim to deepen their learning through activities which encourage them to be creative, evaluative and analytical and really embed their knowledge, understanding and skills before moving on to the next year. This approach is called 'Mastery'. We will continue to encourage the children to discuss their learning meaningfully in terms of what they already do well and what they need to do next. **Access mornings** allow you to share this with them.

In EYFS we initially discuss how the children have settled into school life. We will share some information from your child's Baseline assessment results and give you a general outline of which age and stage your child is working at according to the Development Matters document. In this meeting we will highlight any areas which we will focus on as an outcome of this assessment. Following this

there will be a Wow Workshop week where your child can show you their classroom environment, the start of their Learning Journey book and favourite areas of learning. We will also encourage you to provide some feedback on the children's work and development.

Of course, there will still be **statutory assessments** throughout your child's time at school. Here is a reminder of these:

EYFS

When your child enters school, a '**Baseline**' assessment takes place, which will help us work out which age and stage your child is working at in all 17 areas and how to support your child. This will be used at a school level to work out the subsequent progress of cohorts (year groups) of children.

At the end of the Foundation Stage, you will receive a report about your child's attainment in the 17 areas of learning based on the ongoing observations of your child through the year shown in their 'Learning Journeys'.

Y1

At the end of Y1, your child will take part in a '**Phonics Check**' which will show how well your child applies their phonics skills. You will be told whether your child has met the threshold set by the government or not met the threshold for the check.

Children who do not meet the threshold for the check in Y1 will retake it in Y2.

End of KS1

At the end of Y2, the government introduced new assessments last year:

New Key Stage One test specifications from 2016:

- KS1 maths – paper 1 (arithmetic); paper 2 (mathematical fluency, problem-solving and reasoning)
- KS1 English reading Paper 1: combined reading prompt and answer booklet
English reading Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet
- KS1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: spelling
English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: questions

The outcomes of these tests are given as scaled scores, where 100 will be the expected standard (less than 100 being below the expected and more than 100 exceeding the expected standard) and your child's teachers overarching assessment, taking in to consideration the outcomes of these tests, will be reported to you with their end of year report.

We continue to assess children's writing against the end of Key Stage standards.

End of KS2

At the end of Y6, children also take new-style tests, which are:

New Key Stage Two test specifications from 2016

- English reading : reading booklet and associated answer booklet
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: short answer questions
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
- mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
- mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

For the KS2 tests a scaled score of 100 will always represent the 'expected standard'. A pupil's scaled score will be based on their raw score. The raw score is the total number of marks a pupil receives in a test. The pupil's raw score will be translated into a scaled score using a conversion table.

We will continue to assess children's writing against the end of Key Stage standards. Our partnership with you in supporting your child's learning has never been more important. We will continue to provide you with information about how you can support your child at home and welcome your views about how we can continue to improve our work with your child at school.

We look forward to seeing you at the Consultation Evenings.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Spincer', with a checkmark at the end.

Elizabeth Spincer
Deputy Headteacher/Assessment Leader