

WHY THE CHANGE?

The new national curriculum became statutory in September 2014 for Y1, 3, 4 & 5, with Y2 & 6 starting using it in September 2015. Expectations across all year groups have been raised and new more challenging tests are being developed for use at the end of KS1 (Year 2) and KS2 (Year 6)

The government felt that the system of levels was too complicated and confusing. By removing the levels it is felt that schools will be able to give a clearer indication of if children are at age expectation, whilst providing information about what they can do and need to do next.

Therefore schools have been given the freedom to design their own tracking systems to say where children are in relation to the prescribed age expected content for each year group. This will be benchmarked against the national tests at the end of KS1/KS2 and the Y1 Phonic Screening Check.



OUR AIMS

As a school, our approach to assessment will ensure:

- ◆ Children receive appropriate feedback to take their learning forward.
- ◆ Children who need further support are identified and given appropriate support to ensure they achieve their full potential.
- ◆ Teacher's use day to day observations and marking to adapt planning to meet the needs of all.
- ◆ Parents are provided with a clear indication of where their child is working in relation to their age expectation at progress meetings and in an end of year report.



END OF YEAR REPORTS

At the end of the academic year you will still receive a written report with your child's effort grades, but achievement will be graded as beginning, working within, secure or secure+ across all subjects in a given band.

PROGRESS

Across the year we expect children to move in steps through the band they have been assessed on at the end of the previous year. Our aim through our whole school curriculum is to ensure that all children move at least 3 broad steps each year, or more where additional support is given to help children reach their age expectation.



PARENT INFORMATION

ASSESSMENT WITHOUT LEVELS



Across the academic year 2014-2015 all staff will be developing their ability to assess children within this new system. This leaflet sets out some of the key information that you need to know.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

In the new curriculum, each year group has its own clearly defined content across all subjects. Each year group's content will form a band, so Y1 will be band 1 (1) and Y2 band 2 (2) etc. Instead of levels children will be assessed in a system of steps within each band.

These steps aim to reflect where a child is up to within a band, which may in some cases be a band above or below their year group's content. In each band there will be three broad steps that children can fit into and move between, depending on what they can do.

To the right you will see what the 3 broad steps are called, what they mean and how they are represented.



STEPS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Beginning (b)

A child is starting to learn the content in a band, but may still have some elements of the previous band to achieve.

1b= Year 1 beginning
4b=Year 4 beginning

Working within (w)

A child has learnt and can apply about 70% of the content within a band.

1w= Year 1 working within
4w=Year 4 working within

Secure (s)

A child is competent in all of the content of the band, but may still have some elements to build confidence in.

1s= Year 1 secure
4s=Year 4 secure

What is age expectation?

At the end of each term teachers will assess which step within a band children are on.

At the end of the academic year children will be deemed as being at their age expectation if they can competently demonstrate their ability to use and apply their year groups content.

- For example, a child in Y3 who is at age expectation will have reached the 3S step, a child slightly below age expectation will have reached the 3W step and a child significantly below will have reached the 3B step or may be on the band below at 2S or 2W.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our assessment page on the school website. Here you will find a range of links and additional information about assessment without levels. This can be found by clicking on the curriculum tab .

www.unsworth-primary.co.uk