

Assessment& Target Setting Update – All year groups

As Y6-8 parents may know, since September 2015, we have been made big changes to our assessment systems due to the removal of National Curriculum Assessment Levels. Last academic year we have introduced some new assessments for Maths and Literacy for Years 5, 7 and 8 from a company called GL Assessment. Our children completed these tests in the summer term, using school computers and from this, we received immediate feedback which compares our children with thousands of other children of the same age, nationally. These tests have given us a Stanine score which offers a broad overview of a child's performance. The Stanine scores range from 1(Low) to 9 (High) and then these inform us of whether a child has performed in the test in line with 'age related expectation' i.e. ARE or above ARE or below ARE. Pupils that have joined us in Y5 that went to one of the first schools in the Wolgarston Collaboration, e.g. Marshbrook, Princefield, St. Michaels and St. Leonards also completed GL tests for both Maths and English at the end of Y4 and their scores were passed on to us.

As a guide, below are the equivalent numbers and codes:

Age related expectation (ARE):	Significantly above ARE	Above ARE	At ARE	At the threshold of ARE	Entering, below ARE	Working towards, significantly below ARE
Stanine:	9	8 & 7	6,5 & 4	3	2	1
School Code:	AA	A	B	B-	C	WT

Many other schools around the country are currently introducing these tests and the National Middle Schools' Forum has actually linked with GL Assessment and recommended that all middle schools in the country use this provider's tests as an accurate way to track our pupils' achievement and progress over time.

The most important information that the tests provide for us is that they indicate the strengths and weaknesses of each child in different topics/skill sets, so that we can feed back to them the clear 'next steps' in their learning.

As professional educators, we realise that tests are a "snap shot" of a child's achievement, so we will also, as usual, be using our professional judgement of evidence of what we see children do and achieve on a day to day basis to help us with our tracking and setting process.

We did not use GL assessments for Y6 pupils last year (current Y7 pupils), as this year group had recently completed their Key Stage 2 SATS. Last July was the last year that SATS were reported in levels and more information will be given out about this to current Y6 parents during this year.

All year groups will be completing a Reading GL test in the Autumn term and Y5, 7 & 8 will complete English, Maths and Science GL tests in the Summer.

Thank you.