

## **Information for Parents and Carers about KS1 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests).**

At the end of Y2 the children come to the end of Key Stage One (KS1), and so are assessed against the National expected levels for children of this age. These assessments are called SATs. Key Stage 1 SATs consist of formal assessments in maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) that take around 3 hours in total to complete, plus informal assessments in science. They are carried out in small chunks and the children have the whole of the month of May in order to complete these activities. At Lowe's Wong Infants the children are used to completing 'quizzes' in maths, SPaG and reading approximately once each half term. The SATs are very similar to the activities the children have completed before. The teachers ensure they are carried out in a relaxed way and the children have opportunities to talk about what they have done once the task is completed. This is our normal practise with any assessment.

### **Maths Assessments.**

The children complete 2 activities;

The first is an arithmetic quiz which takes about 20 minutes, although it is not strictly timed.

The second is a reasoning quiz which lasts for approximately 35 minutes. This includes time for five aural questions. Pupils will still require calculation skills and questions will be varied including multiple choice, matching, true/false, completing a chart or table or drawing a shape. Some questions will also require children to show or explain their working out. Teachers are able to read out all the questions – we aren't testing the children's reading skills.

### **Reading Assessments.**

Paper 1 – consists of a combined reading prompt and answer booklet. The paper includes a list of useful words and some practice questions for teachers to use to introduce the contexts and question types to pupils. The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

Paper 2 – consists of an answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. There are no practice questions on this paper. Teachers can use their discretion to stop the test early if a pupil is struggling. The test takes approximately 40 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

The texts will cover a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

The children have lots of experience of tackling these sorts of tasks as they form a central part of Guided Reading in Year 2.

### **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**

This is an optional assessment, meaning the school chooses whether or not to administer this particular assessment or use another method to assess children's attainment in SPaG. At Lowe's Wong Infants we have decided that we will use these papers. The assessment is in two parts, the first checks the child's understanding of basic grammar and punctuation; for example knowing when to use a capital letter, full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. They might also be asked to spot the noun / adjective in a sentence. The second part of the quiz is a simple spelling test. The words used are included in our school spelling scheme.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Does my child have to do the tests?**

Yes, unless you can give a very good reason why they shouldn't. Severe learning difficulties, total lack of English or serious illness are the kinds of reasons accepted. You can't withdraw your child because you don't agree with testing

or because you think it might upset them. In fact, only a tiny fraction of children in state schools miss the national tests.

### How will I find out about their performance?

A summary of each child's performance at the end of KS1 is given on their Year 2 annual report. We no longer use 'levels' (level 1 / 2 / 3). All the children are working within level 2. The Teacher assessment will state if they are;

- Working towards the standard of a child in Year 2
- Working at the standard of a child in Year 2
- Working at greater depth than a child in Year 2

### What happens if my child misses a test?

At Key Stage 1, teachers will arrange for your child to take it at another time.

### What will happen if my child has particular learning needs?

We take into account the needs of all the children. If your child works with particular equipment, like a coloured overlay, they will be able to use these. If your child needs a bigger print copy, separate work space, reassurance and support to stay on task – they will have the support they need.

### What if my child is having an 'off' day?

Everyone has off days. These activities exist only to inform teacher assessment – they are not 'pass or fail'. They provide a useful snapshot of a child's performance and this forms part of the bigger picture, telling us what they can already do and showing us what the next steps are for your child. The class teachers have already built up a good picture of how your child is working, this is another part of the jigsaw. Information from the SATs will be viewed in the context of all their other assessments and their daily class work.

### **To summarize;**

National tests are an important milestone in school life. They give useful information to your child's teachers and to the government. But it's important to get them in proportion. They are just one of the ways the school works out how well your child is doing. They shouldn't be stressful and the children are used to undertaking short 'quizzes' during each half term. Neither you nor your child need feel anxious about these assessments.

If you have any questions, or require any more information, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.