



27th March 2017

Dear Year 2 Parents and Carers,

We hope the explanation set out below will help you to understand the process of National Curriculum Assessment Tests (NCAs) a little better. Assessments are made on children throughout their school life and NCAs should be seen as part of this ongoing process and not something too much out of the ordinary.

Key Stage One NCAs are carried out in Year Two, when children are aged 7 or are in their seventh year. The NCAs tests take place in the month of May. As a school we have been selected to administer the Maths tests in April. It is very important that your child is in school during this month so please don't book holidays etc. during this time. The children will be assessed in Maths and English, including a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test (SPaG). The current information suggests that attainment will be reported as meeting the National Standard for Key Stage 1. This phraseology is used for the statutory reporting of attainment. In school reporting uses a different language such as; emerging, expected and exceeding.

There are several assessments for both of the subjects. These assessments will take place in the classroom and the school day is kept as normal as possible. They will be administered in small groups.

Once all the assessments have been completed, they are marked by the class teacher, and a selection of Writing is taken for moderation. The Maths papers will be sent away to be externally marked and evaluated this year as we've been selected to take the tests early. These papers will only be used as a guide externally and marks will not be shared with the school. Teacher assessment is also used to ensure an accurate judgment is reached. The teacher assessment results are then sent out to parents attached to the child's End of Year Report in July.

We hope that this explanation is helpful and makes NCAs a little clearer to understand. Please feel free to ask about any area you are unsure of and try not to feel anxious over the next month. It is important that we work together to make this time as stress free as we can for your child.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.S. Crittenden".

Mrs. A. Crittenden
Headteacher

Reading Test

There are 2 reading comprehension assessments

- One is reading short passages from a story or information texts. They then answer comprehension questions after each section.
- The second is reading a longer story or information text. The children then answer comprehension questions in a separate booklet, keeping the text to refer to.
- Questions are designed to assess the comprehension and understanding of a child's reading.
- Some questions are multiple choice or selected response, others require short answers and some require an extended response or explanation.

How can I help at home?

- Listen to your child read at home (Buster's Book Challenge). Write book reviews together.
- Share books with your child with you reading to them.
- Discuss the stories you read. Ask questions about the story or information book. Do they understand what they have just read?
- Ask them to find an answer in the text.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test

- A Spelling test is administered.
- A separate test is given on Punctuation, Vocabulary and Grammar.
- This test requires short answer questions, including some multiple choice.
- Marks for these two tests are added together to give a total for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

How can I help at home?

- Help your child learn their spellings.
- Write their own stories or sentences using words from the word list.
- When reading identify punctuation and grammar that are within your child's SPaG belt.
- Find interesting words in books, newspapers and make word banks.
- Find the noun, verb, adjective or adverb in a sentence when reading.

Maths Test

Children will sit two tests:

Paper 1 is for arithmetic, covering calculation methods for all four operations. Questions gradually increase in difficulty. Not all children will be expected to access some of the more difficult questions later in the paper.

There are two parts to the Maths paper 2. The first part is a set of oral questions. The second paper consists of written questions, any of which can be read to the children. Pupils will use calculation skills to answer questions in context and decide what is required to find a solution.

How can I help at home? Practise, practise, practise...

- Counting forward and backwards
- Number bonds to 10, 20 and a 100 (6+4=10)
- 2s, 5s and 10s times tables
- Quick fire additions and subtractions (3+4, 8-2, 32+15, 22-18)