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5th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is statutory for all schools from September 2021 to complete the reception baseline assessment (RBA). This is a short, task-based assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. Your child does not need to prepare. There is no pass mark or score and your child will not be aware they are completing an assessment.

The assessment can take place at any point in the first 6 weeks of your child starting reception. The assessment will form the start of a new measure of how schools are helping their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

What does the assessment involve?

During a short one-to-one session with their teacher or teaching assistant, your child will complete a number of practical and interactive tasks. Your child can answer questions verbally or by pointing or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to be inclusive and the teacher may pause the assessment at any time, for example, if a child needs a break.

What the assessment measures - The tasks are carefully designed to assess early mathematics, literacy, communication and language skills.

Why the assessment is being introduced - The assessment provides a better starting point to measure the progress a school makes with their pupils throughout their whole time at primary school, between reception and year 6.

How the data will be used - Children will not 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment; it will provide a snapshot of where they are when they start school in the reception year. The data from the assessment will only be used at school level to measure the progress of the year group from reception to year 6.

What will be reported to you?

Teachers will receive narrative statements for individual children, which will inform us how your child performed in the assessment. Schools are not obliged to report the narrative statements to you as a matter of course. However, schools must share the narrative statements with you upon your request.

If you have any further questions regarding the reception baseline assessment, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Thank you,
Miss Brazel

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