

returned to us, usually in time for end of year reports. The test results and teacher assessments are reported to parents, the Local Authority and the Department for Children, Families and Schools (DCSF)

In July, we send out annual reports and parents are able to discuss their child's progress with the teacher. We value your comments and encourage you and your child to write a comment about the report.

For pupils in Year 2 and Year 6, we give further information as a result of the end of Key Stage Assessments – the numbers represent the levels which your child has achieved. We would expect that most pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 would achieve between levels 1-3 and at the end of Key Stage 2, levels 2 – 5. A typical average 7 year old would be at Level 2 and an average 11 year old would be at level 4.

Each level represents a broad range of progress – it is likely that a pupil who is making good progress may stay at the same level for some time. It is not a case of moving up a level each year. The levels achieved are not used to stream pupils in the school, or to determine which class they go into as all our classes are mixed ability.

Performance tables of Key Stage 2 results are published which compare each school's results with a local and national average. Test results are only one way of assessing a pupil's progress at school. All children learn and develop at different speeds and our system of teacher assessment reflects this.

We try to give an all-round assessment of how your child is doing at school and we are always happy to discuss this with you.

Making sense of it all

- ❖ We assess all pupils and report progress to parents at termly consultation evenings and on our annual school reports
- ❖ We write about what the pupils can do, what they know and what they understand, as well as the general progress, behaviour and attitude to work.
- ❖ We tell you whether your child is working at, above or below the level we expect for that age
- ❖ We encourage you as parents to give your views.

Beryl Knowles
January 2010

HOLT COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



A Guide for Parents/Carers

Assessment, Reporting & Testing

Pupils' reports – assessments – league tables – tests – standards – all are in the news, but what does it all mean to your child at Holt Community Primary School? This leaflet is written to explain some of the information you will receive about your child.

Assessment

What is assessment?

It is collecting information about how your child is working and placing a value on it – as teachers, we collect information all the time, e.g. when we mark a piece of work, when we listen to pupils in discussions, when we watch pupils in science or PE.

Why do we assess?

It tells us how well your child is working and helps us to decide what we need to do next to move your child's learning forwards– sometimes it is more detailed teaching or more practice may be needed before the next learning step is taken.

How do we assess?

Teachers use many ways to assess – we observe and question, we talk to colleagues, parents and pupils, we listen as pupils discuss ideas, or explain their views, we test and mark work which is produced. The National Curriculum provides level descriptions for each stage of learning and we make a judgement to see which level best fits the pupil's work.

How do we record our assessments?

We keep pieces of work which show progress, often the pieces of work are given back to the pupils and they are taken home. We make notes when work has been marked and we keep records of test results. When we have been observing a pupil, we keep notes and sometimes we take photographs of work.

Assessment goes on all the time.

End of Key Stage Assessment

What is a Key Stage?

Pupils in Reception are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Years 1 and 2 are in Key Stage 1, so pupils in Year 2 are at the end of Key Stage 1. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 are in Key Stage 2, so pupils in Year 6 are at the end of Key Stage 2. They move onto High School to begin Key Stage 3.

Pupils in YR are assessed systematically throughout the year, mainly by observation, and their achievements are recorded in the Learning Journey books. The pupil observations are matched against the early learning goals which cover the main areas of learning. Each pupil's development and learning achievements are recorded against assessment scales which form the EYFS Profile. This information is available to the Local Authority and it is shared with parents at the end of YR.

At the end of Y2 and Y6 there are two sorts of statutory assessment – Teacher Assessment (TA) and National Tests which are usually known as Standard Assessment Tasks/tests (SATs)

Teacher Assessment is a judgement based on work which the pupils have done during the year and the work is assessed in the ways already described. The teacher has to make an assessment about the level the pupil is at in each of the core subjects – English (Reading and Writing) Maths and Science. SATs are national tests – all Y2 pupils in England are tested using the same tests, as are our Y6 pupils. We have no choice as the tests are compulsory. The tests give a snapshot of how the pupil is doing on the day of the test.

At Y2 in Key Stage 1 the teacher assessment level is reported to parents and the Local Authority. There are tests in English, covering reading, comprehension, imaginative writing, spelling and handwriting, and in maths covering number, shape and data handling and these are used to support teacher assessment. The tests are carried out during the first half of the summer term.

All Y6 pupils do the tests at the same time so they are strictly timetabled and take place during May. In English there is a reading comprehension, writing and spelling test and three maths tests. The tests are sent away to be marked and