



New Assessment at Dunmow St Mary's

After phasing in a new National Curriculum over the past two years, the government has now introduced changes to how assessment works in primary schools for key stages 1 and 2. Parents and carers will no longer be given a **level** at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 but will be told whether or not their child has met the standard for that year group.

New Assessment System

The curriculum is now split into year groups and we have called the learning that takes place in each year a 'band'. For example, the year 3 curriculum is assessed in 'band 3'. Within each band there are steps. Broadly, these can be thought of as:

- **Beginning (b)** - The child's learning is primarily focussed on the objectives for this particular band. There may still be small gaps from the previous band that they will also be working on.
- **Working within (w)** - The child's learning is fully focussed on the criteria for this band.
- **Secure (s)** - The child is working confidently with the majority of criteria for this band (and in particular the key objectives that have been secured).

To add further precision, there are also '+' steps, so that within each band the progression is:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| Beginning | Beginning + | Working within | Working within + | Secure | Secure + |
| (b) | (b+) | (w) | (w+) | (s) | (s+) |

Each half term, teachers use a range of evidence to place the children on a step within a band. There are Key Performance Indicators for each band to help with this. One of the advantages of this new system is that we have increased clarity about what the children can and cannot do and therefore how best to support them in moving forward. It also allows for children to learn at a deeper level (one of the objectives of the new curriculum) rather than rushing through levels and sub-levels that were not so closely linked to the curriculum.

As the curriculum has changed, the expectations for year groups have increased. Children will therefore not automatically be working in the band that correlates to their year group. We want to ensure that children do not miss vital pieces of learning and so children may be currently working at a year band that is below their school year. While we transition to the new system, we will be working hard to fill the gaps from previous bands, all the while ensuring all children are appropriately challenged and well prepared for their next stage of school.

Please feel free to ask your child's teacher or one of the school leaders if you have any further questions.