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Dear Parents/carers,

Hopefully you will have already signed up for a 'Meet the Teacher' appointment this week or in the future. This is the meeting at which you will receive your child's report and discuss their academic and personal progress over the last academic year. In line with last year, we will be reporting on your child's **attainment**, **progress** and **effort**.

What is attainment?

Attainment is the grade your child has achieved according to teacher assessment. Teachers assess children's work from day to day, in all subjects and activities. In particular, they will assess attainment in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science.

As you may be aware, in September 2014 a new National Curriculum was introduced. As a result, the old system of 'levels' was abolished and the way in which a child's attainment is reported has changed. In Key Stage 1 and 2, children may be judged to be:

- **'Working towards'** the expected standard for a year group
- Working at the **'expected'** standard for a year group
- Working at **'greater depth'** in a year group

Their assessments will take into account work in books, homework and verbal responses given in class, as well as how children may have performed on any tests given in that year.

The new curriculum is **significantly more challenging** than it has been in the past. This may mean that a child who has, in the past, been recorded as 'above expected' is now judged to be working at the 'expected' standard. Your child's class teacher will discuss if they have any concerns regarding your child's attainment or if lower grades are simply due to changes in curriculum expectations.

What is progress?

Progress shows how much your child has moved forward in their learning from a given starting point. Children are not machines; they do not make progress in straight lines and in numbers and letters. However by tracking your child's attainment over the year and as they move up through the school, we can report whether your child is making the expected progress.

Why are there variations in progress?

Discussions with your child's class teacher will help you to understand your child's progress and any fluctuations. There are many factors to be considered when looking at the progress a child has made:

- Children have phases of progress when they move ahead rapidly and times when they are **consolidating their learning**, gathering the skills and knowledge ready for the next move forward.
- Pupils also progress differently through the **recognised phases of child development** with some reaching a point of maturity that can really help their learning before others. This is especially true of the younger years but is quite marked around year 3 and year 4.
- **Personal or family events** can often affect a child's ability to take on new information and perform at an optimum level at school
- Finally it is **our skills as teachers and the systems in place at school** that make a big difference to children's progress and we work hard to unlock the potential in all our pupils.

During your 'Meet the Teacher' session, your child's teacher will fully explain the report and if they feel further discussion is required then they will schedule another meeting for that.

A separate attendance and punctuality report will be published by the school office, which teachers will share with the Academic Progress Report. This report will show your child's attendance as a percentage and the number of lates month by month. The end of year judgements for attendance and punctuality are as follows:

Attendance	Punctuality
Above 98% = Excellent	Less than 5 lates = Good
96-97% = Good	More than 5 lates = Cause for concern
95% = Satisfactory	
Below 95% = Unsatisfactory	

Thank you for your continued support,

SLT.

