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Dear Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils

13 May 2016

### Key Stage 1 Test Administration (SATs)

There has been more controversy regarding testing in schools this year than in any previous year I can recall. The government have made a number of 'U Turns' and been forced to abandon some elements of the testing regime in Reception and Year 2 (and an additional error this week with a Y6 SATs paper being 'compromised').

My own personal stance is, as a school leader, I need to know the progress children have made since beginning school and where their achievement lies in relation to expectation as they leave KS1.

Where my thoughts differ from current government policy is HOW we test 7 year olds.

Next week our Y2 pupils will have administered their KS1 SATs in English and Mathematics. The 'window' for KS1 assessment opened on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and closes on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. All our pupils in Y2 will take the following assessments:

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	English Grammar Mathematics Arithmetic Assessment
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	English Reading Paper 1 Mathematics Reasoning Assessment
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	English Reading Paper 2
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	English Writing Assessment

Whilst the government had to controversially abandon the plan to formally test 7 year olds in spelling, punctuation and grammar, the paper was published on their website in error, I have decided to go ahead with the assessment as it will provide the school with data to plan the English Y3 curriculum next year. The results from this assessment will not be published or used by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will share all the assessment results with you in our school report this year and during the parent consultation meetings in July.

Mrs Hill has devised a timetable for the groups she will be assessing throughout the mornings next week. Friday is designed as 'mop up' day to assess anyone who has been absent or unable to take the assessment.

Please let the school know if your son/daughter is going to be absent on any of the assessment days next week.

We really want our children to be as relaxed as they can taking these assessments so, as we did with Y6 this week, they do not need to wear their school uniform next week.

I plan to send home copies of the KS1 SATs papers when we have finished with them to show you the level of difficulty our Year 2 children will have faced next week. Now there's another bit of controversy I'll avoid commenting upon!

Callum Kidd  
Executive Headteacher

