



Dear Parents

### **New National Curriculum and Assessment**

Ahead of parents' evening and to explain your child's report to you, I am writing to you with an update on the National Curriculum we are teaching in school and the arrangements we have in place to monitor your child's learning and their progress. I hope this will be useful to you when you meet with your child's teacher.

### **The new National Curriculum**

As you may be aware, we introduced the new National Curriculum in our school last September. The new National Curriculum is part of the government's initiative to improve the level of academic attainment of young people and in many areas of the curriculum, the standard of knowledge, skills and understanding has been raised. Additionally the new curriculum has a greater focus on broadening children's learning and ensuring they are 'secure' in their new skills.

The Government has made a change in the way that children in schools are to be assessed. This is to tie in with the New National Curriculum that became statutory in September. This is a new way of thinking for schools, and assessment will look very different to how it has done for the past 20 years. The aim of this letter is to give you some clear information about the changes that are happening in education across the country and what that means for the children at Cockfield.

### **So why have levels disappeared?**

The Department for Education (DfE) want to avoid what has been termed 'The Level Race' where children have moved through the old National Curriculum levels quickly to achieve higher attainment. The feeling from the DfE was that the old national curriculum and the levels system failed to adequately ensure that children had a breadth and depth of knowledge at each national curriculum level.

### **So what does this mean for Cockfield?**

The changes mean that we are adapting the way we report attainment and progress to you. These judgements will be based on the new National Curriculum framework. Your child's teacher will be able to give you information on how well they are working in terms of breadth and depth, their attitude to learning, how much effort they are making and progress reflected in their class work.

At the forthcoming parents' evening, staff will be discussing your child's progress and new targets in reading, writing and maths without reference to levels. End of year expectations for your child's year group will also be shared with you.

We will keep you informed about further developments in our assessment policy. If you have any questions regarding this, I will be available during parents' evenings.

Miss Heatherington  
Head Teacher