Parents/Carers of P1, P4 and P7 Pupils

Our ref: AG/MT
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Angela Gibson
Phone: 01555 771215
Date: 30-4-19

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS – PARENT/CARER INFORMATION

You will be aware that last session the Scottish Government introduced a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments, designed to reflect the way we deliver education in Scotland, through Curriculum for Excellence. These assessments are expected to replace the variety of existing standardised assessments that local authorities and schools use at the moment.

Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be, a central part of everyday assessment. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them, when considering children’s progress and planning the next steps in their learning.

The assessments will focus on some aspects of reading, writing and numeracy. They will be carried out with all children in P1, P4 and P7.

- P1 children will take two SNSA assessments: one in literacy and one in numeracy.
- P4 children will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.
- P7 children will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.

Children do not have to revise or prepare for assessments. The assessments are used as part of routine teaching and learning to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing and to plan next steps.

The assessments are completed online and are marked automatically. There is no pass mark and the assessments cannot be ‘failed’. Each assessment has between 30 and 41 questions, depending on the year group and subject. The computerised assessment system is adaptive: if a child is finding the questions difficult the questions will get easier, and if a child is doing well, the questions will become more challenging.

The assessments are as short as possible and are age and stage appropriate. There is no time limit. We do expect, however, that the majority of children will complete each assessment in no more than 45 minutes. Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing, and numeracy in one sitting.
Arrangements are now in place for these assessments to be carried out in Crawforddyke Primary School, throughout the month of May. As a result of the number of computers needed for the assessments the children in Primary 7 will be taken to Carluke High School to make use of the ICT suites. If any pupil is unable to complete their assessments during the allocated time here, they will be able to do so in our school computer suite.

Please be assured that assessment is an ongoing process in our school and classrooms: these assessments form only a small part of what we do and are not an overall judgement of how a pupil is performing. No score is provided, only an indication of the level the pupil has been working on. During this term, teachers are undertaking moderation exercises to determine where your child is in their learning. This judgment is based on all evidence gathered by a teacher over a year, shared with you in the final report that you receive in June.

More information can be found on the Scottish Government website (https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/). Please also get in touch if you have any worries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Angela Gibson
Head Teacher