

9th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the Reception Baseline Assessment. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early Literacy, Communication and Language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using age-appropriate materials that your child will be familiar with. It has been statutory for all schools since September 2021.

The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils. When your child reaches year 6 / the end of key stage 2, you will be able to see how well your child's school has supported the year group in their time at primary school, compared to other schools nationally.

The RBA will provide an opportunity for your child to have valuable one-to-one time with their teacher at an early stage, so the teacher can get to know your child better. It will provide a helpful snapshot of where they are when they enter reception, so they can be supported in the most appropriate way.

You do not need to do anything to prepare your child for the assessment. Your child is unlikely to even know that they are doing an assessment when they are completing the tasks. They will answer questions verbally or by pointing at or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). The teacher can pause the assessment at any time if your child needs a break.

The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level. Your child's teacher will receive a set of statements which provide a narrative description of how your child performed in the assessment.

Should you need any further information, you are welcome to speak to your child's teacher.

Sincerely

Mrs L. Downes
Early Years Leader