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Headteacher: Miss K Aldred

10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure many of you will be aware that Connaught Junior School were recently inspected by Ofsted and have now shared their inspection letter with parents.

I am aware that a number parents are, understandably concerned by references in the letter to *inaccurate and overgenerous assessment* in some of their feeder Infant schools. I too find it very disappointing that local schools have been criticised in this way.

I, therefore, feel it would be helpful to write to you to all, to clarify how we assess your children and, hopefully, reassure you that the systems that we have in place are robust and accurate.

Children at Bagshot Infant school, in fact children at **all** Infant Schools, are continually assessed.

Teachers use their professional judgement to assess children's progress in every lesson. This *informal* assessment then informs lesson planning and appropriate targets are set to track children's progress.

More formal assessment tasks are given to the children each term, to support teacher judgements. We work closely together, as a staff, to moderate these judgments to ensure accuracy and consistency. We also work closely with other Surrey Heath Infant and Junior schools and the Local Education Authority to ensure judgements are accurate.

During the Reception Year, children's progress is assessed against the Early Years curriculum. In accordance with Surrey and National guidance, this assessment is undertaken using a mix of observation, dialogue with children and parents and review of recorded work. Advisors, from the Local Education Authority have visited the school on numerous occasions and validated our judgements and confirmed that our practice is strong and effective.

At Key stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) the children begin to work within the National Curriculum and progress is assessed against end-of-year expectations. At the end of Year 1 the children undertake a national Phonics Screening Check with their class teacher. This score is then reported to the Department for Education and shared with parents in the summer term.

At the end of Year 2 the children undertake national assessment tasks. These tasks form part of a portfolio of evidence to support teachers' final judgment on whether your child has reached the expected standard for a year 2 child. These results are reported to Surrey and again shared with you in the summer term. Last year Bagshot Infant school was chosen, by the Local Education Authority to have these judgments externally assessed and moderated. The assessors visited the school, looked at



children's work and spoke at length with the teachers and me. They agreed with our teachers judgments, within all subjects and at all levels.

Having worked in primary education for over 18 years I am also aware that children can appear to dip over the summer holiday; they can find the move to a different school unsettling and then not show their true ability on entry. In my experience, given a little time, children usually show their true ability, once they are settled.

Whilst assessment is a key element in our work to ensure your children receive the best possible education I also passionately believe that there are many aspects of a child's development that cannot be measured, in the traditional 'tested' sense but are of equal importance in helping a child to develop into a well-rounded and confident young person. That is why at Bagshot Infant school we are proud of our heritage of offering a fully inclusive education to all children, why we are proud of and will continue to celebrate the progress and success of all of our children, no matter from where they start or in what form that success may take.

I hope this letter reassures you, that assessment processes, at Bagshot Infant school, are rigorous and robust, and provide an accurate reflection of where your child is in terms of their learning at any point in time.

If you have any questions or would like further information about our assessment practices, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Aldred  
Head Teacher

