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Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupil Assessment and Monitoring Information Year 1 to Year 6: Autumn 2021

We will shortly be commencing the administration of our InCAS assessments (produced by CEM Durham University), which helps to provide us with individual age-related diagnostic information and recommendations for each child wherever required. The computer-based assessment modules cover every area which together contribute to a full diagnosis of a child's current learning.

InCAS begins by asking a pupil questions suitable for an average similarly aged child. According to the answers given, it adjusts the level of difficulty up or down. Children simply follow the prompts to complete each enjoyable short session. Because it adapts to individual ability – not too hard, not too easy – InCAS produces a bespoke assessment. The adaptive nature of the test certainly appeals to most children and this would not be possible with a traditional paper-based test. The children often respond well to the graphics and to the various aspects of the assessments, which are administered over several sessions and will be spread out over time, to avoid children getting over fatigued.

The feedback we collect from each module creates a profile for each pupil which may highlight aptitudes, reveal inconsistencies, and diagnose any support needs. We are also able to make good use of this baseline data in practical ways to help children to build on their strengths and overcome difficulties, especially with literacy and maths.

The InCAs assessments for Year 1 – Year 6 children, will take place over the next few weeks and will run alongside other formative teacher assessments and monitoring activities, such as phonics assessments, spellings, and mental maths tests. Other more pastoral elements of our monitoring and assessment systems will also be taking place over coming weeks, thus providing us with a full and holistic profile of each individual child.

Following completion of these assessment activities, we will share this baseline data, as well as half term progress and development data, with parents following the half term break in October. However, staff are always happy to discuss any queries or concerns with parents, as required. Parents/Carers should contact staff using the class email system or via the school office to arrange an appointment, if they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's learning or development.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Callaway
Headteacher

