



Bethersden Primary School

School Road, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3AH

Headteacher: Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

01233 820479

www.bethersden.kent.sch.uk

@BethersdenSch

Monday, 14 January 2019

Dear Parents,

As I am sure many of you have seen the recent League Tables which have been published by the Department for Education, I wanted to write to you to explain what the data that has been published actually means.

Children are assessed at the end of their Reception year, the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). The assessments at the end of Reception and Key Stage 1 are based on teacher assessments informed by a test (Year 2 only). At the end of Year 6, with the exception of Writing, they are assessed by a test. Children are measured in two ways. Firstly, their attainment, this is the score they get in the test which is directly comparable to other children who sit the test nationally. In this area our children performed well with the following results:

	Bethersden Primary School	Kent	National
Reading	83.3%	77%	75%
Writing	72.2%	81%	78%
Maths	61.1%	75%	76.3%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	77.8%	76%	78%

As we had a cohort of 18 children each child equates to 5.6% in the data above. As you can see in Reading we were above Kent and National levels for attainment. In Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling we were above Kent and in line with National levels for attainment. We have some work to do in Maths and Writing but this is something we have, and continue to prioritise, in our School Development Plan.

Children are awarded a 'Scaled Score' which shows their level of attainment in the test. 100 is an expected score, anything above 100 is a higher than expected score. Below is a table which shows the average Scaled Score for each subject. Writing is not given a scaled score as it is Teacher assessed.

	Bethersden Primary School	Kent	National
Reading	102.1	105	105
Maths	100.8	104	104
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	103.6	106	106

As you can see our average Scaled Score was above expected in all areas and whilst it was below the Kent and National average we are pleased.

The reason we have not met the Governments floor target is because of progress. At the end of Key Stage 1 children's assessment was given a numerical score as were the results in Key Stage 2. A calculation is then carried out. If children have made the expected progress over their four years in Key Stage 2 then they would achieve a progress score of 0 which would be deemed expected progress. Anything below 0 means they have not made the progress expected over the Key Stage. Having tracked back through the data only half of the children who ended Year 6 at Bethersden began their schooling here. With 6 of the children (one third) joining in Key Stage 2. This obviously presents issues for the data of the children who have started their schooling elsewhere. Any child with no Key Stage 1 data is automatically awarded expected levels for the end of Key Stage 1 regardless of any needs, including Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, that they may have. Their progress is then measured against these 'historic' assessments.



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In school we track our children 6 times per year and monitor their rates of progress. For the last academic year, the following progress scores were achieved by the Year 6 cohort results are published for. Expected progress across the year is 6 points.

	All children	Boys (4)	Girls (14)
Reading	6.4	7.3	6.2
Writing	6.5	8.0	6.1
Maths	5.8	7	5.5

As you can see this data shows that the school is in a strong position. This data was moderated by external moderators so we can be confident that the quality of learning and teaching in the school is strong. We have some work to do in Maths but we are working hard in this area and have enlisted the support of Highworth Grammar School and a school in Gravesend to support us with this.

What the report doesn't take into account is the strength of our Early Years and Key Stage 1 results which were as follows:

	Bethersden Primary School	Kent	National
Good Level of Development (measured at the end of the Reception Year)	87.5%	75.3%	71.5%
Year 1 Phonics Screening check	95.2%	81.8%	82.5%
Year 2 Reading	72.7%	78.1%	75.4
Year 2 Writing	63.6%	73.0%	69.9%
Year 2 Maths	72.7%	78.7%	76.1%

The number of children leaving their Reception year last year at a Good Level of Development was up by 12.5% on the previous year. Our Phonics Screening check score was up by 36.1% from the previous year which shows the impact of Reading, Writing, Excellence which was started in September 2017. In Year 2 we had 4 children join us in year which meant we had to work hard to teach any gaps that were created when they moved between schools.

Please be assured we are in a good position and that rates of progress have increased in the last 15 months. The team are working hard to make sure your child receives the excellent education that we all want for them. This was validated by Ofsted at the beginning of the year who highlighted the following:

'Within a short period, you accurately identified the areas across the school that needed to improve and implemented a number of successful strategies to address these. Consequently, the quality of teaching and learning across the school is good and improving, along with pupils' outcomes.'

'...pupils are making increasingly good progress, particularly in English and mathematics. Leaders have also worked hard to ensure that the standard of work seen in reading and writing is evident across the curriculum.'



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'Leaders identify that the quality of teaching and learning in mathematics needs to improve. A well-thought-through training plan is in place to develop teachers' subject knowledge.'

Should you wish to discuss anything contained in this letter or if you have any questions about the data please do make an appointment to come and speak with me and I will be happy to answer your queries. Please be assured that we are working tirelessly to ensure that we continue the positive changes that we have made to the school so far and we are already supporting other schools with their phonics due to the successes we have had in this area.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr. Stuart Gawthorpe
Headteacher