

CORE CURRICULUM

Assessment briefing – 29th April 2020

I do hope you are all managing during this very trying time, I can only imagine how difficult this situation is for headteachers and you have my heartfelt best wishes.

I am not privy to any extra information regarding primary assessment and, unfortunately, there is no firm guidance available yet. Rest assured that as soon as anything of interest is announced, I will update you and provide links to relevant documents.

Liz Depper, the current AAIA president, has had a Zoom meeting with Ian Dixon (STA's Teacher Assessment Manager) and the main points from that conversation are summarised below.

'National Curriculum Assessments and everything related to them have ceased to be. At present statutory reporting remains in situ in law, but its removal, with a view to reinstatement in the future, is being dealt with by lawyers. When the wording is completed it will be put before parliament for approval by MPs. This is an essential process that is necessary for any piece of legislation and it takes time to prepare.'

These assessments include:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests
- all statutory trialling

You do not need to complete any further activities to prepare for these assessments.

Primary school performance measures will not be published for the 2019/20 academic year. All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, have been instructed to use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance, and not the 2020 data.

Whilst it will not be a statutory requirement, it is anticipated that schools would want to update parents on the progress of their children via some form of reporting. Proposed guidance for reporting and also guidance on how schools might handle the Y6/Y7 transition this year, are to be put to an LA reference group that Ian works with for any suggestions and amendments - this guidance will then be delayed until parliamentary approval has been granted for the associated legislation. Ian was confident that publication would take place before the end of May. There is to be another meeting between Liz Depper and Ian Dixon on 26th May.

I have become aware that there may be some pressure on the government to postpone the introduction of the new baseline assessment; there is currently no indication that this will be delayed. The reception baseline assessment framework was published at the end of February and can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-framework>

The Department for Education has launched a helpline to answer questions about Covid-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

I very much look forward to seeing you all again as soon as is possible.

Kind regards,

Jane George