16th October 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

**Changes to the National Curriculum and Assessment from September 2015**

I hope that you will be coming to one of our Parents’ Evenings next week to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher. In preparation for this, there is some important information that you need to know about changes to the curriculum and assessment this year.

From September a new national curriculum has been in place, with revised expectations for what children will learn in each age group and in each subject. In Maths and Literacy these expectations are generally higher than in the previous curriculum. At the same time, the government has removed the system of reporting children’s attainment in ‘levels’ and introduced significant changes to the national tests which children will take at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. You can find more detailed information about these changes on our website at <http://www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk/new-curriculum>.

At St Oswald’s we are developing new systems of assessment which are focused on recording what children can do and what they need to do next, based on the expectations of the new national curriculum. When you meet with your child’s teacher they will not be talking to you about progress in terms of levels, but about their specific skills and understanding and next steps in learning. We hope that this will give you more useful information as a parent about your child’s progress and how you can support their learning at home.

If you have any queries or comments about these changes I will be available during Parents’ Evenings and would be happy to discuss them with you.

Yours sincerely

Rupert Griffiths