



# Nantwich Education Partnership

## Working together for all the children in Nantwich

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As a partnership of schools across Nantwich, we feel compelled to write to all our families to update you, as far as currently possible, about the new national testing arrangements.

Information regarding the arrangements has not been available from the Department for Education (DFE) until this week and even now there remains a lack of clarity around some key aspects. For example, the thresholds for meeting/exceeding expectations have not yet been identified, and will not be, until after the tests are completed.

We have always prided ourselves, as a partnership of schools, on giving parents timely and useful information about national tests. However this has not been possible this year due to significant delays from the DFE.

Despite the hurdles of the current testing climate, teaching staff in all our schools have risen to the challenge and continue to balance the requirements of the tests with the provision of a rich and purposeful learning experience. One of the challenges this year relates to the increased demands of the new tests, which even the Schools Minister describes as "extremely challenging".

This year's results (standardised scores) will not be comparable with previous measures (levels) for end of Key Stage tests. However, we reassure you that the very high standards of learning in our schools are being sustained.

As professionals, based on the information currently available, we have concerns about the validity and reporting of test outcomes. However, Nantwich Education Partnership schools always work closely together to moderate and validate assessments. So, later this term, we will moderate as a cluster and agree the principles for reporting test outcomes to you. This is recognised as excellent practice.

Please contact your head teachers if you need further clarification. Any concerns you may have about the changes to the curriculum and testing can also be addressed to your MP.

We thank you for your ongoing support and understanding through this period of change.

Yours Sincerely  
Nantwich Partnership Primary Headteachers