**BARROW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

8th September, 2016

Dear Parents

From 2014 schools have been teaching the New Primary Curriculum. The new curriculum has significantly raised the expectations of what pupils are expected to know by the end of each year group. Because of the higher expectations it is highly likely that a child who previously had been working at an expected “level” is now assessed as working towards Age Related Expectation.

Instead of assessing a child’s attainment using “Levels”, the DfE have introduced Age Related Expectations (ARE) for each year group from Year 1 upwards. These outline what every child is expected to know for Reading, Writing and Maths by the end of each school year. At the end of this year, children will be assessed against the Age Related Expectations. Schools have been given autonomy about how they assess pupils against these expectations and track their progress. At Barrow, we have decided to use the following language to describe your child’s attainment.

• a child is working towards (WT) age related expectations if they have a good understanding of around 50% of the descriptors in the programme of study for a particular year.

• a child is working at (W) age related expectations if they have a good understanding and knowledge of around 80% of the descriptors in the programme of study for a particular year.

• a child is working above (WA) age related expectations if they have a good understanding and knowledge of all the descriptors in the programme of study for a particular year and can use and apply these skills to problem solve independently. These pupils will also be working on up to 20% of the following year’s descriptors to provide greater challenge.

* Please note that, at present, the DFE will not allow schools to enter a WA for any Year 6 pupil. This means that, even though a pupil may be working above age related expectations as described above, we will still only be able to give a formal assessment of (W) working at age related expectations, although this could change by the end of the year.

All staff are now using the Lancashire Key Learning Indicators (KLIPS) to assess pupil attainment and progress, these can be found on our website. However, the statements against which pupils are assessed are different from those under the previous system, so teachers have been unable to transfer information from the existing assessment grids onto the new ones, effectively having to start the assessment process from scratch.

Teachers will be able to give more information regarding the new assessment at the parent information sessions which begin on Monday 19th September.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or would like to discuss this further.

Many thanks



Christine Marchi

Head Teacher