

Dear Parent/Carer,

Every year across Scotland our Primary children at the end of each level (P1, P4 & P7) undertake Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs). During the month of May, these assessments will be administered across the 5 Primary schools in the Chryston Cluster. Please find some information below regarding these

What are SNSAs?

In August 2017 Scottish Government introduced the SNSA, a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments for aspects of literacy and numeracy, designed to align with the way we deliver education in Scotland through Curriculum for Excellence.

In addition to SNSA, ongoing and informal assessment continues to be a central part of everyday assessment in schools.

What is being assessed?

The SNSA assess aspects of reading, writing and numeracy, providing teachers with diagnostic information on children's progress in these areas.

Who is being assessed?

All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 are assessed once a year in aspects of reading, writing and numeracy.

When do the assessments take place?

The assessments are administered to each child once within the relevant school year at a time chosen by the class teachers with guidance from their schools and local authorities. They decide the most appropriate time during the school year for your child to take the standardised assessments. Across the Chryston Cluster these take place in May of each year.

What form do the assessments take?

Children complete the assessments online and they are marked automatically. This gives teachers immediate diagnostic feedback that they can use to help children progress in literacy and numeracy.

How many assessments do children and young people take in a school session?

- P1 children take two SNSA assessments: one in literacy and one in numeracy.
- P4 children take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.
- P7 children take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.
- S3 young people take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.

What does this mean for your child?

Children do not have to revise or prepare for these assessments. The assessments are used as part of routine teaching and learning to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing and to plan next steps.

The assessments are adaptive, which means that if a child is experiencing difficulty, the questions will get easier, and if a child is doing well, the questions will become more challenging. In this way, the assessments establish children's capacity without them having to face lots of questions that are too easy or too hard for them to answer. There is no pass or fail.

The assessments are as short as possible and are age and stage appropriate. There is no time limit. This is to ensure children do not feel unnecessary time pressure when undertaking the assessments. The majority of P1 learners will complete each assessment in less than 30 minutes, while on average P4/P7/S3 learners complete within 40 minutes. Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing, and numeracy in one sitting.

How are the results being used?

Scottish National Standardised Assessments data provides additional information to the teacher regarding how your child is progressing in school. These are a stand-alone snapshot, a single moment in a child's academic journey. They will be used to enhance the Teachers Professional judgement and will only ever be regarded as such.

During the assessment

These assessments will be carried out in a supportive, child friendly environment. A familiar teacher will be on hand to answer any technical support or provide clarity where required. Now more than ever, it is important to prioritise our children's wellbeing in what has been a very challenging period of their lives. Their mental wellbeing will remain our priority throughout our requirement to conduct these assessments.

If you have any further questions regarding this then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

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