



# Diocese of Salisbury

Academy Trust

*'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'*

Diocesan Education Centre  
The Avenue, Wilton  
Wiltshire, SP2 0FG  
Telephone: 01722 548519  
Email: [office@dsat.org.uk](mailto:office@dsat.org.uk)  
[www.dsat.org.uk](http://www.dsat.org.uk)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this term. The feedback we have received from our schools during these first few weeks of having all of the children back has been so positive. The concerns about children's progress that emerged after the first lockdown are considerably less this time around. Not only is this due to the hard work of our school staff in providing high quality remote education, it is also down to you and everything you did to support and encourage your children. This will mean that the impact on children's learning will be minimal and we will soon have them back on track, achieving to the best of their ability. Together we are working to set out the clear next steps for pupils' learning and to move forward with real positivity and hope.

The children have returned so enthusiastically and it has been wonderful to see our schools buzzing with the sound of happy children who are motivated to learn and enjoying interacting with their friends.

I know that many of you will have heard in the news about the cancellation of exams and I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify what this means for our primary age children. The government has confirmed that there will be no statutory assessments for children in primary schools this year. This includes:

- End of Foundation Stage (Reception)
- Year 1 phonics check and Year 2 re-check
- End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) SATs
- Year 4 times tables check
- End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) SATs

As a Trust, we recognise the importance of continuing to assess the children to ensure they are making the progress we would expect and that they are not falling behind. We will, therefore, be completing our own assessments towards the end of the Summer term. These will include some of the tests that we routinely use in school, including past SATs papers for children in Year 6, during the fortnight commencing 14<sup>th</sup> June. As always, they will be administered in a supportive manner and without some of the usual formalities. All of this information will then be used, alongside the children's work in books and their teacher's knowledge of the children to determine a teacher assessment for the end of the academic year in reading, writing and maths. This teacher assessment will be shared with you as part of the annual reporting process. Reception class teachers will assess whether or not the children have met the criteria to achieve the Early Learning Goal in each of the areas of learning and whether they would have been assessed as achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD).

I hope that this helps to clarify our approaches to assessment in the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or attainment, please do speak to their teacher who I know will be happy to discuss this with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Jo Hicks*

Jo Hicks

Director of Education



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