



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...

...to be the best 'me' I can be.

7th September 2021

Dear Parents,

From September 2021 onwards, all children in Reception are required to complete the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). It aims to provide a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school, giving a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils between Reception and the end of primary school.

Full information about the Reception Baseline Assessment and what it involves can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

The Department for Education state that by giving each child a Baseline Assessment when they first start primary school, schools will not only have a clearer idea of how much progress their pupils are making but should also be able to identify which children are likely to need extra help.

There will be no 'pass', 'fail' or numerical score, and the results of the RBA will not be used to track individual pupils or to judge schools' Foundation Stage performance.

The focus of the RBA will be on communication, language and literacy, and maths. It will take around 20 minutes. Your child does not need to prepare and should not realise they are doing an assessment. Your child can answer questions verbally or by pointing or moving objects. The assessment has been designed to be inclusive and there are modified materials available – this means it is also accessible to children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). The teacher may pause the assessment at any time, for example, if a child needs a break.

Test results will be used for the school's purposes in measuring progress. Children's school reports are unlikely to include their scores, and as a school we will continue to use the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile as a teacher-observed, complete assessment of each individual child's development and progress in Reception.

Please be reassured that if there are any concerns with the outcomes of the Baseline Assessments for your child I will contact you to discuss how we can support your child in partnership.

Best wishes Mrs Moge