



14 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reports

Today your children will be bringing home their end of year reports. I wanted to say how very proud I am of every one of them this year!

Every child in the school has suffered some disruption to their education because of Covid. All have experienced periods of lockdown, some have been ill, and others have had their teachers absent through isolation and illness. Like other schools across the country, our attainment data has been affected. The children have been impacted by Covid, but the standards set for them to achieve in English and maths have not been adjusted. These are very stringent, although the difference between 'working towards' and 'age related' can be very small, for example, letter formation in writing. Children in Y2 and Y1 have been the most affected, having had a high proportion of their total time in school disrupted and unsurprisingly, the numbers of pupils in Key Stage 1 across the country achieving the government set 'Age Related Expectations' has fallen since the last time data was collected. Our results for our pupils are in line with this. I don't want to hide this reality from you. The impact of the pandemic has been significant.

As a school, as well as providing additional support in phonics and reading, we have prioritised continuing to provide a full, broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. We have given them opportunities to learn about humanities, the arts, and science, as well as to develop and embed the characteristics they will need to be effective learners, and the personal, social and emotional skills they will need to be good citizens. We are proud that they have not only achieved in line with their peers nationally, but also have become independent, kind, compassionate and curious, with perseverance and resilience by the bucket-load. Every visitor we have had this year, including members of staff from Downs Junior School, has commented on their extremely positive behaviour for learning. These children have the qualities they need to ensure that the school disruption during the pandemic does not impact on their long-term educational chances.

Please take time to read the teachers' comments carefully. See how well they know your children, and celebrate with your children all their successes. I hope you are as proud of them as I am.

Yours sincerely,

Hildi Mitchell, Headteacher

