

Bennekerry National School Carlow

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28th May 2019

Dear parents/guardians of First Class,

As you are aware, all classes from 1st to 6th engaged in standardised testing during the month of May. This year we used the new Drumcondra Reading Test from the Educational Research Centre.

As this is the first year that these tests have been available to schools, our staff members have learned a lot in the past month about some of the new features of the tests and the information they provide for the school. The most significant change in relation to the tests used for 1st Class in English Reading is that these tests are now screening tests, and as a result there will be no STen score or percentile rank generated. Therefore, the school will have no STen score or rank to share with parents. The purpose of a screening test is to help us support children who might be facing challenges with English Reading.

If the results of the screening test indicate that your child is having a difficulty and requires further support with reading, your child's teacher will be in contact with you to discuss this further. Otherwise you can assume that your child has reached the criterion in relation to English Reading for the class level. **The only information that is available to the class teacher is whether the criterion was reached or not.**

The Sigma-T test completed by 1st class for numeracy will continue to generate a standard score and this will be shared with you on the school report. **It is up to you, as a parent to decide if you wish to discuss the exact result with your child.**

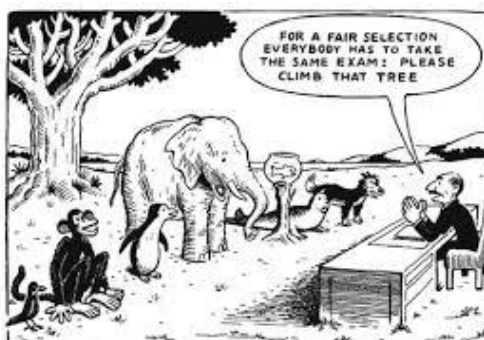
The school would **STRONGLY** advise that you only discuss results in general terms with pupils – rather than giving them a numeric value. Comments such as “You should be very proud of your results” and “Your hard work paid off” might be more appropriate with young children. You must consider if it will cause undue worry or stress to your child to share a score every year – they may worry about ‘going up’ or ‘going down’ from year to year, when it is perfectly natural for results to do this. If you do choose to share the results with your child, **please remind them to keep the results to themselves, and not to share them with their classmates.**

Test results should **NOT** be a topic of conversation, as it can cause a lot of undue pressure for children. **In fact, our advice is that children should not be shown any part of their school report** as the report is designed to share information honestly with parents about their child's progress and is intended for them alone. Seeing a particular comment or result might cause a child to develop a fixed mindset in relation to a particular subject or area of the curriculum and in Bennekerry N.S. we strongly encourage the development of growth mindsets.

No matter the results, most pupils have worked hard across the year, and if they did their best, they should be praised for doing so. Remember, a single type of test does not reflect any one child's range of talents and skills.

Mise le meas,

Tonia Cleary



Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

Albert Einstein