25th April 2019

Dear Kestrels Parents & Carers

From time to time the Skills & Testing agency will ask schools up and down the country to trial new materials. A few years ago for example, we were asked to trial a sample Phonics Paper with a group of Y3 children and a trial Science Paper in Y6. This year we were asked to trial a new reading test for Y6 with one class.

The Kestrels were selected from the class data provided.

This test, implemented by a company called NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research), will take place next Wednesday 1st May in the morning by a facilitator from NFER alongside the school staff and members of SLT. This will consist of two x 1 hour long papers.

We do not know the format or style of paper but the trial, undertaken by a selection of schools across the UK, may form the basis of future SATS tests once the trials and subsequent evaluations are complete.

The outcomes of the tests will not form part of the children’s overall test / teacher assessment outcome; in fact, the school will not be told the outcome of the trial tests themselves. We will be in the room however, so can check how the children have done.

We are going to use this as an opportunity for the children to have a formal testing experience, following our mock SATS morning on Tuesday. We will facilitate the papers in the same supportive way as if it were the real thing.

If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Regards

Robin Warren
Head Teacher