



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th September 2020

New Content,

RE: STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of statutory assessments in primary schools; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Primary education is fundamental to ensuring every child receives the best possible start in life. The primary assessment and accountability system plays an important role in ensuring that every child, no matter what their background, or where they go to school, benefits from a high-quality primary education. These assessments help ensure great schools are recognised and help to improve those that can learn from others.

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) will be used to inform the way the Department for Education measures the educational progress that primary schools help their pupils to make. The RBA is not a test. It is a short, teacher-led assessment of children's communication, language, literacy and early mathematics skills. No preparation will be required, either at home or at school. It will enable the Department for Education to develop improved progress measures which will take into account the work that primary schools do with their pupils in the reception year and throughout the first two years of schooling. Data from the assessment will only be used once children reach the end of primary school, and will not be used to judge, track, or label individual pupils.

It is important to note that this assessment will replace existing end-of-key stage 1 tests, which will be made non-mandatory once the new assessment has become established.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, Ministers decided to postpone the statutory rollout of the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) until September 2021, given that some schools may not have had the time they needed to familiarise their teachers and staff with the process.

I know that Ministers remain committed to introducing the RBA to have a fairer accountability system for schools, based on the educational progress their pupils make during their time at primary school. Schools will have the flexibility to sign up to the Early Adopter Year to familiarise themselves with the content and administration, with the reassurance that this year's data will not be used for accountability purposes.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE