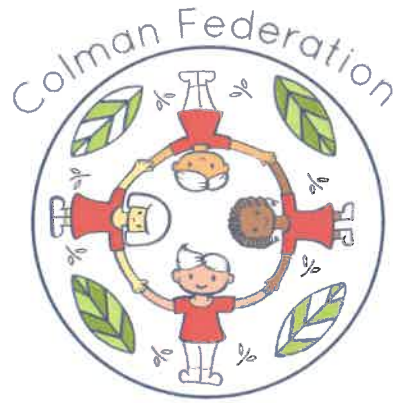


Colman Junior School
South Park Avenue
Norwich NR4 7AU



Colman Infant School
Colman Road
Norwich NR4 7AW

Mrs Julie Sandford
Headteacher

28th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Along with heads, teachers and parents throughout the country, I do not believe SATs, phonics or the times tables check should go ahead in 2020/2021.

These formal tests are not the way to assess the effects of Covid on young children and schools. We will be carrying out low-pressure, teacher-led assessments and these will provide all the information we need to see where learning gaps are, how to bridge them and how to ensure smooth transition to secondary school.

Teacher-led tests will enable us to prioritise the safety, mental health and well-being of our pupils, some of whom will have experienced trauma and even bereavement. We want our children to thrive in school after such a long period away, and start to love learning again. We want to teach a rich, broad and stimulating curriculum, not spend our time cramming children for tests in phonics, English and Maths.

Schools should be held accountable. However, basing our performance on one-size-fits-all tests taken by young children in the year following a pandemic would only produce meaningless data and put unnecessary pressure on children who have already been through enough.

I believe that it would be wholly ineffective and morally wrong to continue with national tests as usual this school year. So for the sake of our children, I am calling on the government to cancel SATs and other government tests in the 2020/21 school year.

As ever I am really keen to know what you think. A national survey for parents has been set up and you can have your say here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L2YRXHN?schoolref=93>

Please take five minutes to give your views. We will get to see the feedback from this survey and will of course share this with you when this is available.

Continued..!

If you use social media, you will be able to follow the ongoing debate using the following hashtags:
[#DropPhonics2020](#) [#DropSATs2021](#).

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Sandford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julie Sandford
Executive Headteacher
Colman Federation