



HOUSE OF COMMONS

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about statutory assessments in primary schools.

I recognise that 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.

I appreciate your concerns about the reception baseline assessment (RBA). However, I would like to assure you that it is only a short, teacher-led assessment of children's communication, language, literacy and early mathematics skills, and not a test. No preparation will be required, either at home or at school. 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.

Instead, the RBA will be used to inform the way the Department for Education (DfE) measures the educational progress that primary schools help their pupils to make. It will enable the DfE 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. It is also important to note that this assessment will replace existing end-of-key stage 1 tests, which will be made non-mandatory once the new reception baseline has become established.

I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane".

Jane Hunt MP