



11th July 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing once again to celebrate the fabulous achievements made by our children.

Having now received and had the opportunity to analyse the externally marked KS2 end of year tests (historically known as SATs) I am delighted to share with you the successes of our children.

This year heralded the first tests of a challenging new curriculum and it marks the shift in the measures provided by the DfE. At this stage we have not been provided with formal progress measures as this is yet to be decided centrally. However, we do have the headline attainment figures. The first sets of figures refer to the average scaled score achieved by children in reading; mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling. A scaled score is calculated based on 100 being reaching the expected standard on the test.

	<u>Garswood</u>	<u>National</u>
Reading:	106	103
Mathematics:	105	103
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation:	107	104

The second set of information details the percentage of children reaching the new higher standards in the tests and how this compares to the national.

	<u>Garswood test</u>	<u>National test</u>
Reading:	84	66
Mathematics:	87.5	70
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation:	94	72
Writing (Teacher Assessment)	84	74

Finally the percentage of children achieving a combined expected level in reading, writing and mathematics at Garswood is 66% compared to a national score of 53%

There has been significant media coverage focusing on the excessive challenge in the tests this year. Our children coped admirably and have performed well above the local authority and national averages. I am delighted with the outcomes for Garswood School. We are, as usual – 'right up there' in terms of attainment in relation to other schools in the local authority.

I am extremely proud of each and every one of the children. The tests this year were significantly more challenging than those in previous years and all children have achieved well. This is testament to the hard work, effort and energy that the children have put into their education with the support from their families, and a tribute to the fantastic staff who work with our children. Thank you for your support for the school and to the marvellous staff who work so hard. Across the school levels of attainment are extremely high. The support, care and guidance given to the children, and the dedication shown by the staff and Governors, makes Garswood a great place to be!

Many head teachers will write out to parents and children at this time to remind them that the tests do not measure all the wonderful qualities and other skills that the children have. However, I believe our children and families already know that. We have amazing children, Garswood is not just about academic attainment – it's about children shining for who they are and the person they can become. Their performance in the play, 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits' - was one of the many testaments to their brilliance. I'm sure, for those of you who came along, you will agree. They were absolutely amazing!

Our Year 6 children rightly began their end of year celebrations in style at their Leavers' Prom on Friday night – partying in style. We can all now turn our attention to their final assembly at 9.30am on Thursday 21st July. I hope to see all of our Year 6 parents joining us but do bring your tissues!

Kind regards,

Pamela Potter

Roots of happiness, branches to learning.

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