

Standardised Testing 2020/2021



Understanding your child's standardised test score in the context of his/her end-of-year report for 2020/2021

COVID-19 and school closures this past year will have impacted children in various ways and so it is important to keep this in mind when reading your child's end-of-year report.

Each year, schools use standardised tests in mathematics and reading with children in 2nd, 4th and 6th class; and share the results of these tests through end-of-year reports. Standardised tests provide a snapshot of your child's achievement in a particular area of their learning. They do not and cannot paint the full picture of your child as a learner. Standardised tests are developed to show averages across large numbers of children. Because the tests were developed before COVID-19 happened, they do not take account of the pandemic and the ways in which it changed primary school life in this last year. This means that the standardised tests are based on children who did not have long periods of school closure and remote learning. As a result, you may notice that your child's standardised test score may have changed since the last time his/her test scores were shared with you.

To get a better understanding of your child's learning and progress during the year, it is important to refer to all of the information in your child's end-of-year report. In your child's report, the teacher will have provided feedback on areas such as:

- your child as a learner
- your child's social and personal development
- your child's learning across the curriculum
- ways that you can further support your child's learning.

In completing the end-of-year report, your child's teacher will have considered the different ways they have worked with your child during the year, including classroom-based work, work outdoors, and remote learning. Given the exceptional circumstances that you, your child and your child's teacher faced in this school year, your child's report might be a little different from their last school report. Your child's teacher will use the information they have gathered during the year, including standardised test results, to help them plan for how they will support your child when school reopens in September.

For parents and guardians who are unfamiliar with standardised tests, their purpose and how you can interpret test scores, you may be interested to read the information sheet available at:

ncca.ie/primary/reporting-and-transfer

If you have a concern about your child's end-of-year report, you should contact your school in the usual way.



NCCA

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