



Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway BA Hons QTS
jcallaway@avalon-school.co.uk

Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE

Telephone: 0151 625 6993
Fax: 0151 625 0332
E-mail: Schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk

9th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupil Assessment and Monitoring Information: Autumn 2020

Now that we have all begun to get into the 'new normal' routines of the school day and we are busily settling the children back into their academic lessons too, we are now able to focus more specifically on assessing children's individual levels of development and progress. This baseline of assessment, at the start of this academic year, will be particularly significant, given the period of partial school closures that every child has experienced over recent months.

With this in mind, we will shortly be commencing the administration of our InCAS assessments (produced by CEM Durham University), which helps to provide us with individual age-related diagnostic information and recommendations for each child wherever required. The computer-based assessment modules cover every area which together contribute to a full diagnosis of a child's current learning.

InCAS begins by asking a pupil questions suitable for an average similarly aged child. According to the answers given, it adjusts the level of difficulty up or down. Children simply follow the prompts to complete each enjoyable short session. Because it adapts to individual ability – not too hard, not too easy – InCAS produces a bespoke assessment. The adaptive nature of the test certainly appeals to most children and this would not be possible with a traditional paper-based test. The children often respond well to the graphics and to the various aspects of the assessments, which are administered over several sessions and will be spread out over time, to avoid children getting over fatigued.

The feedback we glean from each module creates a profile for each pupil which may highlight aptitudes, reveal inconsistencies, and diagnose any support needs. We are also able to make good use of this baseline data in practical ways to help children to build on their strengths and overcome difficulties, especially with literacy and maths.

The InCAs assessments for Year 1 – Year 6 children, will take place over the next few weeks and will run alongside other formative teacher assessments and monitoring activities, such as phonics assessments, spellings, and mental maths tests. Other more pastoral elements of our monitoring and assessment systems will also be taking place over coming weeks, thus providing us with a full and holistic profile of each individual child.

Following completion of these assessment activities, we will share this baseline data, as well as half term progress and development data, with parents following the half term break in October. However, staff are always happy to discuss any queries or concerns with parents, as required. Parents/Carers should contact



Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway BA Hons QTS
jcallaway@avalon-school.co.uk

**Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE**

**Telephone: 0151 625 6993
Fax: 0151 625 0332
E-mail: Schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk**

staff using the class email system or via the school office to arrange an appointment, if they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's learning or development.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs J Callaway
Headteacher**