

UPDATE RE DRUMCONDRA STANDARDISED TESTS

FIRST CLASS

Note: this update relates to First Class only.

As in previous years, classes from first to sixth engaged in standardised testing during May. As you may already be aware from previous correspondence from the school, we are using **newly standardised** Drumcondra Tests in Reading from the Educational Research Centre.

There are some specific changes that relate purely to First Class standardised. In short, a **STen score is no longer generated on the basis of the First Class standardised tests in Reading**. The standardised tests that we now use at this level are designed to be used as screening tests i.e. the primary purpose of these tests is to identify pupils who may be at risk of difficulties so that further assessment can be carried out and their needs addressed.

The outcome of the child's screening test at first class level is presented in one of the following three 'descriptors' - **criteria reached; approaching criteria; criteria not reached**. These descriptors will be included in the end-of-year report at first class level. The table below explains what each of these descriptors is intended to mean:

Criterion-referenced Descriptor	General explanation of descriptor
Criteria reached	Within or above the average range for pupils in First Class in Ireland
Approaching criteria	In the low average range. May need monitoring
Criteria not reached	Likely to be at risk of difficulties; follow-up diagnostic testing may be useful.

More generally, it is important to remember that standardised tests such as these form only one part of the 'jigsaw of information' about your child's overall progress. Results should always be framed in a broader context. The school gleanes much important information from a variety of valuable sources e.g. routine observation, class/individual tasks, class participation, various assignments/homework, teacher-designed tasks and tests, other tests/reports/feedback. All of this information helps us to plan and work around optimising your child's learning.

In the usual way, your child's teacher will be in touch should a need for further monitoring or support be identified.