

**This year, all children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were administered the New Drumcondra Primary Tests in Mathematics and English Reading. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class completed paper based tests. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class completed their tests online.**

While overall results are ahead of national norms you may see differences between your child's results on the new tests and their results on tests from previous years. Please do not compare this year's results with previous years.

Standardised test scores compare an individual child's achievement to that of a 'reference group' of children nationally. The New Drumcondra Primary Tests were piloted in spring 2017, and were standardised on a national sample of pupils in spring 2018. Norms based on the 2018 reference groups were then established. So, if a child receives a score in the 'average' range on the New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test, their score is 'average' relative to the national sample of pupils at the class level who took that test in 2018.

All test scores are only estimates of a child's true achievement level, based on a specific set of test questions administered on a particular day. This means that a child's 'true score' on any test may be higher or lower than the reported score. It is particularly important to think of scores as broad estimates if you are interpreting STen scores. Each STen score corresponds to a range of standard scores. Please refer to the table below for an explanation of STen scores.

#### **STen Score Range Descriptor Coverage**

STen Scores are on a scale of 1 to 10.

8-10	Well above average
7	High average
5-6	Average
4	Low average
1-3	Well below average

Thus, a STen Score of 2 indicates that a child performed 'well below average' on the test relative to other children at the child's class level nationally. A Sten Score of 5 indicates that the child achieved a score that is in the average range, while a Sten Score of 9 indicates 'well above average' performance on the test.

It should be noted that tests are based on a very narrow focus and they are not an indicator in themselves of future progress or success. While reflecting on your child's progress, you should pay attention to the comments in the school reports as these are the teacher's evaluation of the overall development of your child. If you need more specific information about your child's performance in reading and/or mathematics, you may wish to contact your child's teacher.