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**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
By email: [george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk)

29 January 2021

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 18 November, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding primary testing arrangements for 2020-21. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

The Department recognises that all children and young people have had their education disrupted as a result of COVID-19. We appreciate the hard work of all teachers and school staff during this challenging period. Due to the further disruption caused by the national lockdown and subsequent move to restricted attendance in schools, primary assessments cannot continue as intended.

For the 2020-21 academic year, we have therefore cancelled the statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests and teacher assessments, including the Key Stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics.

We remain determined to ensure that every young person, no matter their age or background, is provided with the education and opportunities they deserve despite the challenges faced by schools. Schools will continue to use assessment during the summer term to inform teaching, to enable them to give information to parents regarding their child's attainment in their statutory annual report and to support transition to secondary school. We strongly encourage schools to use past test papers in their assessment of pupils.

Primary assessments play a crucial role in supporting pupils to learn the basics of reading, writing and mathematics and to prepare them for secondary school. As such, these arrangements will apply for summer 2021 only.

The Department is planning for a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021-22 academic year. This will include the introduction of the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment and Multiplication Tables Check, as previously announced. We will confirm full details for 2021-22 primary assessments in due course.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Neil', written in a cursive style.