

Benson C of E Primary School

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Headteacher: Amy Pearce

Dear Parents,

WellComm – Speech and Language toolkit

What is WellComm?

WellComm is a speech and language toolkit used by early years and primary practitioners, such as nursery workers, health visitors and teachers, to identify any speech and language difficulties quickly and easily, in early years and primary school pupils, so that appropriate support can be provided.

An important part of WellComm is the age-appropriate *Big Book of Ideas* providing a total of over 150 instant, play-based activities so appropriate action can be taken straight away. Activities can be used with parents at home too, so that support is provided whether or not a child is referred to a speech and language therapist.

WellComm *Early Years* is suitable for use with children from the age of 6 months to 6 years, and can be used to identify any speech or language delays early, as this is key to the progressive development of a young child's overall development.

How is WellComm used?

The first part of WellComm is the Screening Tool, which involves the diagnostic assessments used to evaluate the child's language skills, allowing administrators to draw up a detailed profile. From this, informed judgments can be made about children who require close attention and support from within their own setting, and children who might benefit from referral to an outside agency for additional support. All children in the setting are initially assessed.

Children are screened using a combination of techniques – observation, discussion with the parent/s and screening by asking the child to complete a variety of tasks. This ensures that the results obtained and the conclusions drawn are more accurate than using one approach alone. It is also fun and motivating for the children.

Once children are screened, they are given a colour-code according to their overall score:

Red	those most likely to need intervention from a specialist service
Amber	those for whom extra support and the highlighted activities may be enough to help them develop age-appropriate language skills
Green	those not considered in need of any extra input or assessment <i>at the moment</i>

The second part of WellComm is the *Big Book of Ideas*, which provides focused teaching and intervention activities to meet the individual needs of each child. Through *The Big Book of Ideas*, WellComm provides a large number of bespoke, fun and practical intervention activities for use with children across the entire age range, which are designed to stimulate and improve the speech and language skills of all children at all levels.



'Love one another, as I have loved you' John 13 v34

How does WellComm compare to an exam?

WellComm is not a timed assessment administered under formal conditions; rather, it consists of a number of interactive and entertaining activities for children, which are used to draw up a profile from which appropriate interventions, such as activities from the *Big Book of Ideas*, can be introduced.

Should my child revise or train for WellComm? Can I get practice tests?

We advise against any practicing or training in order to get a fair assessment of the student's abilities at that moment in time.

Can I contact you with my questions about the test?

If you have any concerns or questions about the test, please contact your school. Please note that only schools and certain qualified professionals can buy the WellComm assessment.

When will my child be assessed?

Children who started in Nursery in September 2024 were assessed by the end of term 1. For those children who have started Nursery in January 2025 they will be assessed by the end of term 3. Any children who scored **AMBER** or **RED** I will inform you in due course.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind regards

Mrs Louisa Fanstone

Assistant Headteacher and Early Years Lead