

Success comes after major classroom shake-up

# Schools making good progress in league tables

By **Katia Harston**

PRIMARY school pupils in Barnsley are making good progress, latest school league data shows.

The overall performance of the borough's primary schools has been published by the Department for Education this month in its primary school league tables for 2016.

It follows a major shake-up of the SATs' exam system and primary school curriculum.

Schools are now considered to be meeting the government's floor target if at least 65 per cent of pupils are reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths or if they are making sufficient progress in these three key areas.

The new league table shows that just over half of all Barnsley's primary pupils – 53 per cent – met the expected standard, matching the national average.

It shows KS2 pupils (ages seven to 11) reaching the expected standard are:

- Reading, 62 per cent (national 66 per cent)
- Writing, 76 per cent (national 74 per cent)

■ Maths, 72 per cent (national 70 per cent)

■ Grammar (punctuation and spelling) 72 per cent (national 73 per cent).

Education spokesman Coun Tim Cheetham said: "We're happy that improvements are continuing to happen in Barnsley schools and pleased they have matched the national average in reading, writing and maths, and that progress scores in writing and maths are above national averages.

"Outcomes for Barnsley pupils continue to improve across all key stages.

"We would like to congratulate our primary schools for their achievements in a time of massive government change in this area."

Due to the changes to the curriculum and assessment system, results for 2016 cannot be compared with results for previous years.

Under this new scoring system, overall performance shows there were 23 schools in Barnsley that hit the government benchmark of 65 per cent or more of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths with

Cawthorne Primary coming top of the class with 88 per cent, followed by Silkstone Common Junior and Infants (86 per cent), Tankersley St Peter's (81 per cent).

All three schools feature in the 1,000 top primary schools in England.

Other high performers in Barnsley include Hoylandswaine Primary (80 per cent) and Thurgoland Primary and Gooseacre Primary Academy (79 per cent).

There were 16 schools in the borough which scored between the national average of 53 per cent and 63 per cent, and 40 schools that failed to meet the national average.

Springwell Special Academy came bottom of the class with just 11 per cent of kids reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, followed by Doncaster Road Primary in Barnsley, which scored 13 per cent.

Some of the other worst-performers were Carrfield Primary Academy at Bolton-upon-Dearne, and Birkwood Primary at Cudworth, both scoring 29 per cent.