

Reflections

I have been at Helmdon School for 6 years. I've been through good times and bad. I've had so many teachers but my favourites are Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Turnbull because they really pushed me with my work.

About 3 weeks ago Mrs Blackburn found the year 6's work from the years Reception, 1 and 2. When I looked at my work I was absolutely horrified with my presentation and handwriting. I look at my work now and I gleam with pride.

From years 1-5 I had great difficulty with my work but with the help of my teachers and Mrs Ramm I have really improved with my work.

All my brothers are at Helmdon and if I ever have children I know I would like them to come to Helmdon. Helmdon is the best school and I will hate to leave it.

Florence Davies
Now Year 7 at MCS

Governors of the School

Name	Governor Type	Phone no.	Office expiry
Sue Blackburn	Headteacher	Tel: 01295 768126	
Sarah Stubbs	LEA	Tel: 01295 760015	Aug 03
David Brookhouse	Parish Council	Tel: 01295 760315	Oct 03
David Wynne-Owen	Parent	Tel: 01280 701660	Nov 03
Judith Jenkins	Parent	Tel: 01280 850028	Sep 04
Cecil Harrold	LEA	Tel: 01295 760122	Jan 05
Nigel Strickland	Parent	Tel: 01295 712831	Dec 02
Niki Phillips	Community	Tel: 01295 768202	May 03
Sallie Connery	Parent	Tel: 01280 850435	Aug 03
Fiona Toman	Teacher	Tel: 01280 702955	Sep 04
Jo Wright	Staff	Tel: 01280 700724	Aug 03
Kate Smith	Community	Tel: 01327 262363	Apr04
Nick Stone	LEA	Tel: 01295 760674	Nov 04
Vacancy	Community		

Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Sue Franklin 01280 700689

Special Thanks

I would like to thank all those who have written articles/comments for this report. Governors, staff, pupils and parents have all made contributions which have helped in providing what I hope is an interesting and informative account of our year in Helmdon Primary School. I would also like to thank all Governors for their hard work and unfailing support for our school during the past year. I am especially grateful to David Wynne-Owen who acted as Chairman during the early part of this year when I was temporarily unable to meet the full requirements of this role.

(Niki Phillips, Chairman)

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to Claire Sobas who has generously given her time to act as Clerk to the Governing Body. We appreciate everything Claire has done for us and thank her for her commitment and hard work over the last two years

Welcome

We warmly welcome David Brookhouse and Mrs Sue Franklin. David is an active member of the community and returns to the Governing Body after a 2-year break, joining as a representative for the Parish Council. Mrs Sue Franklin will act as Clerk to the Governors.

Letter from the Chair of Governors

**1A Cross Lane,
Helmdon,
Northants NN13 5QL.**

December 2001.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

I was unable to be present last year at the Annual Meeting of Parents and Governors, but look forward to welcoming you to this year's meeting on Tuesday 11 December when the main theme for the evening will be "Looking to the Future".

The Governors value the partnership between parents /guardians/carers and the school. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this year's meeting, since this offers a valuable opportunity to discuss with you important issues or any concerns you may have related to the school and especially to the education we offer to your children.

We hope to repeat the informal format that was used for last year's meeting and which, I understand, was appreciated and generated much useful discussion. If you have a question you would like answered or an issue you would like raised for discussion, including anything arising from our recent Ofsted Inspection, please let us know beforehand. This will allow us to discuss these matters in advance and respond as a group, since, as pointed out previously, no governor has a right to act or speak as an individual.

The governors extend a warm invitation to you to join us on 11 December 2001.

Yours sincerely,

***Eunice (Niki) Phillips
Chair of Governors***

Letter from Sue Blackburn, Headteacher

Dear Parents

The Annual Report is a summary of the school's progress over the past year and gives our Governing Body the opportunity to highlight our successes and changes. We also look to the future and this report is a starting point for building on our firm foundation of excellence in terms of results, achievements and ethos, which has been established at Helmdon over many years.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who supported us during our recent inspection. The inspectors noted the support and contribution that parents and the community make towards our success, which is greatly appreciated.

The school has said a sad farewell to Margaret Turnbull, whose high standards of teaching and dedication to the school have ensured our continued success, which was recognised in our recent inspection. I am sure we will all remember 'The Tempest' and 'Twelfth Night' for many years to come. We also wish Lisa Clough, who left us at the end of the spring term, success in the future. We said a partial farewell to Deborah Last who stepped in at short notice as Mrs Clough's replacement. Mrs Last continues to provide non-teaching time for Miss Harris and Mrs Toman.

We welcomed two new teachers who have quickly settled into our team here. Catherine Harris has been settling our youngest members into the school in Reception and, as a newly qualified teacher, has quickly settled into our school team. Celia Edmondson, who is teaching Year 6 with myself, is known to many of you as a parent and very competent dance teacher. We have previously had the benefit of her expertise in last year's Harvest celebration and school productions. Her enthusiasm and expertise are welcomed by all here at Helmdon.

Letter from Sue Blackburn, Headteacher

The creation and development of our new extended Year 6 classroom has been the most recent change to the school premises. The school is looking much brighter and cleaner following the many improvements that have been made over the last year. It is amazing the difference that redecoration can make! One of the other major achievements is the refurbishment of the boy's toilets outside Mrs Toman's and Mrs Riley's class. I know this has been a concern for quite some time in the past.

Thank you to you, our parents, who have continued to give so much time and enthusiasm in supporting the school not only in attending our sharing assemblies and harvest festivals, but also in the various fund raising events. We value your involvement in offering help with classroom activities and reading. The community participation in our school is exceptional and is certainly a contributory factor in making our school so successful.

Yours sincerely

Sue Blackburn

Reflections

The thing that I remember from every year I've been at this school is that there has always been someone there to help me no matter what my problem. And that is what I love about Helmdon School, and I'm really looking forward to my last year here.

Gemma Year 6

Statistics and Dates

HELMDON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2001-2002

Christmas	Close	Friday	21 December
	Re-open to pupils	Monday	7 January
Spring	Close	Friday	8 February
Half-Term:	Re-open to pupils	Monday	18 February
Easter:	Close	Thursday	21 March
	TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Friday	22 March
	Re-open to pupils	Monday	8 April
May Day	Close	Thursday	2 May
	TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Friday	3 May
	Re-open to pupils	Tuesday	7 May
Summer	Close	Friday	31 May
Half-Term:	Bank Holiday		
	(additional day for Golden Jubilee	Monday	3 June
	Bank Holiday	Tuesday	4 June
	Re-open to pupils	Monday	10 June
Summer	Close	Thursday	18 July
2002:	TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Friday	19 July

Pupil Absences

Total Possible attendance:	37185	(Yrs 1-6 on roll x days x 2)
Authorised Absences:	1315	3.5%
Unauthorised Absences:	15	0.04%

The number of authorised absences is mainly due to the number of family holidays taken in term time. Although families are permitted up to 10 days annual leave during any academic year at the discretion of the Headteacher, more than 10 days is not permitted and has to be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Holidays during SATS testing will be classed as unauthorised absence. We would ask parents to phone the office on the first day of your child's illness and to send a sick note into school for any subsequent days so that an authorised absence is recorded in the register and we would like to thank parents who already follow this procedure.

Progress with the Post OFSTED Action Plan

You will recently have received our Ofsted Action plan clearly outlining our current position and targets set for the coming year.

The targets outlined for key stage SATs results in 2001 have been exceeded in key Stages 1 and 2. The percentages achieved are shown on appendices 1 & 2 of the report. We achieved 100% level 4 and above for those children taking the tests in Key Stage 2. Targets are set for a specific cohort of children to reflect the range of ability in that particular year group.

Key stage 1 % achieving level 2 Or above	Subject	2001	2002	2003
	Reading	77	88	92
	Writing	77	88	92
	Mathematics	73	88	92
Key Stage 2 % achieving level 4 or above				
	English	100	85	90
	Mathematics	100	90	90
	Science	100	90	90
Key Stage 2 % Achieving level 5 or more				
	English	30	45	35
	Mathematics	30	35	35
	Science	55	45	45

Staff Training

The staff and governors highly value the opportunities to continue their personal development and training. Our CONGRATULATIONS go to Mrs Niki Phillips, our Chair of Governors, on recently achieving her PhD.

The curriculum focus for training this year has been ICT. The New Opportunities Fund has provided extensive ICT training, which all teaching staff are undertaking as a series of evening training sessions.

Our Learning Support Assistants have also undertaken training opportunities. Mrs Pauline Watson is now the Early Years Literacy support assistant and Sue Franklin is undertaking speech and language support training.

Sallie Connery and Carole Bodily, our lunchtime supervisors, are now both fully qualified first aiders. Well done to both of them for passing their exams!

Individual members of staff have undertaken various literacy, numeracy and assessment courses to continue their development.

Thank you to all staff and governors for their time and commitment to further training.

School Activities

This time last year the school was settling down with a new Headteacher, several new members of staff and a new secretary. The reception classroom had been refurbished and of course the jewel in our crown, the computer suite was up and running after a huge effort by volunteers.

No doubt some people were thinking that things would have to quieten down now to give everyone a chance to establish themselves.

This was not to be the case.

By October half term Mrs Riley's classroom had come under the spotlight. The precipitous and uneven steps that generations of small children had enjoyed throwing themselves off, lemming-like, were replaced with sensible steps plus handrail. The room was redecorated and a fund raising bingo took care of the curtains.

Now of course we have the recently completed year 6 classroom to appreciate. Who could have possibly imagined what a difference such a seemingly small extension would make? Well obviously someone had the imagination, but it wasn't obvious to me when viewing from the outside. Tardis-like, it is bigger on the inside than the outside and makes a very pleasant learning environment.

Improving the fabric of the school does not, on it's own do anything to improve the school as an institution. It does however, mean that the environment in which our children are taught now approaches the quality of teaching that they receive.

As the OFSTED inspectors saw when they visited us in May, the quality of teaching in this school is very good. What is equally impressive is the range of extra-curricular activities on offer. There is football training, netball training, maths club, choir, stamp club, cross country running and country dancing. Staff and parents and other willing volunteers with great enthusiasm and commitment run these clubs. At the Woodford Halse cross-country competition last spring, Mrs Riley encouraged some of the slower runners by running alongside them. She did two circuits. All of the Helmdon children ran all the way and all of them finished the course.

The school year was rounded off in July with an enchanting whole school performance of 'Twelfth Night'. To us adults the end of the school year comes around with startling rapidity, to the children no doubt, the year stretches before them full of interest and opportunity and all the time in the world. We can see the amount of work and commitment from staff and parents it takes to make this school the success it is.

Christine Bridger – Communications

Sports Round Up

Thanks to the commitment and hard work of Mrs Riley and the parents who have been willing to undertake sports coaching this has once again been a year of positive achievement.

Special thanks to Kate Hardiman, James Davies and David Wilcox in their continued efforts and enthusiasm in coaching the netball and football clubs.

In athletics we did particularly well at the District Sports Event with the girls winning the cup for their section and the boys coming in second. One year three boy achieved the fastest sprint time in his age group.

Swimming still remains an important part of the curriculum and we are grateful to the parents who continue to provide financial support for the extra swimming lessons.

An added bonus for Key Stage 2 children was the cricket training they received from the Northamptonshire Cricket Association and we are sure that many of them developed a real interest in the game.

We recognise that sport is an important aspect of a child's education and sport, therefore, continues to flourish at Helmdon School.

Reflections

My name is Lewis and I am about to tell you one of my many memories at Helmdon. It was Sports Day and I think I was in Year R and we were at the high jump and I kept running to the back of the line just before it was my turn because I was scared of jumping straight into the bar. Miss Cassford saw what I was doing and called me to the front. I told her that I didn't want to do it, so she lowered the bar and I stepped over it. Everyone cheered and cheered as if I was in the Olympics! Now I love sports day as much as I love Helmdon.

Lewis Year 6

Special Educational Needs

Our aim at Helmdon is to include all our children in every aspect of school life, making sure that this is an enjoyable experience, enabling them to reach their full potential.

During their first term, a base line assessment is made and the children are carefully monitored to ensure any problems are quickly identified and diagnosed. If there is an area of concern, the class teacher will at first break down their work into more manageable steps. This may remedy the child's problem after one or two terms. If, however, it continues, she will consult the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, (SENCO) and together they will devise an Individual Education Programme (IEP). This will target the specific needs of that child, whether it is extra support in the class, specialist help or special materials and equipment. Often with early identification, children master their difficulty and confidently continue their schooling.

However, if these measures do not fulfil the child's needs there are various outside agencies that can give additional input. Our first port of call is the link teacher from the Inclusion and Pupil Support (IPS). The latter has a wealth of experience and expertise from which we can draw. If this provision still does not meet the needs of the child's learning difficulty, the LEA can make additional resources through a statement.

We have enjoyed a great deal of success within the area of Special Needs, highlighted in our recent OFSTED report. We are fortunate enough to have an excellent specialist teacher, Mrs Angela Ramm, and team of Special Needs Assistants who all work to ensure our children are confident learners in the classroom. Funding received for children with SEN is used to provide this support and extra learning resources.

As a school we welcome all children into our school whatever their disability, making every effort to provide for their needs. However, the layout of the school prohibits wheelchair access.

Parents in School

It is not only the children that are welcome at Helmdon School. Parents, Grandparents and anyone in the community with an offer of help are always welcome.

Help comes in many shapes and forms. There are fathers that help with football, mothers with netball, grandparents that help with sewing and cross-stitch. Our local vicar, John Roberts, comes in to listen to readers and teach a recorder group. Past parents still volunteer their time and skills, such as Sylvie Essame who comes in weekly to take a dance club. Jeff Gulliver, a community member, shares his interest in stamps with our Year 6 children.

Many parents with particular expertise, i.e. ceramics, dance, design & technology, costume making, lend their skills at various times during the year. Parents of different faiths come in to talk to the children and share their beliefs and customs. Various governors also spend time helping in the classroom and in the IT suite. Then of course there is our regular 'army' of mums who provide weekly help in the classrooms, be it reading or 'sticking'.

The help and support is appreciated enormously by the staff and children and is often felt a rewarding experience by the helpers.

If any parent(s) would like to help in anyway, or know of people who have experience of topics the children are covering, we would welcome you any time.

Finance

The members of the Finance Committee are appointed from within the Governors. The objective of the Committee is to monitor the School's financial situation. This involves approval of the Annual Budget to ensure all expenditure commitments are met and that a contingency fund is available to meet unexpected expenditure. The Committee also suggests and agrees the allocation of uncommitted funds.

The day to day management of the school's finances are handled by the Headteacher and the Secretary. On a regular basis the Committee meets and reviews actual expenditure to the budget.

The Finance Committee update the full Governors meeting of any relevant changes to the initial budget.

At the beginning of this financial year the initial proposed LEA Budget provided for the School was £233,665. During the year additional funding was allocated by the LEA of £42,820 linked to a number of initiatives. Therefore the final LEA Allocation for Year 2000/01 was £276,485. The Surplus Carried Forward into 2001/2002 financial year was £12,200.

N.B. A minor adjustment occurred to Last year's Surplus Carried Forward from £15,967 to £15,690.

Finance

A breakdown of the major expenditure areas is provided in the table below.

1999/00		2000/01
	INCOME	
£238,510	LEA final budget allocation	£276,485
£3,742	Lettings, bank interest and sundries	£4,396
£20,923	Income from external sources	£14,197
£10,380	Surplus from previous year	£15,690
£273,555	TOTAL INCOME	£310,768
	EXPENDITURE	
£194,739	Employees	£221,490
£3,293	Energy	£3,689
£26,853	Premises	£32,704
£29,848	Books, Classroom consumables (Capitation and training)	£37,128
£1,760	Office Costs	£3,238
£1,095	Travel & Recruitment Expenses	£319
£257,588	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£298,568
£15,967	Surplus carried forward	£12,200
£273,555	TOTAL	£310,768

Premises

This is certainly an aspect of school development that has been both challenging and exciting! We have achieved so much in a short space of time.

The refurbishment of Mrs Riley's classroom has been a wonderful transformation and has made the classroom much more suited to the needs of our children as well as making the staircase much safer. The display space has been used to good effect and the carpet and curtains have completed the project beautifully. Thanks again to Sarah Stubbs for organising the class fund raiser, which enabled us to purchase such delightful curtains.

At long last our drains were replaced. This caused some upheaval, particularly as it followed the flooding of the reception classroom and ICT suite. The installation of arco drainage along the pathway outside our year 6 classroom has hopefully completed the work necessary to make us puddle free!

The major project of the Year 6 classroom extension has been an outstanding success. The carpets and worktop fitted recently have completed the project. Thanks again to Sarah Stubbs and Judith Jenkins who came into the classroom during the

Premises

half term holiday and painted the classroom to match in with the new colour scheme. The children are delighted with their classroom and displays are already filling the walls.

Friends of the school raised money to purchase outside play scooters and bikes as well as a new clavino.

The LEA have indicated that our main playground will need to be resurfaced by themselves this year. We will also be remodelling our Reception play area at the same time, this is another of those long awaited projects!

As mentioned earlier one of the boy's toilets has been renovated and is now sparkling white and clean!

Future projects include the redecoration of the hall and the purchasing of new curtains. We also are eager to create a more inviting library area with more practical book units and comfortable seating.

The outside of the school is also due to be redecorated by the LEA.

ICT appears as a topic in its own right, also ICT is increasingly used in support of other activities, such as surfing the internet to research specific topics, or using the excellent Espresso children's news service.

After the enormous efforts of establishing the ICT suite last year some might have taken a rest, not our style at Helmdon! This summer we were able to use Computers for Schools vouchers to purchase a further two new PC's. Coupled with the re-use of the old school office computer and a some low cost upgrading of existing machines we now have twelve computers (the optimum number) in the ICT suite, all connected to the internet and equipped with the same suite of engaging child friendly software. We have also been able to use two older machines in Reception to allow an early introduction to ICT. Finally we have a spare machine, which will soon be relocated, in the Library area of the Hall.

Future plans mean we won't be standing still in future. Next steps include upgrading the printing facilities in the ICT suite, buying a digital camera for the school and the purchase of computer based sensor kits to aid in Science. Hopefully we will also be able to place more computers in the Hall to establish an ICT work area for Key Stage 2 without the need to trek to the ICT suite.

Reflections

The first thing I remember about Helmdon is when I started. That day was really fun because I made lots of friends, all of which I'm friends with today.

Another thing I remember is when the whole of Year 4 went to Grendon. Grendon was my first ever, big school trip. I slept in a big room with my friends, Oliver and James, and people from other schools. My friends and I played football, tennis, played with a parachute and plenty of other cool games.

By Michael Year 6

Health & Safety

It is Helmdon Primary School Governors' policy to attach the greatest importance to the health, safety and welfare at school of all our children, employees and visitors, accepting that this is a vitally important management responsibility.

In the operation of our school, and in the maintenance of premises, plant and equipment, it is the specific responsibility of management to prevent hazards to the health and safety of all concerned. To assist with this responsibility the duty to take all reasonable care and precaution is delegated throughout the management structure and to all levels of staff.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places legal duties upon all of us, the School Governors, the LEA and its' employees, to protect Health and Safety – "so far as is reasonably practicable". The Governors support management and staff with a comprehensive range of measures designed to assist with these duties. These measures include, the objective assessment of the various risks presented by school activities and the environment; the development of effective safety measures to control those risks, and the provision of appropriate training and information for all employees.

Additionally, a considerable number of improvements have been made to the premises to reduce identified risks and improve security. These have included the provision of security fences and a gate in the playground; maintenance to the grounds, including the removal of some trees; additional lighting; the fitment of safety glass to windows and doors and the re-profiling of an internal stairway.

Should any parents have any concerns or suggestions regarding health and safety in school, please speak to Sue Blackburn or the Chair of the Health & Safety Committee, Nigel Strickland who may be contacted on 079 77 804069.

Friends of Helmdon School

The Friends of Helmdon School comprises of a committee of dedicated parents whose main objective is to raise funds for additional school equipment.

Over the last financial year we raised a staggering £5484 which enabled us to provide £2000 towards the new Year 6 classroom extension and buy items such as:- the Clavinova, computers for the ICT suite, outdoor ride-on toys for Reception children, a galvanised shed and whiteboards for the classrooms.

Our aim this school year is to provide the school with the remaining £1000 promised towards the classroom extension. We will also provide each pupil with a memorable Golden Jubilee Coin to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, as well as supporting our usual annual events such as the Christmas party, providing each child with a small gift, sports day refreshments and Year 6 leavers' presents.

We can only continue to achieve this with ongoing dedicated support from all parents throughout the years fund raising events.

We would welcome any parents wishing to join the committee and help us to achieve our goals

Reading KS1 (Age 7)

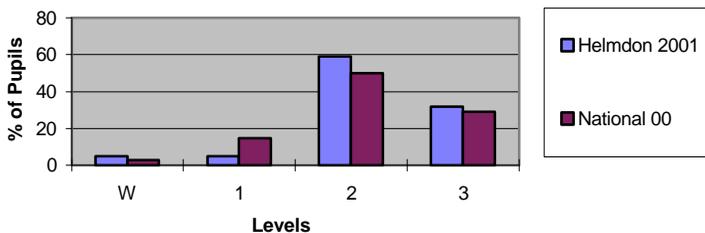
Tests

Level	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
W	0	5	3
1	0	5	15
2	57	59	50
3	43	32	29

Teacher Assessment

Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
0	5	3
0	0	13
57	73	55
43	23	28

Reading Tests



Writing KS1 (Age 7)

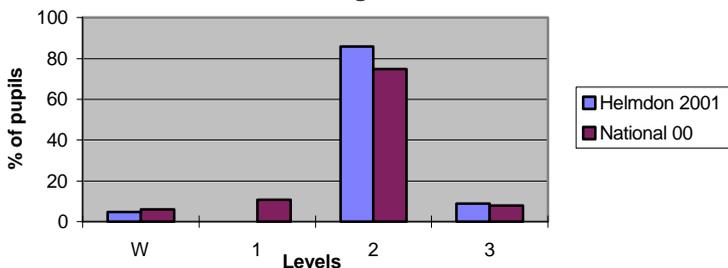
Tests

Level	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
W	0	5	6
1	0	0	11
2	78	86	75
3	21	9	8

Teacher Assessment

Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
0	5	5
0	0	13
71	68	70
29	27	12

Writing Test



Mathematics

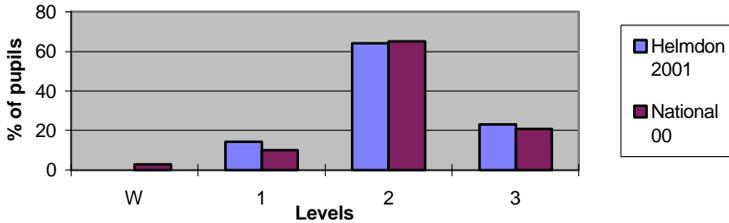
Tests

Level	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
W	0	0	3
1	0	14	10
2	57	64	65
3	43	23	21

Teacher Assessment

Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
0	5	2
0	0	10
71	73	63
29	23	25

Mathematics

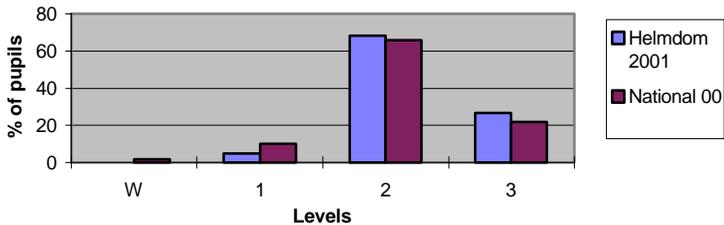


Science Assessment KS1 (Age 7)

Level	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
W	0	0	2
1	0	5	10
2	14	68	66
3	86	27	22

At Key Stage 1 there is no test level for Science

Science Test



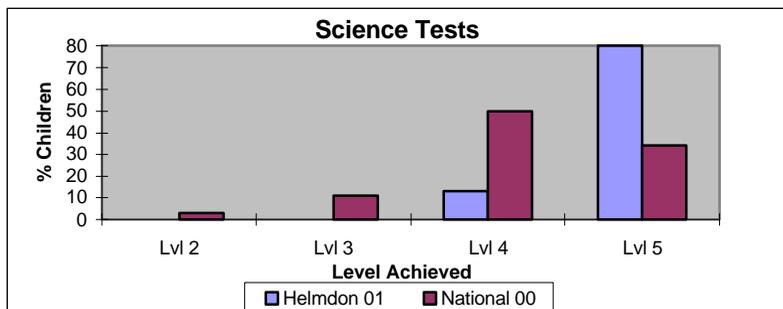
Science KS2 (Age 11)

Tests

Levels	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
Lvl 2	0	0	3
Lvl 3	10	0	11
Lvl 4	70	13	50
Lvl 5	20	80	34

Teacher Assessments

Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
0	0	4
10	0	17
60	33	46
30	67	29



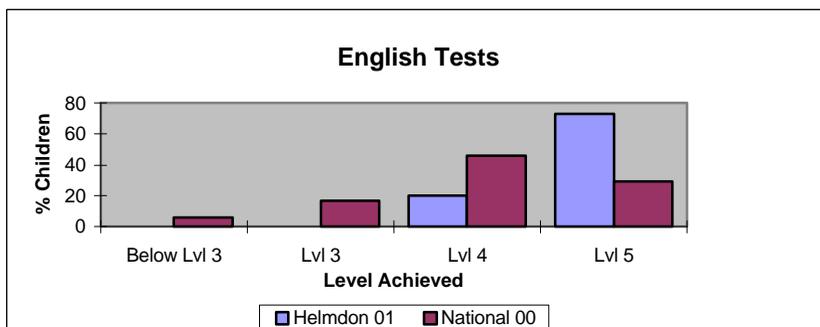
English KS2 (Age 11)

Tests

Levels	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
Below L	10	0	6
Lvl 3	0	0	17
Lvl 4	50	20	46
Lvl 5	40	73	29

Teacher Assessments

Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
10	0	7
20	0	23
30	67	49
40	33	22



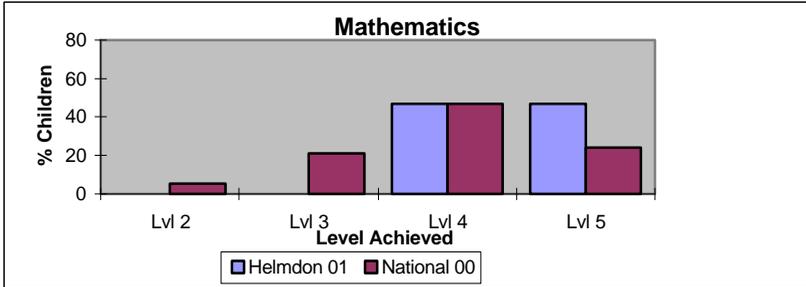
Mathematics KS2 (Age 11)

Tests

Levels	Helmdon 00	Helmdon 01	National 00
Lvl 2	0	0	5
Lvl 3	10	0	21
Lvl 4	70	47	47
Lvl 5	20	47	24

Teacher Assessments

0	0	6
10	0	22
40	47	48
50	53	23



N.B. In 2001 there was 1 pupil absence accounting for 7%