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To Parents/Carers of pupils chosen to take part in the
2008 Scottish Survey of Achievement (SSA)
Mathematics and Core Skills

Our ref: 2008 SSA (Parent/Carer)
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Dear Parent/Carer

2008 Scottish Survey of Achievement (SSA) - Mathematics and Core Skills

Your child,, has been chosen at random to take part in the 2008 SSA. The survey studies what pupils across Scotland know and can do in certain subjects at important stages of their education. In this year's survey, each pupil will be asked to attempt two written assessment booklets and fill in a questionnaire. Your school will arrange for this to happen during class time between April and mid-June. A small number of pupils may also be asked to take part in a practical assessment or have an example of their class-based writing submitted for external assessment. It is possible that this piece of writing may be published, without your child's name, on the National Assessment Bank which helps teachers understand standards across the country.

The information collected for the SSA is used to produce statistics and for research which enables the Scottish Government and its partners to carry out their responsibilities. The information will be anonymous (i.e. no-one will be able to identify your child) and will remain confidential in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). It will not be used to produce any individual information on your child or their school. It is not a test of individual pupils, but is used to create summary information across Local Authorities and across Scotland as a whole.

To increase our understanding of learning and teaching in Scotland, the Scottish Government may combine the information with data from other sources. In all cases, the information will remain anonymous and under the control of Scottish Ministers.

We are always grateful for the help we receive from parents, pupils and schools and we hope that you agree to your child taking part in the 2008 SSA. If you do not want your child to take part in this survey, **please contact your child's school**. More information about the SSA is provided on the enclosed information sheet and you can also find further details at www.ltscotland.org.uk/assess/of/ssa.

Yours faithfully,

K. Carmichael

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