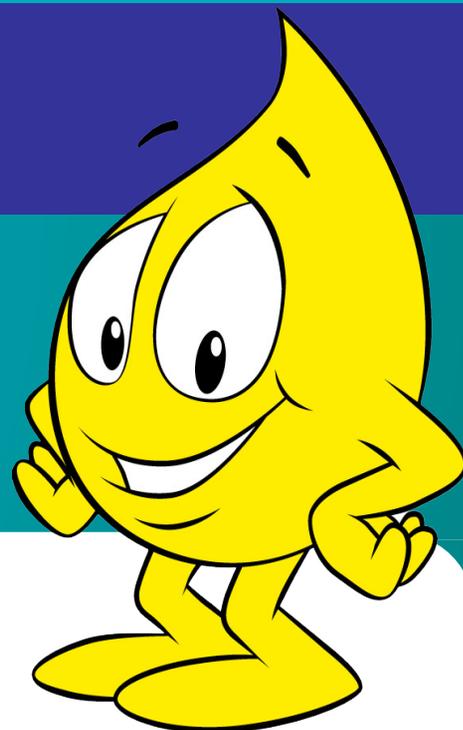




Graduate School of Education

## PIPS Newsletter 2016

Performance Indicators in Primary Schools



**W**elcome This newsletter is designed to share questions, queries, feedback and any news regarding PIPS.

### Staff Announcements

#### Updates from the PIPS Coordinator

Welcome to all PIPS schools for 2016.

We're now into our second year of the new Online platform. PIPS Schools can again assess their students entirely online, with no need to manually transfer and return data to us. Take a look on page 2 of this newsletter for more details.

The final assessment will be in October, so don't forget to add any new student who have joined your class list so you're ready undertake the Final assessment.

Cheers,  
Vivienne Pepper  
vivienne.pepper@uwa.edu.au

#### From the PIPS Research Officer

Hi everyone,  
Welcome back to PIPS!  
I'm now in my second year being the PIPS Project Officer. I have enjoyed meeting many of you in the past year at workshops and over the phone, and it's great to see how much time and effort schools are dedicating to their students' assessments. Make sure you check out the IDEAS+ section of the PIPS manual so you can get the most out of your students' PIPS results! I hope you and your students have enjoyed being a part of the PIPS project this year.

Kind Regards  
Ashlee Jenkins  
Ashlee.Jenkins@uwa.edu.au

### Who used PIPS in 2016?

This year saw 451 schools undertake PIPS testing across Australia. Over 17,500 students have been assessed so far. We look forward to welcoming more schools each year. The PIPS Baseline assessment provides a valuable tool for planning in the classroom, and monitoring school wide trends over the years.

### REMINDER: Undertake the Final Assessment between:

ACT (government), SA	17th October-28th October
NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC, NT	10th October-21st October
TAS (government)	17th October-4th November
WA	10th October-21st October

### Preparing for the Final Assessment

Now is a great time to start preparing for the Final PIPS Assessment. Consider your schools' internet set up and decide which of the 3 versions of the program would suit you best. *Remember*, it doesn't have to be the same version as you used previously in the year.

If your school has a hard-wired internet connection that is reliable and fast, we recommend the Web-Only version. This is the easiest option to use and requires minimal setup. For schools with a WI-FI connection, the Dual version is ideal. This version allows some program files to be stored locally on the computer while accessing the assessment and allows for a faster responses over WI-FI. For schools with an intermittent or unreliable internet connection, the Non-Web version will allow you to download the program fully to complete the assessments for students. Once you're done, simply upload the file to AusPIPS as you've done in the past.

Be sure to choose the best option for your circumstances to enjoy the quickest experience with PIPS.

#### PIPS Contacts

Project Director: Professor Helen Wildy  
PIPS Project Coordinator: Ms. Vivienne Pepper  
PIPS Research Officer: Ms. Ashlee Jenkins  
Queries: (t) 08 6488 2859

Visit our website to find out more info on PIPS:  
<http://www.education.uwa.edu.au/pips>



## Features of the Online Platform for PIPS

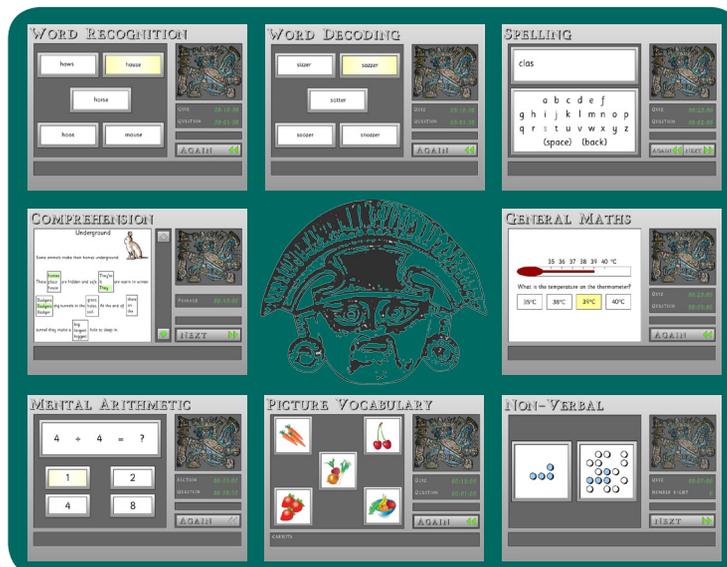
- Last year we introduced PIPS as an online assessment after lots of hard work from our UK based programmers to build a web version of the program. This change allows data to be collected and recorded without the need to manually back up the data. The standard online version is designed to create a smoother and more trouble free experience when undertaking the assessment. We hope all schools are getting used to the new platform and are enjoying the new style of PIPS.
- Setting up your class in PIPS was a little different from previous years, but we've kept the XML import option so schools can import their students in bulk. As in previous years, its important to download the template file from our website so you're uploading the data in the correct order and format.
- For the second year now PIPS is compatible with the MAC platform. PIPS can now be easily accessed on PC as well as MAC, allowing schools a greater flexibility with computers. After feedback from schools indicating the increased use of MACs, we've made changes to make the Online version, as well as the Non-Web and Dual versions of PIPS compatible.
- We're also looking at how we can update the IDEAS+ software to allow our MAC schools to access it. Currently Microsoft Excel doesn't allow for this, but our programmers in the UK have some great ideas for how to make IDEAS+ more accessible for all. So stay tuned!
- The status reports in the Assessment Centre now includes more information about each students' assessment, with an "In Progress" tag for students who have partially completed the assessment, and "Completed" with an assessment date for students who have finished testing. Teachers can use these Status Reports to confirm that all students have been assessed. The Status Reports may take a little longer to update so if a student has been assessed, and isn't showing as "Completed", check back again later in the day to confirm.
- A Passkey is now needed to access PIPS from the Assessment Centre. This additional code is needed to ensure you're logging on to the program with a unique identifier, and that only your students are able to be seen. There's a spot for this code to be written in the inside cover of the manual so its always handy when you need it.

## Continuing to build student profiles with InCAS

The Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) tool allows you to continue gathering computerised assessment data on students right through to Year 10.

Students can be profiled on:

- Reading
- Word recognition
- Word decoding
- Spelling
- Comprehension
- Mathematics
- General maths
- Mental arithmetic
- Developed Ability
- Picture vocabulary
- Non-verbal ability



For more information, visit our website

[www.education.uwa.edu.au/incas](http://www.education.uwa.edu.au/incas)

or send an email

[incas-edu@uwa.edu.au](mailto:incas-edu@uwa.edu.au)