

20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been approached by a number of parents this week regarding the organisation of sets, homework and other daily activities that the children take part in. Although we do not routinely notify parents of the organisation of lessons, I felt that it was worth clarifying the following points:

You are probably aware, through media coverage, that funding for schools has been significantly reduced and all schools are having to look closely at their expenditure to avoid future finance issues. In our school we have, this year, been able to maintain all of the staffing in classes but have had to reduce the amount of teachers that we have available for sets. In view of this, we have looked closely at the data and needs of each year group and have targeted the provision of sets to the Year groups and subjects that most need it. We have also changed, in some year groups, the way that the sets are arranged so that we can maximise the impact for all children in the school. As always, lessons will continue to be differentiated so that children of all abilities remain challenged and continue to make progress.

At the beginning of the year we also changed the way that we organise homework and you will have received a letter, in your child's home/school book explaining this. We have, for some time had issues with children not completing the homework set and the time that is taken out of lessons to go through homework. We decided, therefore to trial a new way of engaging the children in different activities that they can share with their parents and work on at their own level. Early feedback has been very positive in terms of the enjoyment of the children but as with all of our initiatives, we will continue to review and implement changes as we feel necessary.

Lastly, there have been some queries around the children's use of the Astroturf at lunchtimes. For several years now, we have encouraged children to take part in physical activity in school and as part of this initiative we give each year group, from Year 2 onwards, time at lunchtime to play games and take part in sports. This has always been a compulsory aspect of our school week as it ensures that children who do not usually choose to take part in physical activity are given this opportunity.

As always, your child's Class Teacher is available before and after school to answer any questions or queries that you may have about the day to day education of your child but if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office, Mrs Falvey or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Braithwaite  
Acting Headteacher