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Miss J Sawyer

Empowering Children through Creative Learning

Charity Registration no. 1127874

Assistant Headteachers
Mrs V Hearson
Mrs N Martin
Mrs H Steel

23rd January 2017

Changes to Maths teaching

Dear Parents of Classes 5, 6 and 7,

I am writing to let you know that we will be trialling a different approach to the way we teach maths in Classes 5, 6 and 7 for the remainder of this term.

As you know, at Park Grove, we have mixed ability and mixed age classes. We find that this works brilliantly well in subjects such as English, Geography, History etc as the children help and inspire each other. However, with the new maths curriculum, we feel a different approach may be beneficial for our pupils.

Maths is a progressive subject and it is important that children are secure in using essential skills before they move on. This new approach will ensure that children master understanding, enabling them to progress through the subject with confidence and firm foundations.

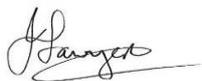
The staff have spent many hours debating the best way to teach maths to ensure that there is sufficient challenge but also enough support for those who do not feel as confident in the subject. The staff have decided to trial planning and differentiation across the classes, rather than within individual classes. Children will work within a group that best suits their individual needs, regardless of which class they are in. Extra support will be placed where there are particular needs, especially to ensure that children who feel less confident in maths can work at their own pace. We hope this will take some of the pressure off children and build up their self-esteem. The staff in classes 5, 6 and 7 will work closely to look at groupings of children on a regular basis. Therefore, each half term, children may move between groups, depending on the support they need.

This new way of working will be explained to the children so they know which teacher they will be with for their maths lessons. All children will be taught by either Miss Clayton, Miss Land or Ms Campbell. Extra teaching assistants and pupil support team staff will also join the teachers to ensure that there is extra adult support in maths.

Children will remain with their own classes and their own teachers for all other subjects and will only move between classes for maths. We hope that by grouping the children based on their needs, we will see even more progress being made by all children. There will not be fixed groupings of children because groups will change regularly based on individual need.

We believe that this new initiative will make a difference to the children at Park Grove, and your support is always hugely appreciated. We are starting this trial a couple of weeks before parents' evening to allow the new system to be up and running so that any concerns may then be discussed at parents' evening.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Sawyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss Jo Sawyer

Headteacher

Head.parkgroveprimary@york.gov.uk