



Brumby Junior
School

Queensway, Scunthorpe, DN162HY. 01724865644. www.brumbjuniorschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr P Foster

Mathematics update

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Brumby, we always strive to provide the best quality of education for all pupils. Part of the process of school improvement is that we analyse results and class teaching, then ask educational experts to come into school and look at what we teach, and how we teach. Throughout the summer term, and throughout September, this process has been taking place.

Our current results, based on the new (much harder) national expectations for pupils in Y3, are much lower than they have been in previous years. We have assessed that a significant proportion of pupils are working below the expectations because they do not yet have the knowledge and skills required to answer the harder questions asked of them. As a result, our current teaching must now change to help all pupils to achieve and make progress.

After half term, we will be keeping all pupils in their classes for mathematics, just like our current arrangements for literacy. Our literacy teaching and results have both improved significantly since we made this change in the summer, and we predict that our maths will do the same. This is a positive change – one recommended to us by our advisors, based on successes in other schools around the country.

There is sometimes a fear from adults about “removing sets”: that fear is that lower attaining pupils will struggle more with the harder work, and that higher-attaining pupils will be held back. However, with good quality planning, this will not necessarily be the case. Pupils will be challenged at an appropriate level through differentiated work, yet all will be taught the skills necessary for their year group. Every lesson has extension and enrichment activities incorporated into it, which our highest attaining pupils will be able to access from the start of each lesson – senior school leaders are in classes all the time to ensure that our most-able pupils are able to enrich and extend themselves. Our lowest attaining pupils will benefit from being in the same room as higher attaining pupils, as they will also be able to access the more challenging content.

The most powerful thing we expect to see (because the same thing happened in literacy when we removed sets) is that the lower attaining pupils elect to try the much more difficult work, often learning from those other children in the class. In turn, this encourages higher attaining pupils to work harder and push themselves more too. We expect and encourage all of our pupils to ask teachers for harder work if they understand and have already “mastered” their current work.

Change can often be seen as a bad thing, but the fact is that education is always evolving. We firmly believe that these changes are an improvement, based on solid evidence, and will make a huge, positive difference to all pupils and staff. If you have any questions about this, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to raise them at parents' evenings next Monday and Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

P.R.Foster

Head Teacher