

Barnes Farm Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may recall that I wrote to you all on 25th November regarding our recent single focus on 'Explaining Ideas better in Maths'. I wanted to update you on this plan and inform you of our next focus.

We planned the following actions (the impact is in brackets):

- ✓ *Asking pupils for their views on how well we explain ideas in Maths (Surveys taken before and after demonstrate increased confidence in using methods)*
- ✓ *All staff to receive training to further improve the consistency and quality of our explanations further (Professional development was provided for both teaching and support staff involving revisiting methods and learning new tools such as 'bar modelling')*
- ✓ *Organising an exciting Maths week to be held in late January 2017 (This took place in the week beginning February 5th 2017)*
- ✓ *Inviting parents in to take part in a Maths lesson with your child (Up to 15 parents invited in to every class for a 'live' open Maths lesson. Over 100 parents attended in total.)*
- ✓ *Seeking ways to better share our explanations with you as parents (Assessment information from February parent consultations sent to every parent)*
- ✓ *A revised calculation policy (Updated by staff and uploaded onto the website for parents to access whenever they need to check methods)*

The open maths mornings, in particular, were very successful. Feedback from parents reported that, on average, parents strongly agreed that they found the sessions helpful and informative. They agreed that, as a result of the morning, they feel more confident helping their child with maths. One Y3 parent commented "A really useful morning. I enjoyed seeing how my daughter learns and the methods used to calculate. I can help her more now. Great idea and would love to do more. Thank you"

Our next Single Plan focus runs from February 2017 to April 2017 and is aimed at

“Raising achievement in writing, particularly with presentation”

I led an assembly on Monday to share the plan with the pupils. It will involve the following actions:

- ✓ *‘Live’ Literacy lessons scheduled for April for a limited number of parents to attend (following on from the open maths mornings)*
- ✓ *Each classteacher to select a ‘High Flying Handwriter’ every half term who has demonstrated the greatest progress and will be celebrated in an assembly*
- ✓ *Excellent written work across the curriculum to be ‘published’ on Pobble for parents and others to view and celebrate*
- ✓ *A visit from the team at Google on Friday 10th March to facilitate the children writing a short story (details below).*
- ✓ *Staff development work on moderating judgements on assessing writing across the school*



On Friday 10th March we are delighted to announce that Google will be visiting the school to allow every class access to the ‘Google Cardboard’ virtual reality technology for free. These sessions will be led by the class teacher using the Google ‘Expeditions’ App and will enable the children to receive a truly rich stimulus in order to write a short story about an ‘Underwater Adventure’.

We are looking forward to reading the outcomes from this whole-school initiative in their books and on ‘Pobble’ too. The teachers will be using the stories to help develop their judgments and understanding about how writing develops throughout the school. In order to support your child further as a writer, during the course of this single plan you could show additional interest in the written work they achieve over the course of the next 2 months. We will try and share as many of these achievements as possible with you too. If you haven’t already, please respond to the ‘Pobble’ registration email you will have been sent in order to respond to any children’s work we publish.

Ross McTaggart - Headteacher

