

BRACKENWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr A Lacey

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on developments in the school curriculum, and to highlight some of the progress we have made as a school and what we are focusing on this year in order to improve the curriculum for your child at Brackenwood Junior School.

Maths and English

We continue to do everything we can to improve teaching and learning in maths and English. This year, there will be a greater focus on guided reading and writing, whereby children read and write in small groups focusing on key skills which they need to develop. We will also continue to assess mental maths skills in order to ensure that the children have the necessary skills to answer quick fire mental maths questions. Children who fall behind in their learning or who have Special Educational Needs will have targeted Intervention work from a Teaching Assistant or extra teacher focus in order for them to be able to reach their full potential.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The children are becoming much more skilled at using computers in school, thanks to a good ICT skills curriculum. This year there is a real focus in school on using ICT across different curriculum areas, such as science and English and maths, and we are also going to use e-mail and video to communicate with our partner schools in Birmingham and South Africa. We have also purchased new ICT equipment which will be used during the year, and the children will get the chance to use the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and the 2 televisions installed in school to showcase some of their excellent ICT work and videos and photographs of their school life.

Thematic Curriculum

Each year group studies 3 themes across the year. We are focusing this year on ensuring that these themes sufficiently cover the National Curriculum, enable the children to progress in their work and are sufficiently exciting to make learning more fun in school. To this end, there have already been a number of school trips to places linked to themes, including Year 6 visiting Styal Mill and Year 4 visiting Chester as part of their Romans topic. We will also be holding class assemblies during the year where children will be able to share their work with you.

SATS

In 2010, our SATS results improved for the second year in a row, and results in maths were particularly high with over half the children attaining a Level 5. We are also hopeful that this will improve further in 2011, as the children in Year 6 have made good progress since they arrived at the school. The improvement in results is down to the excellent work of all the teachers in ensuring that the children reach their potential, and to all the teaching assistants who spend time working with the children on Intervention programmes in English and maths.

I hope that this letter has been informative as to what we are doing to continue to improve your child's education, and I will write to you again in the Spring term to update on the progress we have made towards the above targets.

Yours Sincerely,