

## Parent Forum 29.9.14

### Setting (Question from parent)

Mrs Hunter discussed the rationale and current educational research behind the move from setting to mixed ability teaching in mathematics. In year 6 the planning now incorporates elements from previous parallel and extension sets. Mrs Hunter also mentioned examples where setting is detrimental and how teachers plan for the spread of differentiation within their classes.

### End of Year Reports

The changes to the format of the end of year reports had caused some concerns with parents in July so it was added to the agenda for today. The key changes to the reports for last year were highlighted:

- A change from effort grades to the Hiltingbury Learner grades,
- Use of numbers rather than stars for the foundation grades, (possibly an error in hindsight as parents equated this with the National Curriculum levels used in maths and English),
- General statements for the core subjects rather than a specific commentary,
- Inclusion of a written commentary regarding curriculum highlights.
- The addition of a comment by the headteacher

Mrs Hunter passed out example reports for discussion. Mrs Hunter explained the rationale was to streamline the amount of hours (6-7 per child) spent by teachers writing reports, so that their efforts could be applied to planning, teaching and assessing. Looking ahead to this summer the format would remain the same although the changes with regard to assessment and levels would need to be factored in. The use of stars only and not two sets of numbers would ensure the report was easier to understand. While the 'end of year' description for the core subjects would still replace personalised comments in the core areas, the addition of the Learning Ladders booklets would provide parents with detailed information of the areas their child had achieved and their next steps.

### Ladders

Mrs Hunter showed examples of learning ladders and discussed how the school proposed to use them to assess children. (The future lack of levels was also explained to put this into context.)

Parents asked a number of questions around how the ladders were used.

It was explained, in response to a specific question, that an SEN ladder around the 'P levels' was being developed to support children with specific needs.

The future of end of Key Stage tests for maths and English was also discussed.

Relating the ladders to school reports, the group of parents felt it made sense for staff not to write subject specific reports as this would just be repeating the information available on the ladders.

The complex issues around assessment without levels will be discussed in more detail at the parent information evening on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.