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Dear Parents and Carers

Action Research at Blean School

Each year, as part of our School Development Plan, the teachers at Blean School undertake action research to develop teaching and learning in the school. This year, we have been researching the use of Feedback and Marking to develop learning. This is linked to the Government agenda of removing unnecessary workload within schools. We wanted to think about a healthy balance between pupils receiving high quality feedback, balanced with marking that is meaningful and manageable.

Since September, teachers have been looking at current research and trialling new ideas and methods. These have then been discussed in Phase teams, at Forum (our middle leaders' group who are leading the research) and at whole school staff meetings. We have also begun to share our initial ideas with local schools.

We are now at an exciting phase of our action research where we begin to trial new ideas across the school. The research we have undertaken so far has shown that pupils respond better to verbal feedback from their teacher rather than messages written in books. They also learn well from their peers and by coaching others. As a consequence of this interesting research, we are developing a new marking policy, which incorporates greater verbal feedback and the use of stampers and peer reviewing more frequently.

When you look at your child's books at parents' consultations, you may find a range of marking styles have been used including some that do not necessarily fit with our previous marking policy. In particular, we are trialling giving more verbal feedback so you may notice fewer comments by teachers. Please be assured that each piece of work is being seen by the class teacher and pupils are being given feedback on how to improve, either individually or as a whole class.

When the new Feedback and Marking Policy has been created, we will make sure that it is available to all parents on our website along with the results of our action research.

Thank you for your continued support of everything we do to develop the teaching and learning at Blean.

Yours sincerely
Miss D Irons
Leader of Forum