



# Merridale Primary School

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Ref: SL/MM/LT/SB

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach parent consultations on 12<sup>th</sup> February, we thought it would be useful to update parents, carers and families on our new approach to marking and feedback in school.

Over the Autumn term, class teachers in Year 1 to 6 have been trialling a new way to give feedback to children on their learning which has resulted in significantly less written comments from teachers in children's exercise books, which you will notice when you see your child's books at your appointment. This approach is underpinned by extensive educational research, which has found outcomes from this method to be more effective than traditional written marking comments in books.

We would like to take this opportunity to outline the key principles of this new policy.

- Assessing children's written work and giving feedback is an important way in which teachers gather evidence and information to enable them to plan next steps in learning as well as to see which children are achieving objectives and who might require further challenge or support.
- It is vital that children receive feedback on their work and learning opportunities so that they can celebrate their achievements and see where they might need further support.
- As much as possible, teachers try give feedback during lessons as this is much more meaningful and relevant for children. This feedback could be verbal or "live marking", where teachers mark and assess work in partnership with children.
- Teachers use our marking codes to indicate whether children were independent or supported in their work or whether they need to address any errors independently e.g. "SW" means "Supported Work" and "SP" indicates spelling error.

- Rather than writing extensive marking comments in pupils' books, teachers in Years 1-6 use "Feedback books" to gather assessment evidence on learning achievements. This evidence supports teachers to plan next steps in teaching and learning.

We believe that feedback is a vital part of the teaching and learning cycle. Effective feedback will improve children's learning, develop their confidence and self-esteem and provide opportunities for children to assess their own work and reflect on and improve their understanding.

So far this academic year, teachers have found the new policy enables them to assess children's learning accurately, allows them to gather evidence in a time-manageable way and gives them more opportunities to feedback to children in an accessible and meaningful way.

If you would like to discuss this policy further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Lane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr S Lane  
Headteacher