



5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Parents,

In September 2014 schools were required to teach from the new curriculum with the exception of Y2 and Y6 who are starting on the new curriculum from September 2015. The new Mathematics Curriculum has several changes. The term Mathematics is being used once again instead of Numeracy. Some learning objectives have changed to other year groups, some no longer will be taught and there is some additional content for all year groups. Some of the changes include learning about Roman numerals in Key stage 2 and much more work on fractions. One of the biggest changes is that pupils will need to know all of their tables up to the 12 times table by the end of Year 4.

With the new curriculum there is an emphasis on pupils being able to use formal methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division by the end of Key Stage 2. The school has to decide when and how these methods are taught. Column addition is an example of a formal written method whereas adding using a number line is an informal way of calculating. An updated copy of the calculations policy can be found on the school website.

We have tried to simplify the different methods and think carefully about the stages pupils need in order to become successful at formal written methods. Pupils should use a written method if they are unable to calculate the answer mentally. Pupils need to have a good idea of the answer by using estimation before they embark on the calculation. Thorough checking of answers is also to be encouraged.

At St Andrew's we have a long tradition of parents supporting their children. In Mathematics you can help by supporting them when completing homework and encouraging them to be able to recall number facts e.g. number bonds or times table facts and to have good Mental Maths skills. Learning tables is crucial to children's understanding of division as well as multiplication. Pupils can check homework by asking themselves whether the answer is reasonable. Good mental skills are the foundations which enable pupils to calculate, reason and problem solve.

Mrs Duncan

Mathematics Coordinator.

