



**Prof. Chris Jarrold**

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Date

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am a researcher from Bristol University, and as part of my work I investigate children's memory and learning. My colleagues and I have some new government funding to carry out a project on 'The development of working memory'. Working memory is an important skill that relates to how children learn in schools, and so we are hoping to learn more about how children's memory develops, and how it relates to their reading and mathematical skills as well as their ability to learn more generally. X school have kindly agreed to take part in this work, and I am writing to you to see whether you would be happy for your child to take part in the project.

The work we are planning will involve three short sessions during which a number of enjoyable memory tasks will be presented, mostly on a laptop computer. These sessions will all take place at the school, and each will last for at most 30 minutes. Some of these sessions will be audio-taped for later analysis. We will also give some children standard reading and maths tasks which will be carefully chosen so as to be at the appropriate level for each child's abilities. In addition, in some of our work we will be asking your child's teacher to answer questions about your child's classroom behaviour. Our project has been approved by the University's Faculty of Science Human Research Ethics Committee.

Confidentiality is maintained in our research, and no details of any single individual's performance are reported when we publish our work. Indeed, all our records are kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act. However, the school may be interested in the measures that we collect, and if you would like these to be passed on, then we can certainly do that. In addition, it is a requirement of our funding that we deposit a copy of our results in a database that other researchers can access. When we do this, the results will be

completely anonymous and all there will be no way that anyone will be able to identify a particular individual in the dataset.

If you are happy for your child to take part in this work, then could you please return the consent form on the next page of this letter to the school. Should you have any questions about our work, or if you change your mind about your child's involvement (which is absolutely fine) then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the address above; even after you have given your consent you can withdraw it at any time. You can also pass on any concerns you might have related to your child's participation in this study to the University of Bristol's Faculty of Science Human Research Ethics Committee, via Christine Moroney (christine.moroney@bristol.ac.uk, 0117 928 8450)

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Chris Jarrold