



Tuesday 6th February 2018

Dear parents, friends, and members of the community,

We have pleasure in providing a fully up-to-date document to support our Community Engagement process, beginning with the drop-in sessions on Monday 26th February 2018.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding in awaiting the release of this document and the postponement of the engagement process, both of which were in response to the Government's announcement about the new national funding formula which we believed to have a potentially significant impact on our financial picture.

We are really pleased that this has indeed turned out to be the case, meaning that the pressure to consider school closure as a financial solution is lifted from us at this time. You will hopefully see from the detailed information presented to you in this document (and supporting appendices) that the application of the funding formula, **plus** the implementation of an internal reorganisational model should offer us a financial position which brings our in-year budget into surplus over the next few years, enabling us to keep all three schools open. This financial position cannot be achieved within models of school closure (largely because of the loss of the lump-sum income stream, and sparsity funding). Details are included in the attached.

We do hope you share our delight in this at this time, though we also must reiterate that this is underpinned by an acceptance and understanding that the current structure of our schools cannot be sustained, and there is need for change, the options for which are detailed in the information we are sharing today.

Following the drop-in sessions on 26th February, we invite your contributions to this process, with an ultimate view to implementing necessary changes from September 2018. Details of how to contribute, and the deadline for doing so can be found on the last page of the document.

A reminder about the drop-in sessions:

10:00am – 12:00pm	National Parks Office, Bainbridge
1:30pm – 3:30pm	Askrigg Primary School
5:00pm – 7:30pm	West Burton Primary School

Community members and parents of children at any of our schools are very welcome to attend **any** of the sessions. We hope that holding three sessions will enable people to choose the one that is most convenient. We also anticipate that the evening session may be a little busier, hence it being the longer of the three sessions, though each drop-in will follow exactly the same format.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th February and to receiving your subsequent contributions by 9th March.

Kind regards,

Derek Walpole
 Chair of Governors

Charlotte Harper
 Headteacher

For and on behalf of the Governing Board