



The BAWB Collaboration Bainbridge, Askrigg, and West Burton Primary Schools

Mid-Dale Excellence in Education

Executive Headteacher: Miss Charlotte L. Harper

8 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The Governing Board met in April and also in May to consider the financial situation and future arrangements for all 3 schools within the Federation.

With regard to our finances, in common with many other schools, we remain in financial deficit. At a meeting with Local Authority officials we were told that the level of our deficit was not sustainable and that we had to have a recovery plan in place. We have worked hard to develop a plan for the coming academic year that meets the needs of the children we have across our schools and brings savings.

To do this we must make some operational changes to class structures from September which will address the 'bulge' in numbers in Early Years/KS1, but also the lower numbers in some year groups. By making these changes it will enable us to continue with 6 classes, with 2 in each school and where the number of children in each school will be more evenly spread. We are excited as these arrangements will offer a new way of grouping our KS1 pupils that will be educationally beneficial for children, further enhancing our phonic programme Read Write Inc. for the younger children and developing the independence of our Year 2 cohort. We also feel as educationalists that due to the disrupted year our children have experienced with the Coronavirus pandemic, this system will better suit the needs of all of them, giving teachers the opportunity to support individuals wherever required.

Although there will be travelling for some children, we have spoken with the parents of the children this will affect and reassured them of the viability of this and how their children's educational experience will be enhanced. This arrangement was unanimously agreed by all governors and is financially robust which will deliver financial parity by 22/23 and so is supported by the LA and enables all 3 schools to stay open and thrive.

Arrangements from September are:

Bainbridge school-

1. Nursery and Reception (21 pupils) for the whole Federation -taught by Mrs Johnston and Mrs Loughlin
2. A Year 1 class (20 pupils) for the whole Federation-taught by Mrs Harrison

West Burton School

1. A Year 2 class (17 pupils) for the whole Federation-taught by Mr Scrafton
2. A KS2 class of (14 pupils) for West Burton pupils -taught by Ms Collins

Askrigg school

1. A Year 3 and 4 class (24 pupils) for the Askrigg +Bainbridge pupils-taught by Mr Billingham
2. A year 5 and 6 class (19 pupils) for Askrigg +Bainbridge pupils -taught by Mr Greenway

Our experienced Teaching Assistants will chaperone the journeys ensuring that children are well looked after.



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This system will operate Monday to Thursday and we will continue with Federation Fridays each week when children will come together on two sites.

During this academic year there have been a number of recruitment initiatives for pupils but with no new house building, few young families moving in and the new free school in Catterick, these have only had limited success. We have welcomed a number of new pupils across the Federation throughout the year and that has been wonderful. However, the numbers have not grown sufficiently to maintain a viable/educationally sound class for EYFS and KS1 at West Burton.

Over the coming academic year, we will continue to try and attract new pupils to our schools and this will continue to be reviewed, alongside our funding arrangements, to formulate a plan for the following year. We strongly believe that each year we must look at the number of pupils we have in each year group across the Federation and make changes to best meet the educational needs of all our pupils, whilst keeping all three schools centres of excellence for our pupils where aspirations are high and children's wellbeing is at the heart of our decisions.

We would like to thank you for all your support during the last few challenging weeks and trust that you will work with us cooperatively as we try to find the best educational experience for all of our children which is also affordable. All our staff are looking forward to seeing the children again and getting back on track with their learning.

We are more than happy to speak with anyone who has any questions or queries. Please contact us by emailing the headteacher email address (headteacher@b-a-wb.co.uk) and they will arrange a convenient time to ring you.

Best wishes.

Heather M. Limbach

H M Limbach, Chair of Governors

E. Harrison

M Price

E. Harrison and Maxine Price
Co-Executive Head Teachers