



Federation Fridays

Dear parents,

Thank you for your contributions to our review process for both option 3a and Federation Fridays. Due to the nature of written contributions in the survey, we are protecting the privacy of both the contributors and the pupils mentioned within the comments by not reproducing them for public view. However, please be assured that **every response** has been considered as part of this review.

The view of the parents of West Burton children were very different to those of Bainbridge/Askrigg parents, though there were both positive and negative views from the whole spectrum of contributors, along with some helpful threads which we have attempted to address in our adjustments for the summer term.

Option 3a

The recently established working party will, over the course of the next term, be exploring options which may address issues associated with option 3a (the transporting of West Burton’s EYFS and KS1 to Bainbridge each day for their learning). For the remaining school year, this will remain unchanged, except that we have sharpened the departure of the shuttle bus from West Burton to Bainbridge in order to ensure a more punctual arrival in time to start the day’s learning. It is important to maintain consistency and continuity at this time of year: EYFS children have statutory assessments; Y1 children have phonics assessments; and Y2 children have their statutory KS1 tests (SATs) all within the next couple of months, hence no change to option 3a at this time.

We will continue to update you regularly as progress is made by the working party.

Federation Fridays

Feedback about the benefits of Federation Fridays was largely positive from all groups of contributors. However, it is clear that there are a number of issues which we need to address. We have concluded that, at least for the summer term, Federation Fridays will continue each week (at Askrigg) with some alterations detailed below which should address commonly raised concerns:

What you said...	How we are addressing this...
<p><u><i>An unfairness associated with Federation Fridays always being at Askrigg.</i></u></p> <p>Several parents and children mentioned that Federation Fridays had originally been planned to alternate between West Burton and Askrigg. This has not been the case and several of the West Burton parents and children felt this to be unfair.</p> <p>A number of parents of West Burton children also suggested that the continuation of Federation Fridays would represent a reasonable compromise if a second class were re-established at west Burton.</p>	<p>It would simple in many ways to address this by returning to the originally pledged alternating pattern. However, staff feedback was unanimous on this (including those at West Burton): that it would be difficult at best, unsafe at worst, to host all of KS2 at West Burton. The building and grounds are not adequate for the number of KS2 children we have in total and staff felt that this would be detrimental to their learning, safety, and enjoyment. For the summer term, whilst Federation Fridays continue, the Y3/4 children will be given a dedicated classroom at Askrigg which is set up for the group and which will not involve any preparation of the learning space on arrival. Y5/6 children will be taught in Miss Collins’s classroom which is a large enough space and which will be set up on Thursday evenings in preparation. This should help the West Burton children to feel more ‘at home’ by giving some ownership over the learning space. In addition, we will give these classes a name, so that the children have a better sense of identity as a class on Federation Fridays. These names will be chosen by the children in the first week back .</p>



An imbalance of PE provision on Fridays.

We had extremely varied feedback on PE (ranging from a sense that federation Fridays are PE-heavy, to concerns that Federation Fridays have resulted in a loss of PE provision). We believe this to be a result of the way that PE has been timetabled, meaning that all children would receive their entitlement to PE over time, but not week-on-week.

We have 'simplified' the Federation Friday timetable so that PE will not be delivered to KS2 on those days. However, we have reviewed the class timetables to ensure that all children will receive at least the minimum of 2 hours of PE per week. Class timetables will be sent home during the first week of the summer term.

This should ensure more balanced delivery of PE throughout the week.

Please note that, outside our control, cluster competitions fall on Fridays too; this may have contributed to your child's perception that the amount of PE on Fridays is disproportionate. Removing PE from the Friday timetable should help to alleviate this.

A complicated timetable for Fridays, particularly the afternoons.

Staff in particular felt that the timetabling of Federation Fridays is over-complicated and requires complex layers of organisation.

We recognise that arrangements such as Federation Fridays require much organisation; considerable staff resourcing; and a simple, well-executed structure.

Miss Collins will return to teaching on Friday afternoons and the children will remain in two classes for the whole day:

- Y3/4 Mrs Robinson
- Y5/6 Miss Collins

Please see the timetable overleaf for details, including the deployment of teaching assistants.

Missed opportunity to deliver subjects which would benefit from having fewer year groups in one class.

Staff in particular felt that there is currently a missed opportunity to take advantage of the year-group splits by delivering subjects where the curriculum is more prescriptively year-group based (e.g. science).

Please see timetable overleaf. We will now be delivering English and maths in the mornings, followed by science and PSHE (circle time) in the afternoons. We also recognise the need to develop some friendships between children of all three schools and we hope that a regular circle time session may help to achieve this.

Lost time at the beginning and end of the day because celebration assemblies are different times of the day at Bainbridge/Askrigg and West Burton.

Bainbridge/Askrigg celebration assembly is in the morning, meaning that West Burton children arrive at Askrigg but have to wait a while for the Bainbridge children to arrive. Similarly, at the end of the day, West Burton children leave (to get back for celebration assembly) at which point the lessons have finished and Bainbridge/Askrigg have felt a sense of 'time-filling'. Linked to this, there was a sense that West Burton's celebration assemblies have been rushed at the end of the day.

We have decided to have Friday's celebration assemblies at 3:00pm in every school, starting after Easter. This means that shuttle buses can leave promptly in the mornings; learning can start on time at 9:00am; and the afternoon lessons will end at 2:30pm to ensure that everyone is back in their home-school for celebration assembly.

It has always been felt that celebration assemblies make a lovely end to the school week.



The impact of Federation Fridays on the contract of Mr Billingham at Askrigg.

A number of comments mentioned the reduction in Mr Billingham's teaching commitment. Please be aware that Mr Billingham's reduction in hours, though coinciding with the implementation of Federation Fridays and option 3a, was put in place for a number of different reasons.

Starting immediately after Easter, Mr Billingham will be working four days per week (Monday – Thursday). Please see details in the class timetables which will be sent home after Easter.

During the summer term, Forest School provision will return to a three-weekly cycle between three classes on Friday afternoons:

- Y1/2
- Y3/4
- Y5/6

A timetable for this is enclosed.

The future of Federation Fridays beyond this academic year will remain under review in line with any outcomes from the working party.

Please see a new timetable for after Easter attached. We sincerely hope that the changes address the common issues raised by all stakeholders and that they are positive for all. We continue to welcome your feedback.

Please feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

Headteacher

headteacher@b-a-wb.co.uk



Federation Fridays
 Summer Term 2019

	Y3/4	Y5/6
08:30 – 09:00	Bus leaves West Burton, drops at Bainbridge first, then to Askrigg.	
	<u>Topic Room</u> Mrs Alderson Mrs Fawcett	<u>Miss Collins's Classroom</u> Mrs Donno-Fuller Mr Stokes
09:05 – 09:25	Y3/4 Mrs Robinson English (Grammar session)	Y5/6 Miss Collins English (Grammar session)
09:25 – 10:15	Y3/4 Mrs Robinson English	Y5/6 Miss Collins English
10:15	Break Time	
10:30 – 11:30	Y3/4 Mrs Robinson Maths (problem solving)	Y5/6 Miss Collins Maths (problem solving)
11:30	Singing practice (Dave and Sarah Clark)	
12:00	Lunchtime	
13:00 – 14:00	Y3/4 Mrs Robinson Science	Y5/6 Miss Collins Science
14:00 – 14:25	Y3/4 Mr Stokes Circle time	Y5/6 Mrs Donno-Fuller Circle time
14:30	All children prompt departure	
15:00	Celebration assemblies in all three schools	
15:30	Home time	