



The BAWB Collaboration  
Bainbridge, Askrigg, and West Burton Primary Schools  
*Mid-Dale Excellence in Education*  
Executive Headteacher: Miss Charlotte L. Harper

17 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are really looking forward to opening up our schools and welcoming back our wonderful pupils on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

We appreciate that many of you will be nervous sending your child/ren back to school after protecting them at home. Since mid-June we have seen the positive impact that coming back to school and returning to a structure has had on those children who have returned, not just academically but socially too.

**CLASS BUBBLES** (will revert back to being known by their class names)

The main guidance states that children need to be kept in class sized bubbles and with us having 3 school buildings, this is to our advantage as it allows us to minimise contact that a pupil has during the school day and reduces risk of transmission. At Askrigg, West Burton and Bainbridge we have put in place a one way system to enter and leave the building. Further details of this will be explained closer to the start of term.

Robins-Nursery+ Reception at Bainbridge school

Owls-Year 1 at Bainbridge

Swallows-Year 2 at west Burton

Skylarks-Year 3-6 at West Burton

Golden Eagles-Year 3+4 at Askrigg

Merlins-Year 5+6 at Askrigg

(for the time being Federation Fridays will not be taking place due to Covid restrictions)

### ATTENDANCE

As from September, as circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise the longer term impact of this pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. The government are very clear about this in their guidance. We therefore are expecting full time attendance from all pupils.

If you have concerns after reading this letter, please contact school via email and we will endeavour to allay any fears you may have. Some children will still be unable to attend because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they have been in close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). Some pupils might need to continue shielding. Some of our pupils might be unable to attend as they are complying with medical and/or public health advice due to medical conditions.

If this is the case, please call school and discuss this with us.

### HYGIENE

We will be asking the children to wash their hands or sanitise on entry into the school building and regularly during the school day. Your assistance in getting this message across to your child will support us greatly. We will also continue to push the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and have ensured an ample supply of soap, sanitizer and tissues. We will not request that children have clean clothes every day as we



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have done since reopening on the 1st June but we are asking that children are in school uniform including black school shoes.

There will be regular cleaning at both schools during the day. Doors and windows will be left open to aid ventilation but also to prevent the need to touch items and tables, toilets, door handles. We will not be taking pupil's temperatures on arrival in school as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus at this present moment. There is no need for pupils or staff to wear face masks (except for medical reasons). If pupils are wearing a mask for travelling, we will support them in how to remove and store these safely in their bag which is in line with government guidance although please be aware that this guidance changes frequently.

### UNIFORM

Our uniform is royal blue polo shirt, grey cardigan/sweater and grey trousers/skirt. Please ensure shoes are black and are not trainers. If you are going to struggle with the cost of uniform, please let us know as we can help you with this.

Your child will wear their PE kit on the days that they have PE (to be advised on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at the latest) Our PE uniform is blue t-shirt and black shorts with Royal blue hoody and a smart/warm second layer over their shorts for colder weather.

### BREAK AND LUNCH TIME

We will be returning to providing hot lunches at all three sites. In order to keep children in their bubbles there will need to be plans in place to stagger the lunch times and break times. In order to support the children, we will carry on providing fruit for all children for break times

### RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

We ask that the children limit the equipment they bring into schools and only bring in essentials: packed lunch, hat, coat, book and school book bag. Reading books will be sent home at least once a week, there will be a system in place where books are left in school for three days when returned from home. Please can reading records be completed at home by parents, we will keep a separate reading log at school to limit the handling of resources.

### START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We encourage all children and parents to walk to school if at all possible. Due to our numbers, as long as we all follow guidelines, we do not need to stagger the start and end times of the day at the present moment but that might need to change in the future. We will be sending specific details regarding entrances in advance of the start of term.

Please can we ask that if you are dropping off and picking up children you are mindful of others and you leave the premises as soon as is reasonably possible.

### SCHOOL BUSES

These children are not on a public bus so will not need to wear a face mask. However, we will group children together in their bubbles. We will keep these groups separate on the bus. On boarding and disembarking, children will use hand sanitizer and there will be additional cleaning of the areas often touched by others. Children lining up to get on the bus will be socially distanced in their bubbles.



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### ILLNESS

If your child has any symptoms of the virus, DO NOT send them into school. We understand that this is hard as moving into winter, a new persistent cough can be signs of a cold but we must all be careful in these strange times and we must look after every child and member of staff. We will isolate children who exhibit these signs and there is an expectation that you come and collect them from school immediately. We would recommend you book a test and isolate straight away, in line with government guidance. We have been informed that we will have a small number of home testing kits that we can give directly to parents who are picking up an unwell child and cannot easily access a testing site. If the test comes back negative and your child feels well enough, your child may return to school.

If any of school buildings have 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days or an overall rise in sickness absence where COVID-19 is suspected, this might be considered as an outbreak and we would need to work with our local health protection team with the view of possibly taking further action.

### CLASSROOMS

In line with government guidance, desks will be facing forwards. With younger children, sitting at desks is not appropriate. Staff will maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible, including face to face contact and we will encourage children to maintain distance from their peers as well. However, we appreciate that with some of our pupils, this will be more challenging.

### FEDERATION FRIDAYS

Sadly we will be unable to hold our very popular Federation Fridays as this would involve the mixing of bubbles. Once we are able to continue with these we will let you know.

### VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Visitors to the school will be limited to essential personnel although we are able to invite our sports club teachers and our music teacher back into school. They will ensure they also minimise contact and maintain distance as much as possible with staff and children. Parents are requested not to enter the school building. If you wish to discuss something with a teacher, please call the school and a socially distanced or virtual meeting appointment can be arranged.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We will not be returning to our clubs until week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September at the earliest. Further details of these will be provided once we are back in school and we are certain that we can run these with little risk to our pupils.

### CURRICULUM

We aim, as always, to offer a high quality education and will not be removing any subjects from the curriculum. It will be broad and balanced but we will use other foundation subjects to promote the skills of reading, writing and maths to prioritise and address significant gaps. We will be assessing all children within the first 4 weeks so that we can personalise any support required.

Outdoor sports will be prioritised but the hall will be used when required, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise.



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## WELLBEING

We understand that for some children returning to school will be hard. Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. We know that some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety. We will support children through circle time and PSHE.

Apologies for the length of this letter but we wanted to share with you all the changes we need to make to ensure every person who uses our school is safe. We reiterate once again that if you have questions, please email school and we will do our best to respond to any concerns that you may have. Further details to follow before Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Kind regards

Best wishes.

*E. Harrison*

*M Price*

E. Harrison and Maxine Price  
Co-Executive Head Teachers