



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

Date: 24.01.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted that;

'Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School continues to be a good school' as judged by a rigorous team of Ofsted inspectors.

We were also extremely pleased to be described as a 'Safe and happy school' where pupils know and use the RESPECT code. Good behaviour and keeping safe come across very clearly as a strength.

We realise that we cannot become complacent and now need to address the areas that Ofsted have highlighted as being our 'next steps'. We would like to share with you the journey that we need to take following the inspection.

READING

'Teachers expect pupils to work hard and try their best. Despite this, some younger pupils' reading skills are held back.'

We were already very aware of the need for a revised approach to reading and have indeed begun to make focused changes to address this, for example

- The work we have done in recent months on Phonics and reading were acknowledged in the inspection (**Phonic knowledge is quickly improving**) we will continue to focus on this.
- All staff are currently being trained by the 'Read, write Inc.' team with development days where they come to work with us. The next full day of training will purely focus on reading.
- We have recently had a cull of old reading books/resources and have heavily invested in new reading books linked to the Read Write Inc. scheme of work.

MATHS

'Pupils' basic skills in mathematics are learned well. However, pupils do not develop a deep knowledge of key concepts.'

Our work in this area is planned very well but we need to look at building pupils' knowledge systematically and also identify key concepts of each subject. Our math's leader will be providing staff training, looking at how displays and more widespread provision of open-ended problem-solving tasks can support pupils' understanding of key concepts.

The inspector also highlighted the need for work to be matched to the pupils' needs better. To meet this requirement, we will monitor the implementation of the White Rose planning and our math's leader together with other senior leaders will be looking at individual pupil needs and matching our provision to those needs. CPD meetings and classroom observations will be focused on this.

Foundation subjects (Geography, History, DT, ICT, Music, Art and MFL)

'The curriculum is not yet planned consistently well in subjects other than English and mathematics.'



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We have enjoyed a very broad curriculum based originally on the Chris Quigley model for a number of years and felt it gave our pupils a themed and coherent approach to their learning, making cross-curricular links to consolidate learning across the foundation subjects.

We accept there is a need to move towards a different structure to fine tune our delivery of the curriculum, focusing on key vocabulary and delivery of the curriculum to focus on key vocabulary and concepts, building on skills through each year group (as we do in English and math's). We have put in place a comprehensive action plan so that we as a team can develop a curriculum that delivers this and allows our pupils to acquire the skills and knowledge that they need for future learning. We look forward to sharing this development with you.

Yours sincerely,

E. Harrison

M. Price

Mrs Eleanor Harrison
Co- Executive Headteacher

Mrs Maxine Price
Interim Co- Executive Headteacher