



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear parents and friends,

Thank you to those of you who attended our joint parents' forum a couple of weeks ago. Please find responses below. The first column represents the minutes of the meeting and the second is our subsequent response.

Thank you for allowing me to attend the meeting on this occasion. I would always attend the forum by invitation in order to answer and questions or address any issues that parents raise, though on this occasion I invited myself in order that I could clarify an issue around Social Media. I think parents' valued my attendance on this occasion because I stayed for the meeting and was able to contribute to much of it.

It would be great if more parents were able to come along to these meetings to share their views; the bigger sample of views we can gather, the better informed we are to respond to the issues you raise.

Thank you to Kelly Boulton for taking minutes (left hand column), and to Cathy Bergs for chairing the meeting.

Kind Regards,

Charlotte Harper

The BAWB Parent Forum Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019, Bainbridge Primary School	
Issues / Points Raised During Meeting - PQ = Parent Question	School's Response / Outcomes
<b>Federation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro from C Harper – Apologies for attending the meeting – wanted to offer update on social media position.</li> <li>• 1 family coming from Catterick to visit West Burton (potential starter)</li> <li>• Advertising banners discussed</li> <li>• Bainbridge pupil numbers high – resolving number with NYCC - internal numbers all positive</li> <li>• Children enjoying Federation Friday (and magic tricks from Mr Scrafton)!</li> <li>• Great feedback from happy children – sad to see Mrs Robinson leave West Burton</li> <li>• New teachers welcome and well-received by pupils and parents</li> <li>• Reception numbers due to rise and nursery numbers in January and after Easter.</li> <li>• Homework club – how much children valued homework club – lunch time was run by Miss Collins – Spoken to staff it will continue again on a Thursday all KS2 at Askrigg – Miss Collins is looking at time in WB to do the same.</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Pupil Numbers...</b></u>  <i>...are growing which is great! As 'Robins' class grow after Christmas and again after Easter (nursery intake), the staffing level will ALWAYS be re-visited in order that we meet our ratio requirements as an absolute minimum.</i></p> <p><u><b>New Staff</b></u>  <i>Great to hear positive feedback from all stakeholders about our new members of staff. We echo these sentiments in school are feel very privileged to welcome Mr Scrafton and Mr Greenway.</i></p> <p><u><b>Homework Club...</b></u>  <i>...should now be in place in both Askrigg and West Burton.</i></p>

### **Celebration Assembly**

**PQ:** Timings for assembly: can they be changed as they were easier on a morning for people working? All discussed – difficulties getting to assembly and then to songbirds (from Askrigg).

**CH:** gave background for the reason it was changed – needs to be the same in all locations as Federation Friday – at the last parent feedback session – wanted it at the end of the day – on balance decision – we will include again in the parent survey – **CH** would like to ask the question to everyone.

*Thank you for all your feedback about celebration assemblies. You will have seen numerous pieces of communication about this over the last couple of weeks and a survey has been released today which asks about the timing of these.*

*Whatever the outcome of this survey question, parents should be mindful that celebration assemblies do need to held at the same time in each school on account of the transport associated with Federation Fridays.*

### **Askrigg Fence**

Askrigg Fence – update from **CH** – gave history community objections – small working party. New fence: east is green fencing – then stock fencing on south side (will be planted with a hedge so over time you won't see a fence you will see a hedge).

Combination locks – so we can lock when school is in session. Grounds to be open on a weekend for public – it was a compromise on where to locate the fence.

**MM** - public playing fields (need to be accessible) – children were upset – but are now OK.

**GA** - Site workers were rude to some parents.

*Thank you for all your patience while the fence consultation has been ongoing. The trees (for planting along the south side of the fence) will be arriving mid-November and a project is underway to organise community planting.*

*The padlocks are installed now but the access gates (east and west) will be unlocked overnight and at weekends. Please let us know of any issues around access as we embed our systems for the new security.*

*At the moment, the main single gate into the car park (east side) will be unlocked during the day so that visitors can get to the school office, though it will be locked during playtimes when our children are outside.*

### **PTFA**

BAWB PTFA raring to go! – can CH organise an initial meeting in the evening to see if anyone interested and to get it started - what times to catch people – avoid Wednesday – venue?

Aysgarth falls hotel ?– ASAP please as diary entries are coming up and things are getting booked up. People are getting booked up elsewhere.

Kate will put something on PTFA Facebook page.

**PQ** – PTFA fundraising ideas: summer picnic around one of the rivers  
Nice walks around the falls  
Domino drive

*The inaugural meeting of the new PTFA has been scheduled for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October (next week) at Aysgarth Falls Hotel.*

*PLEASE do come along if only to find out a little bit more about what the new PTFA will look like. If you come along, you are not committing yourself to anything long-term! This is an information session.*

<p><b><u>Pencil Cases</u></b></p> <p><b>PQ:</b> Pencil cases – just to ask on behalf of parents – why the ban?</p> <p><b>CH:</b> Inconsistencies with pencil cases across the federation, especially on Federation Fridays – amount of time on arguments and is it fair - they've got a pencil case and we don't - so decided to make a decision across the federation which was consistent</p> <p>Children don't need to bring in pencil cases. We provide all the stationery for them. Children do not need to bring any stationery to school.</p> <p>Fountain pens – Ink? Why child can't children use ink pen anymore? Some parents were thankful not to have the ink-leaks to deal with any more.</p>	<p><i>We hope these 'teething problems' have settled now and that children are comfortable with the consistent approaches that are in place. Certainly we have had no incidents / arguments in school on account of unfairness or inconsistency.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Residential Trips</u></b></p> <p><b>PQ -</b> Trips this year – could we have some notice so to start saving – could we pay weekly or monthly on parent pay – put letters in school bags</p>	<p><i>Yes, we are working on this and will have some costings and more information to you before Christmas.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Other</u></b></p> <p>Sports day equipment audit is on the action plan.</p> <p>Agricultural grant for the outdoor - £2k AC to explore.</p>	<p><i>Mr Stokes is auditing equipment with a view to us updating our current stock. This will also include daytime equipment in all three schools.</i></p>

Issues / Points Raised During Meeting	School's Response / Outcomes
<b>Communication</b>	
<p><b><u>Social Media</u></b></p> <p><b>CH</b> passionate - wanted to explain why we would not engage with Facebook – fully understands need to engage digitally – safeguarding – Facebook is a public forum of which we have no control – you can block contributors but that's too late – can have a closed group- but there are better solutions out there – implications too significant.</p> <p>Creating a digital footprint for your child's future without full control and without their consent – is that safe/ethical?</p> <p>All agreed FB is not the right platform.</p> <p>PTFA have Facebook closed group and it does work well – no photos – only PTFA – more used for fundraising.</p> <p><b>CH:</b> we are exploring an App called Parent Hub – we are awaiting the demo and will take a look – <b>CH</b> gave difference examples of how we could use this safely and effectively</p>	<p><b><u>Our social media position:</u></b></p> <p><i>It is more than likely that you have noticed some considerable tightening of our systems for communication this year. This has been in order to address updated safeguarding and GDPR (data protection) legislation and guidance. We have a greater responsibility to be mindful of how to use the contact details we hold for you, and to what extent we are able to distribute 'appropriate' information widely. I am aware that this has resulted in a slower flow of texting in particular and this has been missed by some parents. I am also aware that we need to engage with digital media to meet the contemporary demands for instant and regular information sharing. We are therefore exploring a parent-share app for launch in September!</i></p> <p><i>Although the carefully managed use of Facebook (closed groups only) might be appropriate for (e.g.) PTFA notifications, school will not be using Facebook as its platform for sharing information because there are bespoke apps out there which can do a better, more professional job. In addition, because of our</i></p>

<p><b>Parent</b> - Secondary school use Go4schools – example given of how it is used - reports are on there Parents want instant and electronic please</p> <p><b>DB</b> - Electronic mail we had many – sometimes x three text messages – level of communication has reduced.</p> <p>Mindful of what parents have actually signed to receive from a GDPR perspective – general notices should go in newsletter.</p>	<p><i>safeguarding obligations and our social responsibilities, the BAWB Federation will not use Facebook (or other social media) with public interaction functionality over which we have no control. We aim for best practice around safeguarding and data protection: the “other schools use Facebook” argument is not robust enough to satisfy us that we are meeting our duty to protect and safeguard our young people and our staff. Many schools do not use social media for these reasons. Facebook is not covered under UK law. Watch this space as we explore a number of different options for a parent-liaison app.</i></p> <p><i>We have also tried to improve emailing and texting frequency lately, though we are also conscious not to bombard you.</i></p>
<p><b>Marketing and Public Perception</b></p> <p><b>KB</b> - Good news – promotional material is getting put out there – mindful we now need more photos with our stories – designated school staff will be taking more photos from all sites as they are based throughout federation.</p> <p><b>AC</b> - Key words and keeping up to date – google search engine – negative press – old school website – it is still an issue – duplicate false website – photographs. Mr Stokes new role discussed – all positive and will assist naturally with marketing.</p>	<p><i>Thank you to all those who are spreading a positive message about our schools.</i></p> <p><i>Word of mouth is the strongest form of good publicity for a school and we welcome a positive message being spread.</i></p>
<p><b>PQ</b> - Biking UCI is going through Carperby on the Thursday or Friday on or around the 26<sup>th</sup> – Can the school attend as would be a lovely experience for the children?</p>	<p><i>We hope that children and their families enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the community celebrations!</i></p>
<p><b>PQ</b> - Can we have sports day a little earlier next year please?</p>	<p><i>Dates will be set later in the year and we will bear this request in mind.</i></p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting: TBC</b></p>	