



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

Planning for the Future: An Update

Friday 30th September 2016

Dear Parents and friends,

Following the decision to maintain our current teaching structure until December 2016, we are writing to update you on our current position.

Since the open forum held in June last year, the Governing Board and myself have been liaising regularly with our Local Authority's Strategic Planning Department, Financial Management Services, School Improvement Advisers, and the Diocese. We have been exploring carefully a number of different options for the future of our schools to address the financial deficit which we shared with you at the June forum. It is always our intention to provide the best quality education we can for our pupils within the financial limitations and considerable challenges we face as very small, rural schools.

We have carefully costed and explored a number of options including the initial proposal to teach all of our KS2 children at Askrigg and all of the suggestions made by parents and community members in any correspondence before and after the June forum.

You will appreciate that we need to consider carefully a number of scenarios and try to anticipate risks associated with any change in order to ensure that we arrive at a sustainable solution. For this reason we have decided (in agreement with the Local Authority) to maintain the current structure for this school year as we continue to work through our options: the children of Bainbridge and Askrigg will continue to be taught across two sites and the children of West Burton will be taught in two classes at West Burton. This will continue to increase our financial deficit which the authority has temporarily approved on the understanding that we are working towards a sustainable solution.

You will be aware that Miss Taylor is leaving us at October half-term and I am very pleased to say that Mrs Sheila Cannon has agreed to teach her class until Christmas. Therefore, we will be recruiting two teachers at West Burton for a January start and will keep you informed on the outcome of this process. Mrs Eastwood will teach Mrs Harrison's class on Thursday mornings and Miss Collins will take over the teaching of French on Thursday afternoons at Askrigg. All other arrangements will remain as they are. As always, we will continue to keep you regularly updated and will schedule an open meeting as and when appropriate.

Can I please remind you all that our regular parents' forum will be held at West Burton School at 7:00pm on Tuesday 4th October (agenda to follow).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me in the usual way or contact our new co-chairs of The Governing Board:

Derek Walpole: derek.walpole@b-a-wb.co.uk

Georgina Pickard-Sparne: georgina.pickard@b-a-wb.co.uk

Your continued support is much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Harper

Executive Headteacher, on behalf of the BAWB Governing Board

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