



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

Friday 6th July 2017

Dear parents and friends,

Thank you to those of you who attended our joint parents' forum last week. I was present for the first section of the meeting (to outline the remit of the forum) so my responses form part of the minutes. Please find responses attached for the remainder of the meeting. Thank you.

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 Kath Alderson for taking minutes, and to Georgina Pickard-Sparne for chairing the meeting.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlotte Harper'.

Charlotte Harper

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The BAWB Parent Forum
Wednesday 28th June 2017, Askrigg Primary School

Issues / Points Raised	School's Response / Outcomes
Determining the agenda and the remit of the group	
Miss Harper shared the Parent Forum Constitution and explained about the Forum's inception. The remit of the Forum was discussed.	
The generic format of the agenda was discussed; and the fact that parents weren't always certain which item to raise issues under. It was suggested that the agenda was deliberately generic as parents are encouraged to determine the content of the meetings.	The generic format of the agenda is also intended to provide some structure for the forum; it is not intended to limit the content of discussion. Any item may be sent to Mrs Alderson or the chair, prior to the meeting to be added to the agenda. This may prompt others to attend if they see something on the agenda which they would like to discuss.
Federation	
Moving up days had gone very well and generally children didn't want to move back to their year groups and classes.	Great feedback – thank you. As I write in the newsletter, I don't think I have ever seen such widespread confidence. Well done children!
Parents were very pleased that Mrs Johnston had been able to visit Bainbridge School for the move up days. Their children had been equally delighted to see her.	We are also very much looking forward to welcoming her back in September to share the class with Mrs Loughlin.
Communication	
The email problem at West Burton appears to have been resolved and parents are now receiving emails, and are able to open attachments.	Good – thank for alerting us to this issue.
Text service very useful to parents.	Great – we will keep using it.
Parents would appreciate a response to all emails.	If you have an email which requires a response and is not replied to within a reasonable timescale, please let us know as soon as possible. If emails do not require a response, we will endeavour to send a quick receipt acknowledgment (e.g. message received – thank you). If your email account allows it, putting a read-receipt on your email might be helpful.
If the office is unattended, please can an auto reply be added to emails.	I believe this has been actioned now.
Not all parents (West Burton specific) had been aware that Wigton Moor were visiting and that outdoor shoes and clothing had been required.	Apologies; this must have been an oversight.

Issues / Points Raised	School's Response / Outcomes
Any Other Business	
Children had enthused about the recent archaeology days.	They loved it. We were amazed how much they enjoyed the experience despite finding very little!
The fact that there was no West Burton parental representation on the Governing Board was raised. The Chair explained about the Governors' skills audit, the Governing Board membership and that all Governors worked with consideration for the best interests of all schools and communities. The subject of representation may be considered at the next Governors meeting.	I have chased this up with the local authority in order to provide a definitive response.
Disappointment was expressed that the Y5/6 children's mountain biking had been cancelled.	I understand; unfortunate circumstances which led to a difficult decision which I made for what I believe to be the right reasons.
The balance bike sessions at Bainbridge have been extremely beneficial and have given parents, as well as their children, useful tips and strategies to improve balance and confidence around cycling.	Excellent – the children have made remarkable progress and I have passed on your positive comments to Helen Pollard. Thank you.
It was felt that the recent rounders tournament could have been communicated earlier in the newsletter.	Recently we (cluster heads) have been working on the sports calendar for next year and have taken a very different approach this year to improve the quality of cluster competitive sport. This will include some smaller-scale inter-school competition. More info to follow, plus the sporting calendar a year in advance!
Parents felt the transport between Bainbridge and Askrigg is working well and appreciated that Nursery children were also able to use it. Mrs Alderson pointed out that availability of vacant seats dictated whether Nursery children were able to use the shuttle as priority was given to the older children.	We are currently looking at provision for next year and, on account of numbers, it may be that we are no longer able to offer transport for nursery children. We will be in a position to confirm this before the end of term. We apologise in advance if this is the case but nursery age children are not entitled to LA home-school transport and we are fortunate to have been able to provide it with the numbers we have had to date.