



The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation

7th April 2017

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems very little time since the momentous day in February when our four schools federated. Since that time, the schools have all been hives of activity with staff, children, parents and Governors all working hard in their different ways.

Establishing the Federation has enabled Governors to support the Executive Headteacher in appointing subject leaders across the schools so expertise, resources, planning and training can all be shared. We were also pleased to offer a 'Meet and Greet' session between parents and Governors.

We have established two Governor committees to plan for and monitor school improvement and resources, nominated Governors into specialised roles across the Federation e.g. Special Needs and Safeguarding and have established the role of link Governors to have specific responsibilities for each of the four schools.

We are working hard at becoming familiar with and monitoring the progress of pupils and the classroom experiences in all the schools; we have been able to share and cascade our training and expertise.

Teaching and non-teaching staff have worked together planning, resourcing, sharing, all of which impacts on the quality of education our children receive. They have worked hard to embrace the new challenges of the Federation and we thank them for that.

Parents Association and Friends of the four schools have continued to work tirelessly raising much needed funds to enhance the experiences our children. Coffee mornings, celebration assemblies pageants, mothers' day celebrations, sports tournaments have all been organized and/or supported by these groups.

As for the children.....they continue to work hard, behave well and be ambassadors for their schools. Nowhere was this more apparent than at recent celebrations and events across the schools where the children served drinks, entertained toddlers, presented Mothers with gifts and displayed the mature behaviour and attitudes of which we are all so proud.

We are awaiting details of the much discussed new Funding formula which will certainly impact on all our schools. Unfortunately we cannot predict what that impact will be as every 'ready-reckoner' available gives very variable information; we will have to wait until we have concrete figures from the County. In the meantime budgets remain a cause for concern and at present Governors are examining ways in which we can reduce our spending/increase our income without affecting the quality of what we provide. No mean feat!

I would however like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you give to all four schools and wish you and your families a very happy Easter holiday. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

All best wishes

Anne Vetch

Chair of Governors UWPF