



Dear Families,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the announcement of the temporary suspension of teaching at West Burton. We very much appreciate the understanding and support you have shown for this difficult decision.

The Governing Board and I have read your questions and comments, and our responses to those questions can be found below. As always, please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to discuss anything further.

Best wishes,

*Sue Ryding*

Sue Ryding  
Chair of Governors

*V Collins*

Vicky Collins  
Executive Headteacher

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**Q: What would the purpose of the building at West Burton be if teaching is suspended temporarily?**

A: The West Burton site will continue to be maintained by the BAWB Federation. Mrs Chapman will continue to be the caretaker at the site. The governors are currently discussing possible uses for the site during the suspension period.

A shuttle bus organised by the federation will collect and drop off the West Burton registered children at the site each day. Staff from the federation will be present at those times to welcome those children to school and to see them safely off to their parents or onto home-school transport at the beginning and end of the day.

**Q: If WEST BURTON is my child's current home school, what will the new home school be? Will this affect County Transport as West Burton is our nearest school. Not a question, just a comment ... must have been a tough decision. Very sad but justifiable.**



A: West Burton will remain the 'home' school for children registered at West Burton. County transport will still be available, and the federation will still provide a shuttle from West Burton to the child's taught school. Thank you for your comment; you are right that it was a tough decision, but we know it is in the best interests of the children.

Q: I have asked these at the meeting but in case you need them written: our hope is for the staff and children that the classroom be teaching ready by September, is this feasible? Will the decking area be safe and sorted by then?

A: We will do everything possible to ensure the former SureStart centre is ready for September. However, it would be wrong to promise this, as we cannot foresee every potential problem. In the event that it is not ready in time, the current Askrigg school building has the capacity to take the additional 13 children next year.

Q: I just want to say thank you. I understand the desire to keep all schools open and that it is complex. But, as a parent of children who are actually best friends, I am delighted they will have the opportunity to be together at school. It has been difficult to see our children separated and I have been concerned about the unnecessary time my children have spent on buses every day and every week. The practicalities of multiple school sites for parents should also be taken into consideration though I appreciate they cannot be a priority. Ultimately, the children come first and more time together in a safe and happy school environment is a bonus. Thank you.

A: Thank you very much for this comment. We also felt that this change would lead to improved educational and social experiences for the children.

Q: Will West Burton still operate as a home school? If not, then who is responsible for taking the children from West Burton to Askrigg? And where will these children have celebration assembly? My children were very concerned about Mrs Chapman's position. Are supplementary West Burton staff being kept on at the other schools? Or does this decision involve job losses? My children had both expressed to us that their preference would be to be taught at West Burton because they consider Askrigg to be too big and noisy. Please consider how to accommodate quiet and calm in a much busier environment, for those children who prefer it.

A: Yes, West Burton will still be the 'home' school and the federation will continue to provide a shuttle for West Burton registered children.



We worked very hard to persuade Mrs Chapman to join us as an additional cook at Askrigg but, in the end, she has chosen to not to do this (please see the announcement in the Newsflash). She will remain as a caretaker of the West Burton site.

This temporary decision does not involve job losses.

We have several quiet areas at Askrigg, such as The Haven, where children can go if they are finding other parts of the school too busy. I would always encourage a quiet, working atmosphere in classrooms. Lunchtimes at Askrigg will be staggered to ensure the dining hall does not get too overcrowded.

**Q:** I personally, think the changes that you are proposing are a brilliant idea, and should have been done a few years ago. The changes are going to make life easier for a lot of people including your staff, and I think that can only be a good thing. The juggling of all the transport just seemed like a complete nightmare to me!!! Well done everyone and wishing you all the best for the remainder of the school year and a very exciting 2024/2025 academic year. I look forward to seeing a flourishing and busy Askrigg School.

**A:** Thank you very much for this positive comment, we really appreciate the good wishes.

**Q:** It would be really nice if this presentation and the opportunity for questions with governors and teachers is shared with the children - will this be happening? Will work to kitchen and children's centre be completed by September? Are we losing a teacher? Currently Mrs Hodgson covers Ms Collins but Mrs Hodgson is not factored in new teaching arrangements? Will the years 5&6 children get opportunity to look around the children's centre? "

**A:** The presentation that was sent out to parents was adapted and shared with pupils at all three schools at the end of last term. We included some photos of the new classrooms in the former SureStart Centre, which the children were excited to see. They asked the staff lots of interesting questions.

We will do our best to complete the work to the former SureStart Centre by September, but Askrigg has the capacity to take the additional 13 children next year even if the extra classrooms are not ready in time. We are discussing any changes to the kitchens that will be needed with County Caterers and they will be done before September.

Pupil numbers mean that we will only have six classes next year, rather than seven. Mrs Hodgson has worked with our schools for a long time, covering maternity leave, covering for Ms Collins and in various other ways. She is a wonderful teacher, and we very much hope she will continue to help us in the future.

**Q:** Will children with additional needs still have access to the day haven if in year 6?



**The BAWB Federation**

**Bainbridge, Askrigg, and West Burton Primary Schools**

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**Executive Headteacher: Ms Vicky Collins**

**A:** Absolutely. We realise what an important area this is for our children. We will also look at creating some quiet areas within the former SureStart building.

**Q:** Not a question but just wanted to say I think this is great news (maybe a little sad for some) but for the pupils it is going to be much better than sitting on a bus for lengths of time each day. Not before time in my opinion. You've probably not worked out all the finer details but will children still attend assembly in their home schools?

**A:** We propose to change the way we do Celebration Assembly. Instead of having a Celebration Assembly every week, we will have two every half term; one for EYFS and Year 1 children at Bainbridge and one for Year 2 to Year 6 at Askrigg. These will take place at separate times so parents are able to attend both if they have children at both sites. It will also be possible for parents to collect a sibling from his or her taught school in order for take them to the other school to watch their brother or sister's Celebration Assembly. We are still in the early stages of planning this so we would welcome your thoughts.