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8th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We trust that everyone had a good half term break and hope that the new half term has gotten off to a good start.

I am just writing to update you on the collaboration between Bamford and Grindleford primary schools. As a school I think we are in an incredibly lucky position to have had this opportunity to collaborate with Grindleford primary school. We are already seeing the benefits in terms of opportunities to develop staff, resources and increased support for our pupils in class. The staff are also enjoying the opportunity to have professional discussions about how they teach and the curriculum they deliver. Initially this was a short term measure, which was formalised in November, whilst the possibility of forming a federation between the two schools was considered.

A federation is defined in law as two or more maintained schools operating under the governance of a single governing body. Each federated school is however still treated as an individual school, indeed one of the main reasons a federation is being explored is to ensure that the individual character of each of the schools can be maintained into the future.

A federation is not the same as joining a multi-academy trust as both schools would remain under local authority control, as they are now.

If Grindleford and Bamford schools federate the pupils will probably not notice any difference - they will still attend the same school as now with the same name and ethos. That said both governing bodies believe that there are real benefits for both schools if we federate although, the pupils are unlikely to notice the change.



The governors of both schools have considered and approved an outline proposal to federate the two schools. This decision does not make federation inevitable, but it gives the permission to progress to the next stages in the process.

The next stage of the process is for us to consult with all stakeholders on our proposal, the proposal will be sent out and then there will be a six week consultation before a decision is made. There will be opportunities for all stakeholders to meet with the Governors and ask questions to ensure people feel confident in this decision and its implications for the two schools.

We understand, and hope that, there will be questions and opinions about the proposed federation, and look forward to hearing these during the consultation.

We thank Mrs Gemmell and the staff at both schools for making the formal collaboration the success it is and look forward to your involvement in the federation consultation.

Kind regards,

Christina Webster

Chair of Governors

Bamford Primary School

