



Consultation on Proposed Federation of Butterknowle, Frosterley and Woodland Primary Schools

Friday, 7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

For the past 5 years Frosterley and Woodland Primary Schools have been working in a Shared Headship arrangement, 3 years ago Butterknowle Primary School joined the collaboration, which has evolved to become much more than sharing a Headteacher. These arrangements have worked to the benefit of the children, staff and governing bodies. They have ensured that each school remains viable and able to set a balanced budget. There have been numerous benefits in curriculum provision and staff development from the existing cooperation between the schools. But the existing arrangements have to be renewed annually. The governing bodies of the three schools would like to make the arrangements permanent and utilise the additional benefits of the Federation to further improve the educational opportunities for all the pupils in Butterknowle, Frosterley and Woodland Primary Schools.

We would welcome your views on the proposals and have arranged a series of meetings for you to find out more.

Timeline of Key Events

Key Step	Date
Formal Consultation Proposal circulated to all stakeholders	Week commencing Friday, 7 th January 2022
Staff Meetings	Thursday, 13 th January for all schools Butterknowle PS 9.30 -10.30am Woodland PS 11.00am – 12 noon Frosterley PS 1.15 – 2.15pm
Parent Meetings Drop-ins to be held in local village halls to meet current Covid regulations.	Butterknowle PS Monday 10 January 4-5pm Woodland PS Wednesday 12 January 4-5pm Frosterley PS Friday 14 January 4-5pm
Consultation Ends	Friday, 18 th February

Joint Meeting of Governing Bodies to consider consultation responses. Following this meeting, individual governing bodies to meet separately to vote on Proposed Federation.	Thursday, 3 rd March
Proposed Date for Federation	Monday, 25 th April

For further information and frequently asked questions, please find the enclosed document produced by the governing bodies of the three schools for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Tennick, Judith Bainbridge, Celia Dixon

Chairs of Governors