

Kettlewell School - Future Plans

As I'm sure you are all aware from the media, small rural schools are facing ever- increasing financial challenges. Kettlewell Primary School and Upper Wharfedale School are no exception. The Federation between the two has been highly successful with both schools achieving Good Ofsted outcomes and with pupil numbers increasing.

At the time of our Federation, careful financial management enabled both schools to maintain efficiency without compromising standards. Recent government announcements and changes in funding arrangements mean that all schools now need to explore ways of working together in larger collaborations, whether as Multi Academy Trusts or within the Local Authority.

It is with regret that the Governing Body has made the decision that the formal partnership between Upper Wharfedale School and Kettlewell Primary School will end on 1st September 2016 to allow for these larger and more financially sustainable partnerships to be explored. I must emphasise that this is for sustainability reasons and not due to educational or leadership issues. Despite being a single Governing Body we have acted in the best interests of both schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Taylor and all the Senior Leadership Team of the Federation for the unstinting support they have given to Kettlewell Primary School and all the improvements they have facilitated.

Partnership is definitely the way forward and it is for this reason that Kettlewell will, from September, be working in partnership with Burnsall, Cracoe and Grassington Schools under the executive Headship of Julie Morton-Lee. This will also enable Upper Wharfedale to continue discussions with other secondary providers.

We will hold a meeting or series of meetings as and when we will be able to give you more details. Rest assured that the Governing Body have and always will have the best interests of the pupils, staff and the community at its heart.

Anne Vetch
Chair of Governors Kettlewell Primary School

Thank You

As many of you will be aware, after an amazing three years as Headteacher of Kettlewell Primary School, September will see a new challenge and an exciting opportunity for both Upper Wharfedale and Kettlewell. It has been a privilege to be part of such a vibrant and purposeful community. All those involved in the school work tirelessly to ensure that we offer the very best for our pupils and I am extremely proud of all their achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the school well in its future planning to develop its collaboration with Cracoe, Burnsall and Grassington Schools. This partnership will undoubtedly bring about many opportunities for children, parents, staff, governors and friends of the schools to work together to benefit the whole community. These are extremely difficult financial times, yet I have every confidence in the governors who are doing everything in their power not only to sustain, but to further improve rural education in the area.

I extend my best wishes to your new Headteacher, Julie Morton-Lee. I am sure you will support her and all the staff team as they create new exciting opportunities for the children. Once again, my deepest thanks to all those who have made my time at Kettlewell so rewarding. I very much hope to be working with you again in the future.

Andrew Taylor