

MELSONBY METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Letter to Parents and Carers

As you may know we have been sharing our Headteacher Mr Watson with North and South Cowton Community Primary School since last September and this has enabled the two schools to work together in a number of productive ways, and has also allowed Melsonby to employ two full-time class teachers during his shared time absence. Governors from both Schools have meanwhile been in discussions regarding potential beneficial development of this relationship and are now proposing that the two schools federate to provide a more formal base from which we can jointly face any future challenges. The context of a potential federation is as set out in the attached document which is also available on the school's website.

As Head of the proposed Federation Mr Watson would continue his oversight of both schools in the same way as he does now, with a single Governing Body taking responsibility for the federated schools.

As well as giving the present staffing structure more stability, federation would also allow staff and governors to plan future educational and social events for the children of both schools in a collaborative context. Our aim would be to keep the small rural school feel and individual identities that are special to both schools, but to add to it a larger pool of teaching skills plus educational and social opportunities.

Governors have spent significant time investigating federation including researching the experience of newly-federated schools and we are now asking you, as parents and carers, together with the rest of the community to give your views on the federation proposal as an integral element of a six-week consultation period when everyone associated with the school can register their opinions. A questionnaire is attached for this purpose. Additionally you are invited to a meeting at Melsonby Methodist Primary School on Thursday 10th of May at 6.00pm where Governors and a Local Authority representative will receive your views and answer questions. All views and information gathered here and over the six week consultation period will be used to inform a decision by both Governing Boards independently to make the final decision to federate or not. Governors of North and South Cowton Community School are following a parallel consultation process.

We have an exciting time ahead. Rest assured that the governors will work to safeguard the special individuality of our precious small school whether it is part of a federation or not. We wish you all well and thank you for your continued proactive support of the school, and look forward to hearing your opinions on this very important issue.

Yours faithfully

Governors of Melsonby Methodist Primary School.

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