



24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Consultation on opening a governor-led nursery provision at Grassington CE (VC) Primary School:- The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation Pre-School**

Our current situation:

Grassington CE (VC) Primary School currently provides education for children aged between 4 and 11 and is one of the four local schools which form The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation. These schools have all been rated Good by Ofsted and, besides Grassington, the Federation also comprises: Burnsall VA Primary, Cracoe and Rylstone CE Primary and Kettlewell Primary. Each of the schools have a long history of providing education in the communities in which they are located and offer a variety of additional strengths and benefits as a Federation. Each has its own unique identity and the provision we offer in each of our schools is one that is nurturing, holistic and a family environment within which children flourish.

Due to the recent closure of our local pre-school provision in Grassington and the results from a recent parental survey, we would like to offer our own pre-school provision at Grassington Primary for 3 and 4 year olds.

We have strong links with the community and with the local independent nursery at Burnsall – Hebden Lodge. The pre-school children from Hebden Lodge already attend our weekly Burnsall Beehives group at Burnsall Primary and other events throughout the year. Hebden Lodge at Burnsall would continue to have strong links with our schools and run as normal offering childcare from birth to 4 years old.

Our proposal

We are proposing to offer a pre-school provision at Grassington Primary in what used to be the children's centre. The pre-school provision would be known as UWPF Pre-school and the children would remain in a separate space to the school children during the school day. The unit will be led by a qualified teacher and staff who have experience in the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Our pre-school would run from 7.45 to 6pm to help and support working parents.

The outdoor space for Class 1 would be shared with the pre-school children. The indoor space would be resourced to allow continuous provision for 3-4 year olds in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The space has its own kitchenette for staff to prepare snacks and has storage for food and drinks. There are Early Years toilets inside the provision which would be solely used by the children attending pre-school. We also have a secure outdoor space that

will be renovated over the summer holidays in line with the plans already set out for Grassington Primary school pupils.

The benefits

- The unit will run as a pre-school unit. This means that the entire unit will be organised, managed and arranged to specifically benefit the children's age group.
- The statutory curriculum for children aged 3 and 4 is interlinked and the whole provision can be designed to meet their particular needs, extending their learning and providing a solid foundation for the rest of their education.
- The children who access the Early Years Foundation Unit will have a smoother transition into one of the four primary schools in our federation. Pupils in reception come together once a week to support their learning in wider groups.
- It will support the parents of pre-school age children in the area.
- It will support working parents as the pre-school would run from 7:45 to 6pm.
- Small class size allows us to provide individualised support for all the children's social, emotional, spiritual and academic development within a caring, nurturing setting led by specialist staff.
- The unit will be led by a qualified teacher who has experience in the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The separation of the pre-school from the children who start school as reception means that children in reception are exposed to the curriculum offered to our older children (Year 1 and Year 2) which has shown to have a positive impact on children settling into school life and progressing well.
- It would provide opportunity for children to attend provision on the same site as their older siblings.

**In order for us to go ahead with our planned provision we need to know the numbers and sessions required by parents. We have included a booking form and we ask that parents complete this indicating their preferences. This form needs to be returned to [admin@grassington.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@grassington.n-yorks.sch.uk) as soon as possible and before Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.**

#### **How do I make my views known?**

The views of parents and other interested members of the community are very important to us. You can send your comments by email to [cofg@uwpf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:cofg@uwpf.n-yorks.sch.uk) or by letter to **Grassington CE Primary school. Comments should be returned by 9am on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**

If you have any further queries, these should be addressed to Mrs Ella Besharati and Mrs Christine Boxall, Executive Headteachers.

#### **Questions and Answers**

##### **Why are the governors making these proposals?**

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday until compulsory school age. This has become 30 hours of care for eligible working parents. This free entitlement

can be taken in a maintained school nursery, a 'foundation stage' class and/or in an Ofsted registered private and voluntary sector setting. It is parental choice as to which type of provision is most appropriate for their child and most convenient for individual circumstances.

### **What would Pre-school unit look like?**

There would be high quality play-based provision including role play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, woodwork and outside play provision. The children will free flow between areas, including outside, offering them a choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. They will be supported by knowledgeable and appropriately trained staff including a fully qualified teacher. The unit will be housed in what used to be the children's centre (next to Class 1 classroom).

### **How many places will be offered?**

The proposed Pre-School Unit will provide up to 10 places, depending on availability. This would offer provision for the funded places entitled to each child aged 3 and 4. Additional sessions could also be purchased if required. Places will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

### **Which children would be eligible for a place?**

Priority of admission to the Pre-School Unit will be determined and managed by the federation business manager. Parents should be aware that having a pupil in the pre-school unit would not guarantee them a place in reception at Grassington CE Primary – applications would still be dealt with according to NYCC's admissions policy.

### **How will the new EYFS Unit class affect other providers?**

The Dales Playgroup in Grassington has recently closed. Our Federation has strong links with the other independent provider (Hebden Lodge) and have involved them in this process. The expectation is that the school consults North Yorkshire providers within a five mile radius, of which there are two.

### **What will happen next?**

This is the first step of the consultation. Comments on this consultation will be considered by the Governing Body who will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal.

### **If these proposals go ahead, when will the new class open?**

It is proposed that the first pre-school children will join UWPF Pre-school at Grassington in September 2020.