



Stillington Community Primary School
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am absolutely delighted to be able to tell you that, following discussions with the Local Authority (NYCC) and Kevin Hollinrake MP, the Regional Schools' Commissioner has confirmed that she will not press for the school's closure. It has been agreed that NYCC should pursue the action it feels best to improve the school at this time.

As you know, Foston and Terrington's leadership are currently providing school-to-school support for Stillington; the effectiveness and positive impact of this joint working has already been recognised during the HMI monitoring visit, along with the potential for more rapid improvement as the partnership progresses.

NYCC have agreed that the best action to improve the school at the current time is to continue to develop the partnership with Foston and Terrington Federation, starting with formal collaboration.

Foston and Terrington Governing Board have now approved the move forward to formal collaboration with Stillington School from September 2020, with a view to consulting on federation in the future. This course of action is backed by the Local Authority: "NYCC, working in partnership with the Diocese of York, support the emerging partnership between the three schools and welcome the decision by the Foston and Terrington Governing Board to move to collaboration. We hope the plans that are being developed can continue to positively benefit the sustainability of Stillington School."

From September, leadership of the three schools will be shared; the Headteacher will be Mrs Sarah Moore, with Miss Katie Stringer as Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Moore commented, "This is an exciting development for all three schools. We look forward to continuing with Stillington on its journey and are pleased that a valuable rural school will not be lost to its community."

Although I know that many parents have already met Mrs Moore, we will ensure there are opportunities after Easter to meet and discuss plans for the collaboration going forward. In the meantime, the leadership and Governing Boards of both schools will continue to work together to bring about the changes necessary for the future of education in Stillington to be put on a more secure footing.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive THANK YOU for your support and patience during what has been an exceptionally challenging time for everyone involved with the school.

Please look after yourselves, your families, friends and neighbours; and we hope to see you all safely back in school very soon.

Kindest Regards,
Corinne Cross
Chair of Governors