



30 January 2017

Dear Parents /Carers

For some time, Banks Road Infant and Nursery School and William Lilley Infant and Nursery School have engaged in informal partnership, working to provide quality education, ensuring our children receive the best possible teaching and learning opportunities. The governing bodies and staff teams believe that a formal collaboration would effectively strengthen the arrangement still further, safeguarding the continuing benefits across our schools and is the key to future sustainability.

Our schools currently have a strong ethos of care, good behaviour and hard work. The strong ethos and deep sense of community that exists within each of our schools are all the things that we wish to maintain, encourage and develop further, building on existing successes.

#### **What is a collaboration?**

A collaboration is where two or more schools work very closely together, maintaining their own governing bodies, with each school continuing to be led by its own head teacher. Each school remains legally separate and parents/carers should see no change e.g. the school uniform remains the same. Collaboration is not a merger or a conversion to an academy; it represents a stable commitment to working in partnership to the benefit of children in both schools.

#### **Collaboration means that both schools:**

- continue to be registered separately with Ofsted, retain their existing judgements and continue to be maintained by the local authority
- continue to have their own separate budget
- have a joint collaboration committee composing of members of both governing bodies which will review progress against the aims and purposes of the collaboration
- will continue with the current admission arrangements which remain the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council

The schools will enter into the formal collaboration on 20 February 2017. By working collaboratively the two schools will be able to develop consistent educational approaches and share skills and expertise across the two school communities. We envisage that there will be significant improvements in both schools as a result of the collaboration.

#### **Why form a collaboration?**

We wish to continue to improve the education for children in our communities. We are aware of the changing educational landscape and the vulnerability of schools which operate as a single entity and recognise this model as mutually supportive. Collaboration has been fully discussed with governors and the local authority and we feel it is the best way to achieve our goals and secure a supportive future for both schools.

### **The benefits and opportunities of collaboration**

There are greatly improved opportunities for staff and children at each school to interact, learn from each other and share good practice.

### **For parents/carers and communities**

It strengthens the ability of our schools to develop and improve while maximising our ability to cope with changes in educational policy, enabling us to provide excellent education.

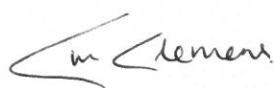
### **What are the aims and purpose of the collaboration?**

**The overriding objective of the formal collaboration is to improve pupil outcomes through:**

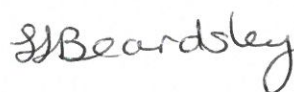
- demonstrating a commitment to a sustained partnership between the Schools, creating a secure foundation in order to maximise chances of successful future partnerships
- continually reviewing and demonstrating, in a clear and transparent manner, the ways in which the Schools are and will continue to work together
- enhancing teaching, learning and curriculum opportunities for children of both Schools to improve learning outcomes and wellbeing
- enhancing the skills of, and career opportunities for staff
- improving the ability to meet the complex needs of a wide range of children
- enabling a more effective deployment of resources – both staff and material – across both Schools in order to maximise opportunities for children and staff, through economies of scale
- strengthening the school links with the parent community across both Schools; to draw on the joint parent community for the good of both Schools; and to strengthen links with external parties
- validating teacher assessment and quality of provision at both Schools through joint evaluation and moderation exercises
- enabling greater problem solving opportunities through having a broader base of knowledge, experience and skills

This exciting opportunity will ensure that children in both Banks Road and William Lilley will continue to have improving, well-run schools that provide them with an excellent, well-rounded education, in partnership with parents and our local communities.

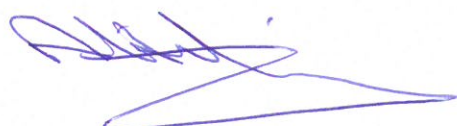
Yours sincerely,



Carole Clemens  
Head Teacher  
Bank Road Infant and Nursery School



Sally Beardsley  
Head Teacher  
William Lilley Infant and Nursery School



Andy Hitchcock  
Chair of Governors  
Bank Road Infant and Nursery School



Kevin Snow  
Chair of Governors  
William Lilley Infant and Nursery School