

Chief Executive Officer: **Helen Winn**

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10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Subject: Future of Baldersby St James Church of England Primary School**

Since the conversion of Baldersby St James Primary school on 1st September 2018 we have undertaken a significant amount of work and resources to make the school a vibrant and positive learning environment. Despite our efforts the number of pupils on roll has reduced.

The requirement to combine classes, due to the existing and projected low pupil numbers, continues to create a significant challenge in providing the ***breadth of educational experience*** that our pupils require and deserve.

As a Church of England school based in North Yorkshire, we have been in extensive discussions with both the Diocese of York and North Yorkshire County Council Officers to establish an ongoing solution for the school. We have comprehensively researched and considered all potential options available to support the continued operation of the school. As there is good quality faith and non-faith education in the local area with capacity this provides us with limited options.

In line with Department for Education guidance, we are commencing a **listening period** on **10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 until 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021** with a view to closing the school at the end of this academic year, **31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**. During this period, as our school is classed as a 'rural' school, the Local Authority Executive will consider their formal position regarding the proposed closure of the school. As part of this process NYCC will also consider which school(s) the Baldersby catchment area would transfer to, which has a bearing on home to school transport eligibility.

Once the proposed closure receives final approval from North Yorkshire County Council and the Secretary of State, we will work closely with families and the local authority to ensure that we provide essential support during this transition period.

We are committed to providing quality education to our students. This decision is one that has not been taken lightly.

The Trust thanks all parents/carers, staff and the local community for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,

**Helen Winn**

Chief Executive Officer | Hope Sentamu Learning Trust