



Arkengarthdale Church of England School

PRESS RELEASE

30th May 2019

Saturday 6th July - Save the date to celebrate 360 years of Arkengarthdale School



Arkengarthdale Church Of England School will offer a unique opportunity to celebrate 360 years of learning and its long-standing history as a hub of the community on Saturday 6th July.

An open invitation is offered to anyone with a connection, fondness or close affinity with the school to share memories and mark their part in the school's heritage. The event will be hosted at the school, between 1pm and 4pm, when visitors can browse old photographs and memorabilia, catch up with friends, soak up the special atmosphere of the school and enjoy a strawberry tea in a marquee on the playing field. What will draw everyone together is that they will be forever connected by the time they spent at Arkengarthdale School and being part of this very special family.

Over the years, many Arkengarthdale students have been born and bred in the dale, however others have come from different places and backgrounds. Going back to the war years, a large number of evacuees boosted the roll, from as far afield as Gateshead, Sunderland and Hartlepool. More recently, families have moved into the dale from across the UK and the aim is to reach out to as many ex-pupils as possible.

The school is calling out for memorabilia to create extensive displays for the event. Please email admin@arkengarthdale.n-yorks.sch.uk with any photographs or momentos, identifying names where possible. An acknowledgement will be sent, with an invitation to respond to some questions, to capture as many memories for the displays.

Comments Charles Cody, Chair of Governors: "Arkengarthdale School has an incredible legacy, faithfully serving the families of the dale and beyond, whilst being at the heart of our community for 360 years. There are so many stories to tell and memories to share. We look forward to welcoming and reuniting those with a love for the school and marking this landmark in the dale's history."

The project is being led by the school's governing body, with support from the Parish Council, Sports Association, Friends of the School and the Church. This will be a truly community-inspired event that will celebrate the legacy of 360 years of education, renew friendships and reflect on the positive and lasting impression the school has made on the Dale and its people. There is currently a consultation process that may lead to the closure of the school, on 31st August 2019, so the governors and community groups in the dale are keen to offer this opportunity to visit, for what could be the last time.

A facebook group, called 'Arkengarthdale C of E School - celebrating 360 years' has been created. Anyone with a connection with the School is invited to contribute and spread the word about the event as far as possible. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1186417878185158/> for further details.

Images: Arkengarthdale Church Of England School today (centre) and school photographs taken in 1918 (left) and 1940 (right).