



Wednesday 11 June

Re: School Beehive Project – Safety Information and Consent

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to share that our school beehive has now arrived and our first group of pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit the bees last week. This marks a significant milestone in a project that has involved months of planning, fundraising and preparation. We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved.

As with all school activities, the safety and wellbeing of our children remains our highest priority. We want to reassure you that thorough **risk assessments have been completed and are in place** for all visits to the beehive area. These assessments have been carefully developed in line with health and safety guidance and visits will always be supervised by our trained member of staff, Mr. Atkinson, who has worked tirelessly to ensure this project is a success.

In summary, this is what Mr Atkinson has had to do to get us to this point - firstly, he submitted a detailed application to the Bees for Schools charity – one of the largest organisations of its kind in the UK. Thanks to this, we were awarded a grant to purchase a hive, ten child-sized bee suits, two adult suits and a full set of beekeeping tools.

One of the key conditions of the grant was that we had to be supported by an experienced mentor. We are fortunate to have Mr J. Storey, Secretary of the Hexham Beekeepers' Association, supporting us. Mr Atkinson has undergone over a year of training at their apiary in Wylam and has built relationships with a network of experienced beekeepers. Several of these have visited Belsay to inspect our set-up and provide feedback, which we have acted upon.

We understand that some families may have specific medical concerns or personal preferences when it comes to beekeeping activities. While the risk of stings is minimal due to the protective clothing and professional handling of the bees, **Epipens will be held on site** as an added precaution and will **only be administered under the instruction of a medical professional** if ever required.

If you **do not wish for your child to participate** in visits to the beehive, we absolutely respect that choice and we ask that you complete this [Google form](#) by **Friday 20th June** to withdraw consent for your child to take part in beekeeping activities. This consent will apply for the duration of your child's time at Belsay unless you contact the school office to change your preference.

We are excited for the educational opportunities this project brings and are confident that it will offer valuable experiences in science, sustainability and caring for the natural world.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Shaw