



Mowbray Primary School
Stakeford Lane
Guide Post
Choppington
Northumberland
NE62 5HQ

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller

AM/LH

30 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Primary Support Base

You may recall before the Summer break, I informed you that Mowbray will become a Primary Support Base for Northumberland County Council. We will be supporting other primary schools with outreach work as well as work on site where we will welcome children and staff from other schools into our new specialised unit which is being led by Mrs Baldwin.

We had hoped that building work, all of which is funded by the Council, would have been completed over the Summer Holidays but unfortunately, for a number of reasons, this was not possible. The building works will begin over the next week or so with the aim of being finished for the base to open after half term.

We expect very little disruption within the building as all work will be done in a screened off area outside the two empty classrooms which will be converted. However, drainage for new toilets must be installed which will have an impact on the concrete yard area by the entrance from Stakeford Lane. As a result the builders will be fencing off an area between the Stakeford Lane entrance and the inner gates for the duration of their building work. There should be no disruption to drop offs or collections because of the fenced off area, nor will any work be undertaken at these times.

If you do experience any issues during the works please let us know so that it can be addressed.

Parental Feedback

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Parental Feedback questionnaire. We are really pleased that the feedback is so overwhelmingly positive. However, we also really appreciated the comments and areas we can improve upon; initial responses to which are below:

- **My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for their age.**
 - Responses were varied here despite around half of responses agreeing with the statement, we clearly have more work to do regarding homework. A further, more in-depth survey will follow about this area so we can gather your views.
- **The school provides a good range of out of school clubs.**
 - Like the question about homework, many families agree that we do offer a good range but over a third didn't. We again will ask opinions on what else we can offer as comments identify that most of our clubs are sports based.

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- **The school communicates effectively about my child's progress.**
 - Two thirds of responses agreed with the statement but one third of responses either had no opinion or disagreed indicating that we can do more to keep you informed.

Comments on school dinners

There is a 50/50 split on children taking school dinners. The comments were really helpful in identifying how we can improve and these will be looked at with the Governing Body and the Catering Team. The overwhelming issues identified are

- Lack of choice or poor choice
- Portion size too small
- Quality of food

There was also a high demand for a Direct Debit payment system and a method to preselect/order online from a range of menu choices. This will also be explored further.

- **Coming to school in PE kit and Forest School kit on days your child has PE or Forest School.**
 - In all, 96% of responses were in favour of this. From a school perspective this allows for more lesson time and less (far less) lost property. We do take on board the small number of comments about children potentially needing to change afterwards. Due to the overwhelming response to this question we will keep the system in place. However, if you feel you wish to send a change of clothes should your child need them, please feel free to do so.
- **Comments and suggestions about Wrap Around Care.**
 - This was overwhelmingly positive but the pricing structure was identified as being a block to many who may use it. I have asked our Business Manager to review this and to prepare a proposal for the Governing Body to look at reducing fees.
- **Should we bring in a One Stop App for school messaging, email, payments etc.**
 - This was 91% yes with a 9% not having an opinion. I have asked our Business Manager to continue to look at options for this.

All responses to the survey will be reviewed by our Governors. We really value your feedback – once again; thank you.

Yours sincerely

A. Miller

**Mr A Miller
Headteacher**