



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

**Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller**

AM/LH

23 June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing with information and arrangements for a number of events over the coming weeks.

### **Teaching Staff Changes**

The major piece of news in relation to staffing is that Mrs Dodds has made the decision to retire at the end of the academic year. Mrs Dodds is currently Year 3's class teacher and took on increased responsibilities this year as Deputy Headteacher. She works tirelessly for the school, children and families at Mowbray and has done for a number of years; not only at this school but at several other schools in Northumberland and further afield. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Dodds for everything she has done and we wish her well in her retirement. Mrs Dodds has shared her class with Miss Taylor on a part time basis this year.

It is with great pleasure that I can let you know that Miss Taylor will be joining the Mowbray team on a full time basis in light of Mrs Dodds' retirement.

Mrs Dodds' position as Deputy Headteacher has yet to be filled – I will write to you all to update you on this in the coming weeks.

### **September 2023**

In September, the classes will be allocated as follows:

Nursery – Miss Lisle

Reception – Miss Ewart

Year 1 (Beech) – Mrs Patterson

Year 2 (Elder) – Mrs Waters

Year 3 (Larch) – Miss Taylor

Year 4 (Holly) – Mrs Beattie

Year 5 (Mulberry) – Miss Curtis

Year 6 (Oak) – Miss Gibson ... *please note the change of name from Willow to Oak*

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🌐 [www.mowbrayprimary.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.mowbrayprimary.northumberland.sch.uk)



Mr Leslie's role in September will be changing due to a restructuring of how we deliver PE and Sport. Over the past 12 months, Mr Leslie has completed additional professional development to take on more sport and PE teaching across the whole school; this is move we have had to consider due to the massive financial pressures schools are facing at the current time. As such we will be buying in fewer sessions of sport and PE from external services over the next year. As a minimum, the children will all continue to have the same amount of sport and PE as they do now with the same level of quality of delivery. In addition, with our new minibuses, and Mr Leslie's new role, we are aiming to increase the amount of festivals and competitions that the children will be able access. We will still access Newcastle United Foundation, Bone Desert Cycling and Festivals and Competitions operated by The School Sports Partnership; there is just a reduction in how much these organisations will deliver within school; with the reduction in the offer being taken up by Mr Leslie.

### **Meet the Teacher**

As we think about moving up to next year, we have arranged a meet the teacher event for you to meet your child's new teacher for next year.

Meet the teacher events will operate slightly differently to last year. This year, parents / carers will go directly to their child's new class to meet the teacher and hear about the curriculum. The sessions will both be on **Thursday 13 July**. Two sessions have been made available – a morning session at 9:30am and an evening session at 5:30pm.

***\*\* Please note that these events are for new Reception children upwards. Children new to nursery are invited into the unit for separate events by Miss Lisle.***

Please remember that these sessions are for you to meet your child's new teacher in September and not their current teacher. The events are for parents only – the children will be spending time with their new teachers in their new classes on **Tuesday 4 July 2023**.

***\*\* Please note that Tuesday 4 July is transition day for Year 6 children attending the Bedlington Secondary Schools. As such they will not be at Mowbray on that day. Arrangements for the transition day should have come directly to parents / carers from the Secondary Schools; if you have not received this information, please contact your child's class teacher.***

### **Sports Day / Summer Fair**

As per the original diary dates, we are aiming to hold our Sports Day and Summer Fair on Friday 14 July – hopefully with better weather than we had last year! This will follow previous formats with Sports Day taking place in the morning and the PTA's Summer Fair in the afternoon. We would like to invite parents/carers into school for both events once again. Further information regarding timings will follow shortly.

### **Leaver's Assembly**

Parents / carers of children in Year 6 are invited into school for our Leaver's Assembly at 9am on Friday 21 July. As in all previous years, the assembly concludes Year 6's time at Mowbray and the children will leave with their parents / carers. Due to the hall capacity, we can only offer two places per child; further details about the assembly will come shortly as the children are writing individual invitations to their parents / carers.

## **School Reports**

Annual written reports issued via WEDUC this year. Please ensure you have updated school with any changes to contact information before Monday 11 July. If you are having any issues with WEDUC, please contact the main office.

The timetable for report publishing this year is as follows:

Monday 10 July – Nursery and Reception  
Tuesday 11 July – Beech and Elder  
Wednesday 12 July – Larch and Holly  
Thursday 13 July – Mulberry  
Friday 14 July – Maple and Willow

If you have not received your child's report by 3pm on the day outlined above, please contact the school office.

## **Seesaw**

Building on feedback from the parent / carer survey earlier in the year, we have taken on board the points and criticisms made about Seesaw. From September we will no longer be using Seesaw. We will be moving the whole school across to Tapestry. Traditionally, Tapestry was only a programme utilised by Early Years' settings; however, since the pandemic it has expanded its use include the whole school. Tapestry is a much more user friendly platform for both families and staff and received much more favourable feedback in the survey. It also means we will be using one platform right throughout school rather than changing at the end of EYFS. More information on this will come out to you shortly.

## **Award Winners**

You may recall from a previous newsletter that Mowbray was shortlisted for a Love Northumberland Award for our work developing sustainability and sustainable transport; particularly our work developing cycling. We are delighted to say that Mowbray won their category at the awards ceremony held at Alnwick Gardens yesterday. Mr Leslie and I attended the ceremony and collected the award on behalf of the school from the Duchess of Northumberland – photographs of which can be seen on the school Twitter feed currently. It was lovely to hear the praise for what the children have achieved – from balance biking and gliding in nursery and reception up to Bikeability and the River Wansbeck Project in Key Stage 2.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A Miller**  
**Headteacher**