

Mowbray Primary School
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Northumberland
County Council

Mr Andrew Miller
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AM/LH

22 April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

The children have all settled well after the Easter break and are working well at the start of the final term of the school year.

Bad Hair Day

We will be once again supporting World Autism Awareness month this month with an assembly for pupils focussed on Autism Awareness delivered by North East Autism Society on Wednesday 27 April. This will be followed by "Bad Hair Day" on Friday 29 April to raise money for North East Autism Society Toddler Group who support children and families across the region. Children are encouraged to come to school with the wackiest hairstyle they can and in non-uniform on Friday 29 April. In order to raise funds we request a £1 donation.

Further information about North East Autism Society is available at www.ne-as.org.uk

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

You will be aware that schools are allocated additional funding into their budgets specifically to support children from low income families who have registered with the County Council. This funding is The Pupil Premium Grant and is based on the number of children who receive Free School Meals. In common with many schools, it is likely that not all parents/carers whose children attend Mowbray claim Free School Meals even though they may be entitled to. How Mowbray uses the additional funding is outlined on our website but examples of the way we spend funding are:

- To fund or part fund the provision of Teaching Assistant support for individuals, small groups and classes
- To fund specific extra support and resources for support
- To subsidise school visits, music lessons, extracurricular activities and visitors to school
- To part fund additional teachers to support the curriculum
- To part fund additional programmes such as Forest School, Lexia and nurture groups.

No 'singling out' of children can happen if they receive Free School Meals. Lunchtimes are cashless therefore no other pupils are aware of who pays for a meal or who doesn't. As the Grant only part funds additional support; non Free School Meals children would also access the programmes (such as Forest School and nurture) so no-one group is singled out.

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals.

If you think that your income is low and you receive any of the benefits below you should apply for your Free School Meal entitlement.

- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190 without Working Tax Credit
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Even if your child is in Early Years or Year 1 & 2 and receives a Free School Meal anyway, please apply if you are entitled as your child is only benefitting from the Free Meal aspect of the funding unless you register.

If your child has a packed lunch and you haven't registered, even though you are entitled, please do so so that your child will benefit from the additional funding they are entitled to.

To apply, either

- Phone Northumberland County Council on 01670 623592
- Go online through the link on our school website (Information for Parents/Free School Meals)
- Apply via the school office – school will complete the forms for you if you wish

Building Works

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the building works. This work is nearly complete and I am sure you will agree that the new windows and doors look fabulous – as well as being waterproof and warmer! Work is nearing completion having been delayed by bad weather over the past few weeks.

Car Parking

I have been advised by the County Council that Parking Enforcement Officers will begin operating outside school at the start/end of some school days. No Parking signs were installed by the Council over the Easter holidays outside of school and I would urge you to be considerate as to where you park. Please do not block resident driveways, pavements or vehicle access to other property.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Miller
Headteacher