

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

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller

AM/LH

6 September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school – I hope everyone had a good summer break and managed to enjoy the (relatively) good weather.

I'd also like to thank everyone for their good wishes as I spoke to many of you at the Summer Fair just before I went on Paternity Leave. My wife and I welcomed our daughter into the world at the start of the holidays.

PE, Forest School, NUFC and Commando Joes

Following some confusion over the new timetables, which were sent out at the end of last year, each class teacher will inform you right before each half term on which days your child will have PE, NUFC, Forest School and Commando Joe's. In order for all children to take part in these sessions we must rotate the timetables each half term – that is why your child's day for some sessions may change each half term.

Mr Davison and Chestnut Class

Unfortunately, I have to inform you that Mr Davison was taken seriously ill over the holidays and is still extremely unwell. As a result he will be absent for the foreseeable future. We are lucky that Mrs Barber, who is familiar to the children in school from her work here last year, will take Chestnut Class on Monday to Wednesday with Miss Lisle teaching the children on a Thursday and Friday. We wish Mr Davison well over the next few months.

Mrs Baldwin and EYFS Unit

Mrs Baldwin is also currently absent. Unfortunately she partially ruptured her Achilles tendon while on holiday and is currently unable to walk without support. We are hopeful that she will be able to return to work within the next week although she will be on crutches for some time. We wish her well in her recovery.

Earrings and Jewellery

I would like to remind everyone that we have a *no jewellery*, *no make-up* and *no nail polish* policy. The exception being that a wrist watch may be worn. Earrings can not be worn in school and should be removed. Clear plastic holding studs may be worn to keep a newly pierced hole open until such time as they are no longer required. Taping up earrings doesn't provide sufficient protection and the tape can easily come off. From next week, you may receive a phone call to come and remove your child's earrings if they can not remove earrings themselves.

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Collection Arrangements

Please make sure that your Collection Arrangements Forms are up to date. Notify the office of any changes so that we can keep our records up to date. If your child has just gone into Year 5 or Year 6 and you would like them to walk home on their own now, please contact the school office to have their form updated or send a signed letter/email into school.

School Office

As you are aware, Mrs Robinson left us in the Summer and the office is now staffed solely by Mrs Hollocks. As a result any items dropped off at the office (eg PE kit or packed lunches) will only be delivered to classes/children at 11am and the start and end of lunchtime (12.15pm and 1.15pm). This is in order for Mrs Hollocks to stay in the office area.

Book Fair

Our book fair will be arriving in school on Monday 16 September and will stay until Thursday 19 September. It will be open after school as usual in the school hall until 3.45pm.

Snacks

Reminder of prices for snacks for Key Stage 2 children:

Bacon Sandwich – 70p Sausage Sandwich – 70p Fruit – 30p Toast – 25p per slice (with or without jam)

Packed Lunches

Currently, children bringing packed lunches into school are able to use school cutlery. Unfortunately, many children are managing to pack the cutlery into their packed lunch boxes and are taking it home with them. If you do find your child has returned home with cutlery could you please return it to school as our supplies are beginning to run low.

Elmer the Elephant

As you know we are supporting St Oswald's Hospice with their Elmer Parade. Our Elmer which was decorated by the children is on display at St Oswald's Hospice shop in Whitley Bay until the end of the parade.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

You will probably be aware that the Tour of Britain Cycle Race is once again passing through Guide Post on Monday 9 September. As a result there are publicised road closures on Monday afternoon. Due to the nature of the race, the closure times are estimated to be between 2.30pm and 3pm and will affect Morpeth Road, the Guide Post roundabout and the road towards Scotland Gate and Bedlington.

If the road closures do run too close to the end of the school day and cause issues with collection of the children, we will hold the children at school until they are collected. School will not close early for the cycling however, if you would like your child to accompany you to watch the cycle race pass through Guide Post, children may be collected from the main office from 2.15pm. Collection arrangements will apply and children must be signed out.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Miller Headteacher