



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

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller

AM/LH

5 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Increased Covid-19 Measures

As you are aware, the County Council and Public Health wrote to all schools the day we broke up advising that we should implement additional Covid-19 measures. When we returned after the Summer Holidays, we took a cautious approach to lifting all the measures so there hasn't been a great deal of change for the children. Below is an outline of some key areas. A full, updated, Risk Assessment and Procedures document will be posted on the school website shortly.

Drop Off and Collection	These remain the same. The start of the day is staggered between 8.30am and 8.45am anyway. We will keep an end of day stagger under review but won't implement it as yet as children leave with their classes and outdoor transmission risks are much lower.
Assemblies	These are to be held in classes again until further notice.
"Bubbles"	These won't be implemented. We are limiting class mixing indoors but some mixings will still occur in order to support lessons, music lessons or some specialist teaching. Where this happens, Risk Assessments and increased cleaning protocols are in place. In order to limit indoor mixing, some timetables have had minor changes made to them e.g. In the Early Years shared areas and in the computer room and hall.
Breaktimes & Lunchtime outdoor play	These were staggered anyway which significantly reduced numbers outside. Arrangements will stay in place as they were because outdoor transmission risks are lower.
Lunchtimes	These will continue as they are for Early Years and Key Stage 1. Classes eat together in the hall and tables are 2m apart. Children are served at their tables. Key Stage 2 will now follow the same pattern of being served at the tables so they do not go up to the serving hatch. The staggered sittings introduced in September remains as this allows us to not have to move lunches back into classrooms. All tables are cleaned with antiviral cleaner between sittings.

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Face Coverings	All over 11's will be requested to wear face coverings within the school buildings (unless exempt). This includes parents/carers if visiting the main office. All staff will wear face coverings in communal areas but not when teaching.
Visitors	All visits from non-essential visitors are suspended. Contractors (e.g. maintenance) will attend before or after school. Please decide if you need to visit the school office in person or if you could have any queries answered via telephone or email.
School Trips/Educational Visits	These are subject to higher level and more robust risk assessments. Some visits (e.g. Choppington Woods) have had to be temporarily postponed as they were unable to meet the higher level Covid restrictions. Other visits may still be able to go ahead if venues and activities can meet risk assessment requirements. No visits will go ahead if there are Covid outbreaks in the classes due to go on visits.
Christmas Events	<p>We are hopeful planned activities will go ahead. Classes will still prepare their Christmas performances. If they are unable to go ahead with audiences, we will record them and publish through Seesaw/Tapestry as we did last year.</p> <p>We are hoping Christmas Crafts and Family Christmas Dinners will go ahead as planned. We will keep this under review and keep you informed.</p>
Cloakrooms	To avoid classes mixing in cloakrooms, all coats and bags etc will be stored with the children in their classrooms.

If your child is displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not send them into school. They should isolate and have a PCR test arranged. If your child displays symptoms at school, you will be contacted to collect your child in order for them to isolate and have a PCR test.

Reception Applications

Applications for Reception in September 2022 are now open. Applications are made via the portal below:

http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal_live/en

All applications are directly made to Northumberland County Council and not to Mowbray Primary School.

Please note that there is **NO** automatic transfer from Mowbray Primary School's Nursery Unit to Reception and attendance at Mowbray Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception. All places must be applied for via the portal. Applications must be made before 15 January 2022. National Offer Day is 15 April 2022. Emails will be sent from Northumberland County Council to parents/carers who applied online and who requested to be informed by email. Parents/Carers who applied on a paper form will have Offers posted to them on 15 April 2022.

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New Climbing Frame

The children have been enjoying using the new play equipment this week. Please remember if your child uses it before or after school this should only be by under parent/carer supervision.

Riding/Scooting to School

While we love to see lots of children riding and scooting to school, can I remind everyone that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the yard. Please ensure children dismount and push bikes/scooters in the marked channels.

Children in Need

Children in Need is Friday 19 November and the theme this year is "together we can". Children can come to school in non-uniform and give money to the charity via School Money. The payment option will open on Friday morning.

Absences from School

Please remember that if your child is absent through being poorly you must contact the school office each day of absence. A message can be left on our absence line by pressing option 2 when you call the school number. If your child will be absent for a longer term (e.g. a planned hospital stay or doctors note etc) please speak to the main office as you will not be required to call in each day.

Earrings and Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn for school – except for a wrist watch if desired. This includes earrings. If ears are recently pierced and holes need to 'stay open' please wear plastic spacers. These are available free from the main office if you require them.

Yours Sincerely



Mr A Miller
Headteacher

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