



Mowbray School

North Yorkshire County Council

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Head of School: Karen Pickles B.Ed MA PG Cert NPQH



Dear Parents, carers and staff

Friday 17th December 2021

As I have walked around the school and the classes this beautiful morning, I have seen the joy of Christmas and every child celebrating with smiles of joy on their faces. It shows that despite all the hardships we are facing, that there is much joy in our lives and we must this Christmas appreciate all that we have and in particular the love of our families.

I know that in recent days you will have received many letters from me about Covid and appreciate so very much your support. I cannot reiterate strongly enough the importance of testing children for Covid on a regular basis, by identifying those with the virus it will reduce the chances of others catching it and becoming ill.

This term has again been a very busy one, Mrs Pickles Christmas letter, has highlighted so many achievements for us to celebrate. It is saddening that parents are unable to come into school to see all the wonderful Christmas displays and activities which are going on, the Christmas spirit though is very evident here at Mowbray School.

As you will know Covid has affected children, staff and families this term, resulting in higher levels of pupil and staff absence. It has been an amazing achievement how the staff have worked so hard and for such long hours to keep school open, we are indebted to them all. In particular I will mention Mrs Pickles, Mrs Oliver, Mrs Staple, Mrs Carrick, Mrs Woods and Ms Gartside, their efforts to ensure disruption has been kept to a minimum, is exemplary. All our staff have such high levels of dedication, care and a determination to provide the very best for the children at Mowbray School. Staff and pupil absence very much affects them day in and day out, despite this they have worked so effectively in classrooms with children. To those staff and children who are absent due to illness, may I wish you a speedy recovery.

There are many people who work for Mowbray School who you do not come across directly, our office staff, catering staff, cleaning staff, administrative staff and our Governors, without them we could not function. Mr Robert Dunning, our Chair of Governors, has given weeks and weeks of his time to support the school, along with fellow Governors; Jen Berry, Fiona Pearman, Donna Stothard, Jonathan Walker, Anne Herbert, Andy Woodland and Caroline Potter. I am so appreciative of how they work for our school.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of parents and carers, sending both kind messages and gifts for Christmas, this kindness is very much appreciated and lifts us all.

I emailed a leaflet out to parents yesterday provided by the North Yorkshire Clinical Group of the NHS, which was about a 'Dynamic Support Register'. Unfortunately, it appears we should not have been given this leaflet and it is for those families whose child is at risk of being admitted to hospital as an inpatient. However if you do receive support from Children's social care or the Disabled Children's service, it may be worth your while to raise it with them.

Our pupils have been rehearsing these past few weeks for Christmas videos. The links are below, they are very joyous and special, please take the time to watch them.

[Mowbray Secondary video Nine Carols](#)

[Mowbray Primary video 'Christmas recipe'](#)

This term schools have not been allocated funding for holiday food vouchers. For those families who are entitled to free school meals, North Yorkshire County Council have put in place the FEASTive program <https://northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/feast/> Parents can contact the free school meals department to seek further advice North Yorkshire County Council, Document Management Centre, County Hall, Racecourse Lane, NORTHALLERTON, DL7 8AE. Tel: 01609 533405. Email: schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk

May I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and most of all keep safe.

With best wishes



Jonathan Tearle,
Executive Headteacher