



Mowbray School

North Yorkshire County Council

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



Dear Parent and Carer

Thursday 20th January 2022

I hope that everyone is keeping well and wish all those children staff who are absent due to illness a speedy recovery.

I wrote to parents back in October announcing my retirement, I am delighted to inform you that prior to Christmas **the Governors have appointed Rachel Hargreaves to start as Executive Headteacher from the 1st September 2022.** She is currently the Headteacher of Barbara Priestman Academy and the Director of Trust Academy Improvement-Ascent Academies' Trust. The staff and I will work with Rachel for the remainder of the academic year so that we are all as prepared as we can be for September. We have worked with Rachel for several years, through our membership of the North East Hub of Challenge partners. I am sure that she will work closely with staff, families and Governors to lead the school to greater things.

There have been staff leaving us and joining us this past month. I would in particular to congratulate **Brian Goodwin**, our site manager, who retires on the 28th January 2022, quite simply his contribution to our school, to improving buildings, developing the farm and in ensuring our school is a safe and attractive school, is in a large part due to the work he has done. My heartfelt thanks to him for going beyond what has been expected every day. Mr David Jolly has been appointed as the new site manager. Our best wishes also to the following other staff who have left school these past few weeks; Naomi Waldock; Jay Campbell; Jessica Gamble; Carolyn Jones; Rebecca Robertson and Olivia Faith. Mrs Trudy Woodhead retires this half-term, she has worked at Mowbray for the past seven years, my thanks for all she has given to our school and we wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

We welcome several new staff and wish them all a happy and successful career at Mowbray school.

As you will be aware the Government have announced that secondary children no longer need to wear masks in classrooms, they do need to in communal areas, we await further instruction and guidance on this. The timing of this is extremely unfortunate, as this week we have seen the highest ever number of children (10% of pupils) and staff absent with Covid, with pupils in half our classes at both sites with the virus, fortunately they are not too unwell with it. We are struggling to keep school open due to the high number of absent staff and for some pupils who require the highest levels of staffing we have had to reduce their attendance. I very much thank you for your support and understanding and urge you to continue to test your child at home to help reduce the spread of the virus in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Tearle, Executive Headteacher