



# Mowbray School

North Yorkshire County Council



Dear Parent/Carer

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

We are now in our second week of autumn term and I am delighted at the way all our pupils have started the new school year, especially those twenty four pupils new to the school and all our new staff. We now have 210 pupils and 24 classes of pupils, so as you can imagine school is a very busy place. The summer holiday scheme was very successful and my thanks to the staff for running it. During the summer break a new staff room has been built, additional offices and toilets created and two classrooms redecorated and carpeted. Also over the past three months three of our staff have given birth, Mrs Pritchard; Mrs Hilton and Miss Parker, all of who are doing very well, my congratulations to them all.

This year our Year 11 leavers all had secured a new school, an apprenticeship or colleges placement and the qualifications which they attained on leaving were the best set of results which we have ever had, reflecting the breadth of our curriculum by the high number of different types of qualifications and exams taken. My best wishes to them all for the future and congratulations to them and our staff for the work they have done to achieve such good results.

Last year academic year our attendance figures fell slightly to 91.1%, we have seen a continuing rise in the number of children being taken out of school in term time to go on holiday, as a school we do not authorise these absences and I have been asked by the Governing body to write to parents about these concerns. Those children who are absent from school miss important aspects of their learning and it can be extremely disruptive to the school. The following attendance figures reflect our concern, of our absence figures taking children on holiday last year accounted for 0.6% absence, this may seem small but equates to 208 days. As a school we have never fined parents for taking their children on holiday in term time and unfortunately the Governors and I are discussing what actions we can take to address this problem and ask that you do not take your child out of school during the term.

In light of the Grenfell Tower disaster, Governors felt it would be reassuring if I highlighted some of the measures we have in place for fire protection in school;

- Fire Risk Assessments and fire safety procedures are reviewed each year.
- Fire drills are held each year, we usually do this on a termly basis. Pupils and staff are very good at evacuating the building when we have a practice.
- Our fire alarm is tested each week, using a different call point and are serviced on an annual basis.
- The Emergency lighting system is checked monthly and serviced annually.
- Fire Fighting Equipment is serviced at least annually.
- The school building is inspected three times a year by the LA Health & Safety inspector, who advises and instructs school if anything is amiss and also by school Governors.
- All building work meets building regulations and fire safety requirements.

**Communication with parents**, as many of you know we use various ways of communicating with parents, these include; our website <http://www.mowbrayschool.co.uk/>; our **facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/mowbrayschool/>; Our School app <https://www.ourschoolsapp.com/login>; half termly 2Build a profile reports which will be sent to you via email, pupil planners and conversations

either in person or via the phone. Please do follow school on [facebook](#), as we use this to show case pupil work and what is happening in school. I know that communication with parents does change when pupils are in the secondary department, this is because pupils move from one teacher to another and the staff therefore do not have sufficient time to often write in pupils planners and form tutors are restricted to seeing their form group during registration periods. Pupils in the secondary department earn points for each lesson and clearly there are times when pupils have not earned all of the points available, it is perhaps unrealistic to expect staff to write in each pupils planner why they have not earned all the points.

We hold our first parents evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 5pm to 8pm, the purpose of this is to provide you with an opportunity to meet with the key staff involved with your child in school, this will therefore not be a reports evening focused on the academic progress your child has made this term, that will be the focus for the parents evening after Christmas.

I would ask that parents check that their child's school uniform is both labelled and meets our uniform policy, which is detailed on our website.

We are still awaiting confirmation from St.Gregory's Church in Bedale as to when we are able to hold our Harvest Festival and are hoping this will be on the morning of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, parents are invited to this festival.

I look forward to seeing you all during the course of the year and ask that if you have a concern about your child's education or well-being that you contact school and we will help if we are able to.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Tearle', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Tearle  
Headteacher