



Mowbray School



North Yorkshire County Council

Dear Parent/Carer

Wednesday 14th December 2016

Our Christmas celebrations are now in full swing, our Primary and Secondary concerts have again been such wonderful performances, my congratulations to all the children and staff for such hard work and the talent they have.

My self and all of the staff have been overwhelmed with the kindness and thoughtfulness of parents, relatives and carers of pupils, receiving so many lovely Christmas cards, messages and gifts. Such acts of kindness and support are very important to us and we do need to know that we are valued and appreciated. Working at school, at times, can be extremely challenging and parental support is vital to ensure pupils succeed, I do recognise there are occasions when we don't get things right, but be assured that we constantly strive to improve our provision for children and families.

This term we have been affected by several staff long term absences, Mrs Brotherston, Mrs Sturt, Mrs Burke, Mrs Lambert and Miss Nichol are still absent and I hope they return in the New Year. Mrs Brook has been on maternity leave since the end of summer term. These are unavoidable absences and I am well aware that this causes disruption and additional work within school, which in turn affects pupils, parents and staff.

The three new classrooms are now close to having the roofing beams installed, it is fair to say that it is quite a large building, its completion date has been delayed by a few weeks due to poor weather. The new building will significantly improve the quality of our provision and reflects our ambitions for the school.

This term, the work demands placed on our Governors has been immense, they hold the school to account to what we do and give freely of their own time. It is respectful to recognise the contributions which they make to school, both now and in the future, to help guide the school forward, my many thanks to them all.

The staff at school show tremendous dedication to our pupils and to each other, the support they give is a huge strength of the school and their unflinching efforts to teach and care for our pupils is outstanding. We are constantly asked to do more, by parents, by Governors and by the Government to raise the quality of what we do. We have also been waiting to be inspected by OFSTED for over a year now and the pressure this brings on everyone is immeasurable, my special thanks to all the staff for their resilience, tolerance and endurance.

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ, it is a celebration of what we have and also a time which can highlight what we don't have. I am mindful of so many parents, families and staff for whom Christmas can also be painful, missing family members or close friends who are no longer with us, I particularly wish those families a peaceful Christmas.

This Friday 16th December at 10.30am we hold our Carol Service at St.Gregory's Church in Bedale, you are all welcome to attend this service. We then break for the Christmas holidays at 1pm that day, school reopens for pupils on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

May I wish you all a very Merry, peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Tearle, Headteacher