



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

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller

AM/LH

9 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Early Years Foundation Stage

I am writing to update you on some of the difficulties we have faced at the start of this academic year in the Early Years Unit.

As you are aware, Mrs Baldwin seriously damaged her Achilles tendon at the start of the year. Whilst she was in school, the nature of the injury meant she was unable to fulfil as much of her role in Early Years as she wanted to. Unfortunately, yesterday, Mrs Baldwin had to go home ill and at this time I do not know how long she will be absent for.

With Mrs Baldwin's absence, we need to ensure that there is a continuity of provision for Reception. With this in mind we yesterday recruited Mrs Porthouse to work as Reception teacher for the foreseeable future. Mrs Porthouse is an Ofsted Outstanding rated EYFS practitioner and has come highly recommended from a number of schools. She will also take on a role supporting Nursery – to ensure work and planning links well into key Nursery learning goals. I have also contracted the Senior Early Years Advisor from Northumberland County Council to support our EYFS to make sure the quality of education the children are receiving is of the highest standard given the disruption of the first month. The Advisor will make frequent visits to school over the next few weeks to support the EYFS team.

Regrettably we have had several issues with Tapestry. These have been addressed this afternoon and much of the backlog of Tapestry entries have been Quality Assured and uploaded this afternoon. Going forward we shouldn't have another backlog as the issues have been ironed out.

The Early Years welcome evening scheduled for tonight has had to be postponed due to Mrs Baldwin's absence. This will be rearranged very soon with the Senior School Staff leading the meeting along with the EYFS team.

As Headteacher, and a parent, I understand that the early days of a child being at school can be an anxious time for both children and parents. While I am unable to control staff illness, and the impact on the school that missing both the Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher has had, I can only offer an apology for any distress or worry caused over the past month.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Miller
Headteacher

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