



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

**Headteacher: Mr Andrew Miller**

AM/LH

18 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### MELVA Performance

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, on Wednesday 23 October, Years 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in workshops linked to supporting Mental Health. As a result, we will be unable to use the hall at lunchtime for all year groups. Children from Year 1 upwards will have lunch in their classrooms. To enable this to happen as easily as possible, Mrs Farrell has switched Wednesday and Friday's meals on the menu. Wednesday will now be the Hotdog in a bun option. We apologise for the late change but we were unaware of need to use the hall over lunchtime until final arrangements were confirmed this week.

### Parent's Evening

There was a very large attendance at the two parent's evenings this week. If you were unable to make your appointment slot or were unable to make either evening and would like to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the main office. For parents of children in Reception, your child should have already brought home a letter for Reception appointments the week after half term.

### Tik Tok

We are finding a growing number of children, particularly in Key Stage 2, are accessing the Tik Tok app on their smartphones and are sending content to other children. Some of this content is highly inappropriate for children and has been causing distress to those receiving it. I would advise parents of children with smart phones to discuss app use with their children and to speak to them about what may and may not be appropriate. The Tik Tok app carries an age restriction of 13 years+ but also has an advisory age limit of 16 years+ due to privacy issues and mature content.

### Staffing at Mowbray

The start of this academic year has been exceptionally challenging at Mowbray. Mrs Baldwin, as Early Years parents are aware, is now absent and is very ill. At this point, we do not know when Mrs Baldwin will be returning to work.

Mr Davison has recently undergone surgery but remains in a very poorly condition. We are hopeful that he will make a recovery and be able to return to work but as yet we do not know when that may be.

Apart from losing two excellent class teachers, Mr Davison and Mrs Baldwin are also the Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. To ensure that the school senior leadership is able to continue to fulfil its role, Miss Lisle and Mrs Dodds are stepping up to Acting Assistant Headteachers until further notice.

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Mr Davison and Mrs Baldwin also hold important roles with regards to the school curriculum and assessment. To support us through the next few months, Miss Gibson will be joining the senior leadership team to assist with curriculum development.

I know many parents have asked about Mr Davison and Mrs Baldwin and have sent their best wishes; I will ensure that these are passed on to them both when I next speak to them.

#### Access to School

It's getting to that time of year when access to school can be affected by snow and ice. We will grit sections of the school grounds but are unable to grit beyond the school gates. Attached to this letter is a plan of where we will be gritting. In icy and snowy conditions, the routes marked as primary areas will be cleared and gritted first. Gritted areas will be marked out with cones – please stick to the gritted areas.

Yours sincerely

**Mr A Miller**  
**Headteacher**

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