

MOWDEN NEWS

OCTOBER 2024



After saying a tearful goodbye to year 6 in July, with a fantastic performance at the Majestic Theatre, we welcomed everyone back to school in September. Our new reception children joined us at the infants and everyone has settled in nicely to their new classrooms.



Friends of Mowden Schools

We would like to introduce the Friends of Mowden School to our new parents and carers. The Friends are a dedicated group of parents, carers and friends who raise funds for school throughout the year. Any funds raised are spent at school for the benefit of your child/ren.

We hope you will support them by offering your time or attending events. They organise coffee mornings, discos, raffles and much, much more. We send out information on their behalf so watch out for more details on ParentMail. Last year the Friends raised a fantastic £12,419.50.

The Friends welcome volunteers for any of their events, you can dip in if you are able to spare some time and do not have to commit to helping at every event. If you can help please email them on friendsofmowden@gmail.com

Below is photo of Heather's hideaway.



This was installed on the Junior field by the Friends in memory of Heather who was a member of the Friends and part of our Mowden community. It has already proved to be a great area to play in, a great

space for some quiet time and, once the branches grow and connect, it will provide some lovely summer shade. The children love it.

LOST PROPERTY - Please remember to label your child's clothes, especially jumpers or cardigans before they become lost property. Lost property will be on display during parent evenings: please feel free to have a look for lost items or call into the office.

We have nearly 500 children



across both schools all wearing a blue jumper or cardigan and without a name it is impossible to reunite lost items with their owners! Name labels can be purchased from mynametags.com and if you quote reference code 19205 the Friends of Mowden will receive a donation. These labels are very good and seem to stay in but please remember to check regularly that labels are still attached to clothing and the name is still visible.

SCHOOL DINNERS - Lots of our children enjoy a school dinner. All our dinners are cooked fresh every day from fresh ingredients where possible. Children have a healthy choice of balanced meals and puddings. There is fresh fruit, salad and bread available daily in our self-serve area, although we do give the little ones a hand.

Now the colder days are on the way a warming meal is always a good choice at lunchtime. Contact the office if you would like your child to swap to school dinners.

Our new winter menu is available to view on the link below. We always listen to feedback from our children and have kept their favourites as well as introducing some new meals which we have been trialling over the last few weeks. The new menu will start on 4th November when we return to school. <https://www.mowdenfederation.co.uk/parents/lunchtimes>

Junior school dinner payments need to be kept up to date and payments should be made in advance each Monday – £2.30 per day/£11.50 per week.

PACKED LUNCHES - We like to encourage children to eat healthily and ask that sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not included. **There are a number of children with NUT ALLERGIES in school: we ask that you are mindful of this when preparing your child's lunch.** We do not have facilities in school for keeping food cool in hot weather. School would prefer that children do not bring hot food to school as part of their packed lunch. However, if parents do provide hot food, **it is their own responsibility** to ensure that it is not too hot to burn if spilled and that flasks etc are washed and safe for use each day. Flasks should be robust and preferably metal to limit injury caused by accidental damage or breakage.



CAR PARKING is an ongoing issue around school - please drive slowly and be considerate to the residents living in the area especially in the cul-de-sacs in Chester Grove at the juniors and Bushel Hill Drive at the infants. Please avoid driving into them - it's just not safe! We have had children injured by cars! Be mindful of our children who walk to and from school by themselves and may be crossing behind your car.

Please do not park on yellow lines, in front of driveways or on pavements.

Please don't park or drop off children in the staff only area at the Juniors, marked by the yellow sign. The infant school car park is for staff only.

The junior school car park, on Conyers Avenue, has parking for infant or junior parents/carers to use before or after school, apart from the staff only area closest to school, identified by the yellow sign. Please use the designated bays. Please only use disabled bays if you are disabled. Ignoring this sends the wrong message to children.

Try parking a few streets away and walking in to school for a healthier start/end to the day. This will help to ease congestion and pollution around school.

Please remember to switch off your engine when waiting in and around the school grounds. Whether it's using the heater to keep warm in the winter, or the air conditioning to remain cool in the summer, idling engines create a lot of unnecessary pollution and can be very harmful, particularly to children.

AMAZON WISH LISTS

Last year we collated an Amazon wish list of books for both schools. Many of our families were incredibly generous and dedicated books to our school libraries. We understand that during this challenging economic time this may not be something you are able to help with. However, if you are able to donate a book to us we would be grateful. Here are the links:-

Infant

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/283QSCPU05SCK?ref=wl_share

Junior

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2ARNE6MNG2R43?ref=wl_share

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

KEEPING HYDRATED

Please remember to send your child into school with a water bottle, these can be re-filled in school.

SPORTING UPDATE

Our regular sporting fixtures have already started.

Y4 Dodgeball Tournament saw a team of 10 girls and boys winning a silver medal.

Y6 Boys Tag Rugby were third overall.

Y6 Girls Tag Rugby saw them narrowly missing out on the semi-finals, however, they went on to play two more games winning both and scoring lots of tries.

29 children from the juniors represented Mowden at the annual Darlington Primary School Cross Country, 12 children finished in the top 10 with 3 children achieving an amazing 1st place. These 12 children went on to represent us in the Tees Valley Primary School Cross Country racing against the best in the Tees Valley with each race having over 50 children. Several children finished in the top 20, we had a 4th place in the Y3/4 girls race and a winner overall in the Y5 boys' race. Mr Garmston is particularly proud of the children for supporting not only each other but also the other teams who took part.

A massive well done to everyone who represented us!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

December dates for your diaries have already been sent on ParentMail but can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

School reopens for children on Monday 4th November 2024.