



Dear Parents,

At Mowden Infants we want all children to come to school with a positive attitude, high expectations and ready to learn. We believe that every child and adult at school has the right to feel happy, to feel valued and to be treated with respect. Positive and desirable behaviour is a responsibility of everyone involved in our school. Positive classroom behaviour is as important as positive playground behaviour. Our behaviour policy will help to reinforce our positive ethos. Teachers follow this when we reward children to promote positive learning behaviour and to support us in how we will deal with unacceptable behaviour in the classroom and playground.

One of the biggest changes from Reception to Year 1 is the learning environment. Some children take longer to adjust than others; this is normal. In Key Stage 1, we are developing your child's expectations and learning behaviours that will support the children throughout their time at school. Learning behaviours can be thought of as a behaviour that is necessary in order for a person to learn effectively in the group setting of a classroom.

In Year 1, the children are now applying their listening skills in a more formal setting and working for a longer period of time than in Reception. We use rules and routines to help develop these learning behaviours. Some examples are:

- Visual timetables which show the children what the day will look like and support anxious children to know which lessons are coming up that day.
- Designated work spaces such as table groups- this might mean your child is not always with their friend but rather is seated to provide the best learning experience for them.
- Class charter where the rules of the classroom were created in conjunction with the children - these will be referred to by the teacher when addressing expectations for the lesson.

We focus as much as possible on positive behaviours to keep school a happy and encouraging place. Here are some of the ways reward good choices/positive behaviour.

- Stickers
- Certificates
- Marvellous ME badges/Messages
- Verbal praise
- Stamps in books for good work
- Movement up the 'traffic light' system to 'Gold';
- Whole class rewards (e.g. Golden Time); these are decided upon by individual class teachers

From time to time it may be necessary to address behaviours which are not positive. When behaviour is not acceptable every effort will be made to help children to understand why it is unacceptable, how that behaviour affects others and the damages and difficulties that may have been caused by that behaviour.

Misbehaviour might include:

- Disruption in lessons, in corridors and other parts of the school, and at break and lunchtimes
- Non-completion of classwork/ refusal to work
- Poor attitude
- Being unkind or physical towards others.

Sanctions include:

- A verbal warning will be given - this reminds the child to make a different choice.
- Moving name to Yellow – this means missing some playtime.

Children can move back to green if their behaviour improves. Parents are not usually contacted at this stage unless the behaviour is repetitive. For instance – a child moves to yellow multiple times in one week. We may contact you to see if there are any external factors impacting your child's behaviour (lack of sleep, illness etc) or to make you aware that they are struggling.

- Move to Red – the child will be sent to Mrs Bainbridge and parents contacted. They will miss a playtime.

We want to work together to make your child's school experience as positive as it can be. If your child is finding school a challenge or you have worries about their learning then please do contact us. The best way is to message family@mowden.darlington.sch.uk who will pass the messages to us. We will contact you via Marvellous Me and phone calls if we feel it is necessary to inform you of something happening in school.

If your child is coming into school after a difficult morning, night or weekend – we understand that you may not always want to/can't share details and that's okay. Just send in a note that says 'Handle with Care'. Nothing else will be asked and it'll let your child's teacher know that they may need extra time, patience or help during the day.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Dunwell

Key Stage 1 Phase Leader