

NEWSLETTER  
December 2019

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**Christmas Productions:** The performances are now underway! The Year 1 and Reception shows were amazing. Year 6 perform at the Christingle at St Cuthbert's church on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. A big thank you to the Coop at Mowden Shops for donating the oranges and all the helpers at St Cuthbert's Church. Good luck to all the Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 children who are rehearsing for the shows at Hummersknott School on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We hope you all enjoy the shows: they look and sound fantastic! We would like to thank all the children and staff who have worked hard to produce these wonderful Christmas performances – well done everyone! Thank you to our families for all their support throughout all our Christmas events. Watch out for photographs on the Celebrating Mowden page on the school website and our Facebook page.

**Christmas Hampers:** This year the Friends have been able to make up 24 hampers to raffle at our shows – fabulous! Winning raffle tickets will be drawn at the end of each performance (apart from Year 6 which will be drawn in school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December). Thank you to the Friends of Mowden for making the hampers and coming along to sell tickets. All ticket sales will go to the Friends and used to buy resources for pupils at a future date.

**Christmas School Dinner, 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Yet again over 500 children and 48 staff will be taking a Christmas meal in school on 17<sup>th</sup> December. There will be the usual celebrations including: crackers and the opportunity to sing on the karaoke (when Mr King, Mr Johnson & Mrs Bainbridge let go of the microphone!) A huge thank you to the kitchen and lunchtime staff for all their hard work.

**Consultation on Admissions Policy:** The consultation to reduce our PAN to 60 pupils for Reception intake of 2021 ended on 2nd December 2019. We did not receive any opposition to the proposal. Details of our determined admission arrangements for September 2021 will be available from our website in due course.

**Mowden choir:** During the last week of term our choir are taking part in a couple of events: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, carol singing at Dalkeith House, residential home and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December a group of children have been invited to sing for the hospital staff as they enjoy their Christmas lunch at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

**Notice of school closure, winter weather:** Thinking ahead we would like to remind families of how we will communicate any impact to school opening. We will endeavour to give families as much notice as possible of school closures but obviously we will be making decisions based on current weather and road conditions. Messages will be sent home via ParentMail. Updates will be placed on the website, Facebook page and local radio.

**Sports results:** In the New Year we will be taking part in a number of events, some of which are listed below:  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Year 5 Basketball  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 Dodgeball  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Year 3 Tennis  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5/6 Boys Football  
Good luck to all teams!

**Lost Property:** We have a large amount of unnamed lost property at both schools. Please check the boxes outside of your child's classroom before the Christmas holidays. Uncollected items will be donated to a local charity or into our nearly new stock. Please remember to make sure all coats, jumpers etc are named so that they can be returned to your child.

**Used Stamps:** Don't forget to send in used stamps to support the UK Air Ambulance service. Boxes are available at both schools. Thank you for your support.

**Food for Thought:** Thank you for the incredibly generous donations of food, toiletries and cleaning products for Food for Thought. The donation boxes in both schools are brimming! We are collecting at both offices until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Food for Thought are organising parcel deliveries on 24<sup>th</sup> December and a drop in on 28<sup>th</sup> December at Northlands Methodist Church, North Road, Darlington DL1 2EL

**Staff Changes:** We would like to wish Mrs Wilson, Class Teacher, all our best wishes as she leaves school at the end of term.

*May we take this opportunity  
to wish you all and your  
families a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*



**School Meals (JUNIOR SCHOOL ONLY):** School meals are £10.00 per week; please make payment by the start of a week.

Tuesday 7 January – Friday 14 February £58.00  
(5 weeks 4 days)

Tuesday 7 January – Friday 31 January £38.00  
(3 weeks 4 days)

Monday 3 February – Friday 14 February £20.00  
(2 weeks)

Payment can be made by ParentMail or paypoint.

**Please give a minimum of one week's notice for changes to meal arrangements. We request that your child remain on either packed meals or school lunches for a minimum period of half a term**

**Dates for diaries:**

Friday 20 December – Christmas Jumper/Smart Non uniform Day

Friday 20 December – School closes at the end of the day for Christmas holidays

Monday 6 January – School closed – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 7 January – School reopens for children at the start of the day

<b>Christmas Performances</b>		
	<b>Infant School</b>	<b>Junior School</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 – 6.00pm Christingle and Carols at St Cuthbert's Church	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 – Mowden Christmas Variety Show, matinee:2pm-4pm: Hummersknott School	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 – Mowden Christmas Variety Show: matinee, 2pm-4pm and evening performance: 6pm -8pm: Hummersknott School	
Tickets will be sent home with children.		
<b>Christmas Party Dates (All afternoons)</b>		
	<b>Infant School</b>	<b>Junior School</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1	Year 4
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Year 3
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception	Year 6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2	Year 5
All Children should come to school in uniform and bring a change of clothes for their party. Details about party food are being sent home with children.		