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Our **Value of the Month** for September is **RESPONSIBILITY** and for October **POSITIVITY**

September & October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year and we look forward to welcoming all the children back when school opens tomorrow on Wednesday 2nd of September. Just a reminder that our morning starts are a little different from this September. Children can come to school from **8am** as part of our free morning breakfast club. All children who come along will be offered a healthy breakfast and join their friends in our school hall. We will open our usual school gate from **8.50am until 9am** (not 8.40am as previously opened) for children to come in if they haven't joined us for free breakfast club. Our after school wraparound remains the same as last academic year.

Many thanks for the returned parent questionnaires from last term. We appreciate the feedback we received and it is shared with our governors in our autumn term full governing body meeting as part of our ongoing school improvement. Also, thank you for all your support last academic year and all the help you provide to your child with their reading, homework, bringing in equipment, etc. We appreciate the strong links we have with home so as always, if you have any concerns please speak to Mrs Snowdon, Mr Seaton or your child's class teacher so we can quickly work together to resolve any issues.

Colour Run – Thursday 10th September

Children will be taking part in a colour run in school on Thursday afternoon next week. Each class will get a chance to run around our school field which has been set up by members of the School Sports Partnership team. On this day we ask that all children come in non-uniform wearing old clothes that can get poster paint on them. We ask that children bring a towel in a carrier bag too so they can use this to wipe the colour run paint off.

Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

NSPCC Workshops – Thursday 17th September

A member of staff from NSPCC will be in school on the morning of Thursday 17th September to provide workshops talking about how to 'Speak out and stay safe'. The workshops are aimed at Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 but all children will take part in an assembly which is delivered by school staff before the workshops take place. This works alongside our PSHE whole school curriculum which includes lessons on how to stay safe (including online). Our updated policy provides details of what we teach and when in PSHE across our school: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Policy-for-PSHE-and-RSHE-September-2026.pdf

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adam Bushnell in school on Thursday 24th September

We are very pleased to welcome author Adam Bushnell back to our school this September. Adam Bushnell is an award-winning British author and former teacher who has written over 50 fictional and academic books. Based in Durham, he writes children's fiction, educational guides for teachers, and regional folk tales. Adam will be working with each class to inspire them and develop their creative writing and story-telling. We look forward to welcoming him.

Allergen Policy

From 1st September 2026 all schools must have an allergy safety policy in place. Benedict's Law intends to reduce the risk of allergic reactions in schools and requires schools to have a dedicated allergy safety policy. This is now available on our website (a paper copy can be requested) through clicking this link:
https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Allergy-Whole-School-Policy-Chartwells-September-2026.pdf

Please take time to read this policy so you can see the steps we are putting in place to meet our statutory duty with regards to allergens in school.

Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Flu vaccines Thursday 8th October

The NHS nurses who provide the flu nasal vaccines in school will be in Bournmoor Primary on Thursday 8th October. The nurses are due in the afternoon from 1pm to provide vaccines to Reception upwards. We will send out any more information closer to the time.

School Photos – Wednesday 14th October

The school photographer will be in on Thursday 14th October to take class and individual photographs. The photos will be taken across the school day so your child just needs to attend in uniform as usual. Nursery photos will be taken in the morning so all children who attend (including our 15-hour pupils) can get their photographs taken.

Named Equipment

Please send your child in each day with their own named water bottle. Having their name on the bottle helps to reduce any lost property. Also, can you ensure that your child has their named PE kit in school. We have unclaimed uniform after leaving it out at the end of last term for parents to look through. If you could put your child's name in each item that would really help reduce parents having to ask when an item is not brought home. Our changing weather can sometimes lead to a coat or jumper being taken off and left on the field so your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Curriculum Grids

We have put the new curriculum grids on our school website which outline what your child will be learning in school across the year. You can find them in our curriculum section or by clicking the links below for each class:

Early Years: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Early-Years-overview-2026-2027.pdf
Year 1 / 2: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Year-1-2-overview-2026-2027.pdf
Year 3 / 4: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Year-3-4-overview-2026-2027.pdf
Year 5 / 6: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Year-5-6-overview-2026-2027.pdf

Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Our classes

This year we continue with our 4 mixed age classes as follows and a reminder that Miss Hartley is off on maternity leave following the birth of her son. She wanted to say 'thank you' for all the lovely messages.

Early Years: Miss Anna Burdon
Year 1 & 2: Miss Heather Purdy
Year 3 & 4: Mrs Natalie Patterson
Year 5 & 6: Mr Oliver Seaton

Each class teacher will send out a 'Welcome Letter' for their class to let you know when PE is, when homework is due, etc. We will also put a copy of these on our website.

Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Family Support Advisor

We have a Parent Support Advisor who works in school each week and is keen to support children and families. If you would like to speak to Mrs Claire Donnelly please contact school on 0191 3854291 and we can arrange an appointment. She is in school each Wednesday and is available to meet with children and families to offer support and advice. In addition, if you have a concern or query please telephone, email or speak to a member of staff so we can listen and try to resolve any issues raised. We really appreciate the opportunity to talk about any concerns you have and to work with parents and families to offer support.

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Rewards and Certificates

Each week in class the children find out who is the 'Star of the Week', 'Rock Star Reader' and also who has achieved the 'Presentation Award'. We know that children enjoy this time as it celebrates their good work and dedication and rewards them for trying so hard. Our Rock Star Reader Mascot (shown above) was designed by one of our former pupils to promote and celebrate the love of reading.

School Brochure and Policies

Our new school brochure is now on our website for 2026-2027. This provides details of the school day, uniform (including being an earring-free school) and a list of our school governors. It can be downloaded from our website or by clicking on the following link: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/School-Prospectus-2026-2027.pdf
You can also find a link to all our policies on our website by clicking on the following link: https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/

Safeguarding

All staff and governors are committed to keeping children safe at Bournmoor Primary. We update our safeguarding policies and procedures annually they reflect the changes in the government's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026' and are on our website under the 'policies' section www. https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/ . If you have any concerns about a child you can speak to Mrs Snowdon, who is Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mr Seaton who is our Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Alternatively, you can phone First Contact on 03000 267979 to report your concerns.
Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Contact Details

It is very important that we have your up to date contact details including mobile phone number. If we need to contact you in case of emergency for example, it is vital that you are able to answer and respond quickly. If you have changed your number recently please telephone school so we can update our records. This also includes any phone numbers on your child's 'Collected By' form that lets us know who can collect your child. Please remember that only adults aged 18 or over can collect a child and therefore we will only accept numbers and details for them. We politely request that all children are collected on time after school and your help with this is appreciated.

Applications for School Places in 2027

The application process for admission to school (primary and secondary) can be found on Durham County's website: https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions Please note that if your child comes to our nursery you still need to apply through this process via Durham Local Authority to request a place in our school for Reception.
Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

School Dinners

If you would like your child to change from packed lunch to school dinners (or vice versa) then the office requires one week's notice. Your support with this is appreciated. Just a reminder to parents who are paying dinner money on ParentPay to ensure the account stays in credit. Our lunches are provided by Chartwells through Durham County Council. Please note that all infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to a free school dinner through government funding. If your infant child is currently on packed lunch and you would like them to receive their free lunches, please telephone the school office to let us know.
Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Key Dates

Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website. You can click on the link below to find them. This will ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school.
https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/School-holidays-and-PD-days-2026-2027.pdf
You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website. School holiday dates and PD days for 2026-27: https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)