



Northowram Primary School Newsletter

Inspiring Success Beyond Expectation



FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Curriculum Spotlight...Geography!

Our school is part of a national partnership of schools (and as yet, the only primary school in Calderdale) who follow the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) for History, Geography, Art and Science. One of the benefits of this is that we work with national consultants to quality assure our curriculum delivery. During October, we welcomed independent consultant Elliot Morgan (who works with schools across the UK) for a Geography Deep-Dive. We visited lessons from Nursery through to year 6, examined pupil workbooks and spoke with pupils about their Geographical learning. Children across school were able to tell us and show us all their learning about their recent topic on spatial sense - starting with making and following simple maps in Early years through to securing knowledge of compass points and aerial views in KS1 to developing a deep understanding of time zones, different map scales, projections and longitude and latitude in years 5 and 6. We identified many strengths in pupils' learning and teacher subject knowledge particularly with how knowledge is taught to be remembered with each lesson expertly constructed to help children recall and retrieve prior knowledge and make links with new learning. Our school is now supporting other schools with their curriculum development and we look forward to hosting our next visitors to school to view our good practice at the end of this month. Our curriculum leader is Adam Simpson and he would be delighted to hear from you with any questions you may have about the curriculum:

adam.simpson@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk

Jane Guardifield



Is your child starting school in September 2025?

We are holding daily tours around school from 2pm for parents and carers to visit in the school day. There is also an information evening on Wednesday 20th November at 6pm. If you would like to attend please call the school office on 01422 202704 to book a place. Please also spread the word if you have friends and family looking for a school place.

Cross Country Event



On Tuesday 12th November 30 of our children represented the school at the annual cross country cluster event which was held at Old Brodleians.

The children performed incredibly well despite stiff competition from other local schools, and a challenging course which tested both their endurance and resilience to the limit.

We now await the results from the organisers to see which children have qualified for the Calderdale Final which will be held at the start of December.

Safeguarding

Attendance and Punctuality

Although attendance at Northowram is generally very good, we are seeing an increase in holiday requests. We are unable to authorise these apart from in very exceptional circumstances, as outlined in our policy. Any holiday absence which exceeds 5 days or more will result in a penalty notice fine, issued by the Educational Welfare Office. This is not just for 5 consecutive days but also for 5 days within a 10-week window.

Additionally, we are now required to submit any absence owing to illness which exceeds 15 days. Although we do not want you to send a poorly child to school, we may be able to gain support from the school nursing team if your child is suffering from any illness-related absence. Please do keep us up to date with any medical needs which may affect your child's attendance or, if you wish to discuss this with us, please do not hesitate to contact Allison Deighton, Pastoral Manager- our aim is always to work together to support you.

For those children who are persistently late to school, we will now be issuing letters of concern and if no improvement is seen, will mark this as an unauthorised absence. Again, please work with us if there are reasons which may be affecting your child's punctuality.

Support services available for parents and families

We have updated the Safeguarding area on our website which now shows an increased range of services which may be of use to you - from internet safety advice, mental health and well-being and links to Childline. There are some very useful resources available- do take a look!

A new service available to parents and families has been organised by Family Lives who have produced a series of online parenting courses to make current challenges families are facing a little easier. These range from sibling rivalry, a new baby in the family and raising teens. If interested, please follow the link below:
<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.



PTFA NEWS

A HUGE thank you to our marvellous PTFA for organising Glow Discos for all ages of children on Friday.

The PTFA volunteers together with school staff (including Miss Williams and Mr. Simpson our super DJs!) volunteered their time and energies to provide fabulous discos for children of all ages which were enjoyed by all!

In addition to providing a memorable experience for our children, these events have also raised a significant amount of funds which will be redirected back into school to benefit all children.

Well done everyone including all children whose behaviour, gratitude and manners were impeccable throughout!

We must also send our grateful thanks to the staff and owners of Bellisa Italian restaurant for their donation of hundreds of fresh, hot and delicious pizza slices for our children to enjoy - we are very touched and grateful that this local business has supported us in this extraordinarily generous way meaning that even more funds have been raised for school!





ART GALLERY

This month, we're admiring the work of our artists in year 1. In year 1 - children are working on the key artistic principle of line. Children's work here shows their exploration of different types of line (straight, curved, zigzag etc) by printing and painting on black paper - well done to these young artists! Like all artists - children have named their creations and their titles this month are particularly enjoyable!



'LINE EXPLOSION' BY LUCAS



'LINES EVERYWHERE' BY LIVVIE



'LINES OF REGULATION' BY ISLA



Years 3 and 4 have been very excited that Mr Wood's return means a return to Forest School for them!

Forest School offers different things in different seasons and this week, children have enjoyed the late Autumn sunshine and the large amount of autumn leaves to crunch through! Children in year 3 and 4 were set two seasonal crafting tasks this week to make a 'firework' out of a stick they prepared themselves and to make a natural piece of Artwork using only 'found' natural materials - super work Forest Schoolers!





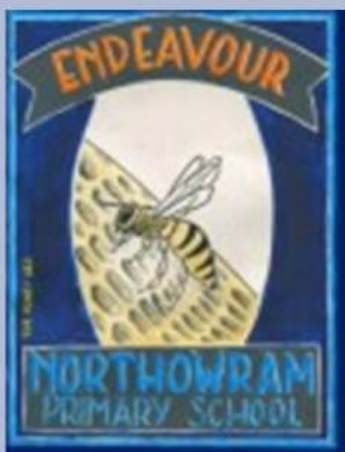
RESPECT AND REMEMBERING



All classes (Year 1-Year6) have two class ambassadors who have been chosen by their teachers to do the very special job of welcoming any visitors into school or classes and to generally fly the flag for our school and represent us when this is required.



This week, class ambassadors from years 4 and 5 were super-proud to represent school by reading poetry in our Village Armistice day service and laying a very special wreath on behalf of our school. Two minutes silence was observed and understood by all pupils in school.



ENDEAVOUR AND INSPIRATION

Last week, we reflected on our school value of Endeavour in our assemblies and we thought deeply about what how hard work leads to great achievements not only in our academic work in school but in our wider lives.

Last Friday, we were delighted to Welcome Olympian and European Gymnastics champion Luke Whitehouse (pictured here with some of our own budding gymnasts) into our school assemblies to share his journey and what has helped him along the way. As well as impressing us with his gymnastic talents (Luke started off training in one of our local gym clubs - Diamonds Gymnastics!).

Luke also set such a fabulous example for the children about the value of hard work. One memorable quotation from him was this: 'I wasn't always known as being the best but I was always known as the one who worked the hardest' - what an inspirational young man.

We are always looking for inspirational guests to join classes and assemblies from a wide range of backgrounds. As parents and families, if you have an inspiring story to tell (perhaps about your own work, talents or interests) or you know someone who does, please do contact school if you would like to share this with our children.



LAKE DISTRICT ADVENTURES



Our Year 6 pupils are currently having an adventure of a lifetime in Ullswater!
Families have been following their adventures on our residential X account
[@NPSHowtown](#).

We are so proud of all these children who are tackling challenges and learning essential skills in leadership and teamwork. We can't wait to welcome them back on Friday hopefully with memories that will last a lifetime!

Grateful thanks also go to our amazing staff team who leave their own families to take the best care of our school family for the week.

