



FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Spotlight on Year 6 SATs tests

This week has been busy (and very quiet!) in school as our year 6 pupils took their SATs tests. These tests take place nationally and are marked externally. Children in year 6 take tests in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Arithmetic and Mathematical reasoning. The children have approached all of these with the usual enthusiasm and positivity they bring to every school day and we are very proud of the resilience and stamina they have demonstrated this week and in the lead up to these tests. In our school, we work hard to get the balance right in terms of preparation for the tests. It is our aim that children feel confident going into these and practice the skills and knowledge they will need to demonstrate but we also ensure that, even in year 6, our curriculum is never narrowed to become over-focused on exam preparation. Throughout year 6, children receive their full national curriculum entitlement both before and after SATs tests. Thanks and congratulations must go to our year 6 children, their teachers and support staff and the whole school for being supportive and super quiet this week to ensure that the children could concentrate on doing their very best. Children and families will receive their SATs results in July.

Jane Gardfield



News/updates

Visit from Holly Lynch MP



Phoebe (one of our year 6 pupils) wrote to our local MP Holly Lynch to invite her into school to talk to children about her important work. We are so proud of Holly's achievements as a past pupil of Northowram and we were delighted to welcome her into school this week. Holly visited Nursery and year 6 and spoke with children about the role of an MP and her work both in London and in our local community. Holly was very impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of politics and how our country is governed and was surprised to find that even our youngest pupils in Nursery were knowledgeable about aspects such as why taxes are paid and how these are used. We are very grateful to Holly for making time in her busy schedule to visit us and well done Phoebe for helping us to meet such an important VIP!



FOREST SCHOOL

There are very strong links between Forest school and the Design and Technology curriculum as this week's photographs demonstrate. It's been a mixture of sunshine and showers this week but the children are kept busy whatever the weather!



The careful use of tools is a key part of D and T and we thank Lily and Isobel from Year 4 for giving us a perfect example of careful bow-saw work.

Flynn and Mila enjoyed the sunshine too and are becoming very confident in using a hammer and knife to split wood for the fire – excellent partner work you two!

William and Alex have learned to make fire quickly and efficiently using a flint.



Our forest guardians have been busy using a range of tools including saws and hammers on their current project – making a rustic surround for our bin area! Well done to Raif, Oliver, Harry, Leo and Bo and who all look very professional in this picture!



And finally – we put our fire to good use for a spot of cooking – another key part of the Design and Technology curriculum – pancakes in the sunshine for year 3 this week looks fabulous!



SAFEGUARDING



Smart Watches and body-worn internet devices

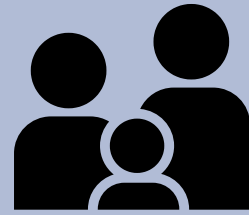
We have had some queries recently about smart watches in school and we have been consulting with Steve Barnes (Calderdale safeguarding officer) about this.

Steve reports numerous difficulties and reports from primary and secondary schools of these being used inappropriately whilst at school.

Our E-safety policy (available in full on the school website) makes clear that pupils should not wear smart watches which have access to the internet. The risk here is that these devices could potentially send and receive messages as well as taking picture and video images which, in addition to the distraction which these can cause, makes them unsuitable for school. If these are worn to school, these will be kept securely and parents should be contacted and asked that the watch is kept for home use only.

As we cannot check all smart-type watches, our general guidance is that only simple analogue or digital watches are worn by pupils in school.

Thank you for your support with this.



Number Day

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Come to school dressed up - Number themed and bring a £1 donation to our charity - RSPCA

Lots of numeracy activities and maths activities will be taking place in school



YEAR 6 MATHS CHALLENGE

A MASSIVE WELL DONT TO ALL OF THE YEAR 6 PUPILS WHO TOOK PART IN THE MATHS CHALLENGE

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU ALL!

Inter-house Events

Chess Tournament

Heads of house in year 6 have been delighted with the positive response they have had to their inter-house Chess tournament. Children from year groups across school took part in rounds which led to the semi finals this week. The level of skill used by children was seriously impressive - some had learned at home and others at school through chess clubs but all were able to play with great concentration, attention to strategy and a great deal of enthusiasm! The finals will take place next week and we look forward to announcing the Northowram Chess Master 2024 very soon!



Nursery Animal Hunt

The nursery children have been very busy hunting the Northowram Village for animals.

Using an animal map they went animal hunting and have managed to raise £30 for the school charity - RSPC

WELL DONE!





PTFA News

We are delighted to announce that, following the Annual General Meeting of the PTFA, our new chair of the PTFA is Mrs Sophie Gaynor.

It was such a pleasure to join in with the community scarecrow festival over the bank holiday – thank you to all our families and members of the community who came to support our event at school. We are delighted to announce that a grand total of £1,352.81 was raised for school which will directly benefit children in school. The PTFA are busy planning further events so look out for forthcoming events including a Summer Disco and Sports Day refreshments!

You may have also seen that the PTFA have set up a Just Giving crowdfunding page for anyone in our community to donate to our longer term aim to raise enough funds to develop a new library for all our children in school. Anyone who wishes to donate can do so here

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/NorthowramPTFALibraryProject?utm_id=1&utm_term=3z32Ap84d



ART

YEAR 4

Year 4 have been studying the monuments of the Byzantine era which links to their history learning about the Roman Empire. Children learned about the history of the Hagia Sophia (built by Justinian, first used as a church and then a mosque). Year 4 children produced their own detailed and richly-coloured Byzantine patterns using watercolour and gold paint with stunning results!

