



WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2024

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



### Merry Christmas to all the Northowram family!

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to send my warmest wishes to you and your family. Whether you celebrate Christmas or enjoy other traditions at this time of year, we hope this season brings peace, joy, and time for reflection. This term has been filled with many achievements, and we are incredibly proud of the efforts and progress made by all our children. School staff have worked hard to provide memorable experiences to mark the end of term including our Christmas productions and carol services - it has been lovely seeing to so many of you in school and church. For those of you who observe Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful time with your loved ones. For all our families, no matter how you celebrate or mark this time of year, I hope the coming weeks bring you moments of rest, happiness, and connection.

Thank you once again for your partnership throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, ready for another exciting chapter of learning!

Wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

*Jane Scardifield*



### Helping our Community

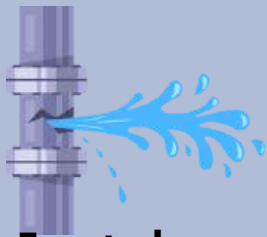
We have made a pledge to get involved with more community projects which help those who live in and around Northowram. Each month, children will join the local community litter-picking group to spend an hour making sure the streets and pavements of our village are free from litter.

Many thanks to Syd, Oliver and Leo in year 6 for volunteering their time and energy to go out into the community with our new governor Linda McCormic and Mrs Scardifield to litter-pick around Northowram.



### Farewell and Good Luck to Mrs Greenwood!

Farewell and good luck To Mrs. Greenwood!  
We bid farewell to Mrs. Greenwood this week as she moves on from Northowram following her maternity leave. Many of your children will have been taught by Mrs. Greenwood who has worked in both year 1 and year 4. We send our very best wishes and grateful thanks for all her hard work to Mrs. Greenwood and her family



## Front playground drainage issues – solved (we hope!)

We are very grateful to the team at Yorkshire Water for working with us to find a solution to the flooding in our banking around the front playground. After years of dealing with significant leaks onto the bridle path and into our playground, Yorkshire Water have, we hope, helped us to solve this and you may have noticed that the playground is now dry and the 'River Baxter' (as we called it!) running down past the entrance to school is no longer! We have made plans with the team to put in additional measures to prevent any further problems and to also investigate further exactly why we have such a large quantity of rainwater flowing through our drainage system (this comes from land and housing above school) so we hope to have a long-term solution to the significant problems we faced after any rainfall.

Thanks Yorkshire Water for your determination and superb problem solving!



## Dogs

Thank you for respecting our rule that no dogs (no matter how small or how cute!) are allowed in our school site at pick up or drop-off times.

We are noticing an increased number of dogs being tied to the external fences at these times and ask that you help us by leaving dogs at home rather than tying them whilst you drop off.

Unfortunately, we have experienced incidents where children have been scared and on one occasion of a dog (whilst tied to our fence) biting a child so please understand that whilst we love these furry friends, it is not appropriate to leave them unsupervised during drop off and collection periods.

Thank you for your support with this.

## PTFA NEWS

Thank you to our superb PTFA who gave us the most wonderful Christmas shop this year. Our PTFA are all volunteers who get together with two aims – to fundraise for school and provide lovely experiences for our children. The Christmas shop was a winner on both counts and children had a super time selecting their gifts for their loved ones. A huge amount of work went into this so our grateful thanks again go to the PTFA – you are simply marvellous!





## ART GALLERY

The Art curriculum in year 5 is ambitious and at times challenging but our young artists in Mr Simpson and Miss Davis's classes are thoroughly enjoying the challenges of working with a range of media.

Shown here are our corridor displays of their work – abstract paintings using acrylic paint and Islamic-design inspired symmetrical patterns using coloured inks to create some truly vibrant results!



It's been a busy week in forest school and children have engaged in a range of festive forest activities. These pictures show children from year 3 enjoying making popcorn over the fire (at a safe distance of course!) and making festive hedgehog Christmas trees with collected materials.

What a special place to learn and play – we are so lucky to have our forest school!



## Design & Technology

In Design and Technology lessons, we aim to equip our pupils with the confidence to become innovative and resourceful problem-solvers and designers.

Year 4 and year 6 were keen to share the results of their recent Design and Technology projects. In year 4, the focus has been on designing and making a cushion. There was much to learn in this project including different stitching styles which you can see the children took great care with and how to add applique details to their designs. These look superb Year 4!

Congratulations to (left to right Grace, Ronnie and Niall B ) for these superb Christmas-themed cushions!



In Year 6, children have been focused on mechanisms used to move and manage water including looking at the design for the Archimedes screw. They were then set a practical challenge to design a 'water wall' for younger children to use. Just look at these results - carefully placed funnels and tubing and real attention to design features to appeal to younger children. These have been installed and are being enjoyed by Reception children. Well done year 6!



## CHARITY NEWS

Well done to Aliza J and Eva W for organising our Christmas colouring competition with all proceeds going to our charity of the year - The National Autism Society.

At the last count, the girls had raised a massive £32 which is a fabulous achievement. Thank you to all the children who have joined in. There's still time to enter the competition which closes on 16th December with winners being announced before the end of term.

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## Year 1 visit

On Monday last week, Year 1 visited Halifax Library to take part in a story-telling workshop.

After an exciting bus journey, the children thoroughly enjoyed browsing the children's library and listening to stories being told by library staff.

We are very lucky to have such a fabulous library with a super children's section accessible in the centre of town - please don't forget that you can join the library (or the one in the village) for free and borrow books for yourself and the children. It's a lovely place to take a pitstop when you're shopping in town!



## Clubs Update

This term's round of clubs has now come to an end and, as we get to work on next term's offer, we'd like to celebrate the achievements of children who have taken part in clubs this term - from Christmas ceramics and recorder club to Funky Fitness and cookery, our clubs have been very popular.

Look out for information on the next round of extra-curricular clubs coming after Christmas - we hope that there will be something for your child to enjoy!

Thanks to Mrs Stapley for sharing these impressive outcomes from her 'Art Around the World Club':



## VISIT FROM ASTREA ACADEMY

We hosted a visit from colleagues working in Astrea Academy at the end of November who came to observe lessons and talk to our pupils and subject leaders about our curriculum.

It's always lovely when visitors come to see our good practice - they were very impressed with the high quality resources and excellent learning they observed.