



FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2024

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

### Spotlight on...Governor Day

We are very lucky to have a great team of Governors at our school. Governors bring a wide range of professional skills and expertise which benefit us all. The governing body provide challenge, support and encouragement to leaders in school and have regular meetings where all aspects of school from the allocation of financial resources and policy development to emergency planning and school improvement are discussed and developed.

Our governors are always very keen to get into school to spend time with children and staff to see the great work that is going on in school and on Thursday this week, we were joined by governors for one of our regular Governor Days.

Governors visited lessons throughout school including joining year 4 and 5 for their computing days, English and Maths lessons, a Year 6 History lesson on The Cold War, visits to both Reception and Nursery and a visit to forest school. We have introduced a new role in classes with two children in each class being 'class ambassadors' who help to show around any visitors to school - these children did a marvelous job of helping governors understand what was happening in their lessons, sharing their work and explaining what they enjoyed about school - well done class ambassadors!

Governors expressed how impressed they were with the children's learning and behaviour and commented on how well-prepared our year 6 pupils are for the next stage of their education at Secondary school. We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor - this is usually a member of the community (rather than a parent-governor) so if you know someone who may be interested in this, please ask them to contact the school office in the first instance.

*Jane Gardifield*



### News/updates Drainage works

We are still investigating drainage leaks on the banking in the front playground (despite the work done!) and are hoping that this can be swiftly resolved so that the children are able to enjoy the banking and playgrounds during the Spring and Summer months.





## Art Gallery:

### Year 3

The Art curriculum in year 3 has meaningful links with the children's learning in History.

The children have studied the Battle of Hastings fought in 1066 depicted on 'The Bayeux Tapestry' and recreated one of the ships from the tapestry using felt collage



Pieces of work by Florence and Eliza L

Year 3 pupils have studied Egyptian Art and made their own papyrus paper. They then drew and painted their Egyptian Gods using acrylic paint:



Pieces of work by Harvey and Niall B

## FOREST SCHOOL

This week - we have pictures of staff instead of children as Mrs. Duke and Mr. Wood lead an after-school training event for teachers treating us all to a real Forest School experience session.

Staff enjoyed cooking their own tea on the fires they had made and learned to use the tools and equipment that the children use their sessions. Good fun was had by all and teaching staff left with a renewed understanding of the unique value that forest school brings to our curriculum both through the strengthening of knowledge in Geography, Art and Science and through the uniqueness of learning and playing in our well-developed forest school area.

Thank you, Mrs. Duke and Mr. Wood!





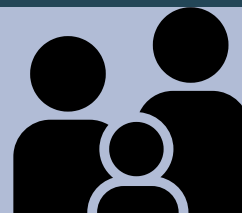
### **Safeguarding** – Further WhatsApp Concerns

We have been made aware by Calderdale's safeguarding team of another social media concern circulating on What's App. Last weekend, a Year 5 and 6 group set up by pupils at a local primary school was hacked through one child's account, and its name changed to 'Add your contacts.' Sadly around 250 children over the weekend did indeed add their contacts and the hacked account went on to display abusive and inappropriate material which is likely to have originated outside of the UK. This group account has been reported to both What's App and the Police. This is a good opportunity to remind all our families that a responsible parent/carer should prevent any access to social media until their child is at least 13 years old. If parents and carers have considered the risks of a child joining social media and are still happy to take those risks, then at the very least a parent/carer should be extremely pro-active around monitoring their child's mobile device and any use of social media, ensuring the deletion of any harmful content they find, and deleting any links to accounts, groups, or persons they do not know or have any concerns about.

As a brief reminder, the recommended minimum age to hold a What's App account in the UK is +16 years. All other popular social media accounts are +13 years.

### **The National Crime Agency's CEOP Safety Centre have very useful information for parents:**

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>



### **Requests and Reminders**

#### **Retirement of school hoodies**

Just to remind families again that the school hoodies are being retired from the end of this academic year and removed from our uniform options. Our local supplier, Kershaws, is discontinuing these so please bear this in mind if you need to buy uniform before the end of this school year – we will be reverting to our core uniform of navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan (branded or unbranded) from September.

#### **Water bottles**

We encourage the children to drink regularly through the day. Children should bring their own water bottle and only water is allowed – no juice/squash or other drink – thank you. We are seeing a trend of children bringing in very expensive water bottles and would strongly advise against this as, in a class of 30 children, these could become lost/damaged/muddled with others.

#### **School shoes**

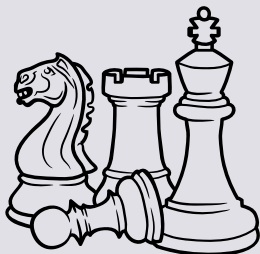
It is important that children look smart for school and our school uniform is that black school shoes are worn by both boys and girls – no trainers please.

## Inter-house Events

### Chess Tournament

The year 6 heads of houses have had a very enthusiastic response to their chess tournament with children from across year groups entering their names to take part.

The competition to find Northowram's next Chess master will take place over two weeks beginning on Tuesday 7th May. There are house-points a-plenty to be won as well as a lovely chess set for the winner. Children who have entered will be told the timings of their chess games by heads of houses next week.



## PTFA News

We hope that you will be able to visit us on Saturday 4th May in the bottom carpark of school for a range of stalls and games as we join in with the Northowram Scarecrow Festival. We'll be fundraising for school so we hope to see you there. Thank you for all of your filled jars - we are amazed at your creativity - from sweets to stationary, bath goodies, buttons and crafts, you've thought of so many different ways to fill a jar for our win a jar stall. There is still plenty of time to 'fill a jar' - we need these by next weekend so please drop any filled jars (non-perishables and no nuts please) to the main school office where these are being collected (or to your child's class teacher).

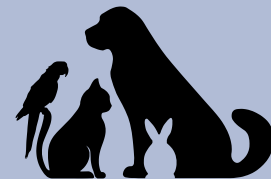


### Charity News

**Charity News - RSPCA (children's chosen charity of the year)**

**Money Raised: £132**

We have been invited by the local RSPCA to join in with celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of this charity in June. We will plan a special day and have fundraising events too - we are thinking of good ideas for this and pupils in year 3 have had the great idea of a nearly-new toy sale to recycle unused games and toys as well as raising money for our Charity of the year - watch this space for more information!



NORTHOWRAM



## Northowram Primary School - Calderdale Schools Gymnastics Competition

On Thursday 25th April, our wonderful girls gymnastics team competed in the annual Calderdale schools gymnastics competition which was held at Hipperholme Grammar School.

The children have been working extremely hard on their routine every Wednesday morning for the last 2 months, this hard work and commitment really showed as the team performed a fabulous routine on the night.

Despite strong competition from a number of other schools in the large schools section, the girls gained 2nd place.

We are both extremely proud of the girls for the hard work and dedication they have shown over the last 8 weeks, and for the way that they conducted themselves on the night of the competition.

We would also like to thank our parents for the fabulous support they have shown, through the early morning practices to help with hair styling on the night!

A massive well done to: Sophia B, Maya B, Esme S, Autumn W, Myla M and Nyla C

Mr Greenwood and Mrs Pearson

