

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Spotlight on ..... Our new library



### New Chapter Begins at Northowram Primary with Grand Library Opening

There was a real buzz of excitement Tuesday 4th November as pupils, staff and special guests gathered to celebrate the grand opening of our school's brand new library. The much-anticipated event marked the culmination of months of planning, fundraising and hard work – and the joy was shared by the entire school community.

Our new library will open up a world of imagination and learning for our children. Having a calm, welcoming space filled with beautiful books will help every pupil develop a lifelong love of reading.

The library has been thoughtfully designed using calm, neutral colours to create a peaceful atmosphere, with cosy corners and soft seating where children can lose themselves in a good story. Carefully stocked shelves hold a wonderful collection of high-quality fiction and non-fiction books for all ages – from Nursery right through to Year 6 – ensuring there's something for every young reader to enjoy.

The opening ceremony was attended by several valued supporters who have played a key role in making this dream a reality through their generous donations and encouragement. Among the VIP guests were Molly Varley and Janet Green from The Northowram Scarecrow Committee; Sophie Gaynor, Nicola Cull, Victoria Sharpe and Christine Horner from the school's PTFA; Louise Lee and Linda McCormick (school governors); and Councillor Elaine Hey representing the Northowram Education Charity.

Helping to host the event were the school's six Year 6 librarians – Oliver, Phoebe, Adshayaa, Max, Daisy and Louie – who proudly shared the new space with visitors.

The opening of the library marks a proud milestone for Northowram Primary School, one that promises to inspire generations of young readers for years to come.

*Jane Gardfield*



### Social Media - follow us on:



@northowramprimaryschool  
Northowram Primary School





## Remembrance

We joined with our local community in the Northowram Armistice event. We are so lucky in Northowram to have such a special place (maintained by Scarecrow Committee volunteers) in the village to quietly remember and pay our respects. Year 5 pupils Henry, Joshua, Marnie and Leora Sky represented the school magnificently reading out poems and sharing their personal connections with the armed forces. Janet Green (Scarecrow Committee) was full of praise for our pupils and said "...their poetry readings and reflections on having a member of the armed forces in the family was both moving and insightful. They were a credit to the school and their contribution was appreciated by all who attended today." Thank you to all our school family for supporting remembrance through the purchasing of poppies and other items – all monies have been collected and we should soon know our Poppy Appeal fundraising total.

## Christmas Cards



A huge thankyou to Nancy D's (pictured here with Verity T) grandma who has gifted us this brand new festive postbox which will help to make our Christmas even more magical. From next Monday (1<sup>st</sup> December), the post box will be outside the front of school from 8.40am for any children wanting to post Christmas cards to their friends. Children will also be able to bob down to the post-box during the school day to post their Christmas cards. The mail will then be sorted each day by some year 5 elves and delivered to classes. Please make sure that cards have full names and classes please so that they can be delivered safely!



A key feature of forest school is that children experience the area throughout the seasons from summer sun to snowy afternoons! As Autumn turns to Winter, children have been keeping warm this November making bonfire pictures with natural items and even tried their hand at cooking popcorn on the fire – delicious!



Both year 1 and 2 have been learning about the different bird species that visit forest school. In particular, we have looked at the different features of these birds and learnt how to recognise them. Hopefully, the children will be able to share their knowledge with grown-ups at home. We have also been making pine cone bird feeders using lard and seeds with Year 2 and bird kebabs with Year 1 which involved threading apple, cheese, bread and raisins onto wire.







Blue Sea by Isa N

The Green Wave by Luna P

## Year 2 Art

In year 2, children have been learning about colour, shape and texture and how these contribute to composition in Art. They have studied the methods used by Matisse and learned that he often used a cut-out method using organic shapes in his Artwork. They then explored this multi-step method to paint backgrounds and add painted cut outs to their pieces of abstract Art – these examples show how carefully the children have thought about colour, shape and composition.

## Howtown 2025

### Welcome Back Adventurers!

Year 6 children had a wonderful week of adventures in the lake district at the beginning of November. We are so proud of all the children who demonstrated our school values of courage, kindness and endeavour so well. From raft building to gorge walking, canoeing to cliff jumping, children learned new skills and learned about the importance of team support and encouragement. We hope they have made memories which will last a lifetime!





## Sporting Achievements

### Cross Country

It was a big day for our long distance runners on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, after weeks of local heats, it was time for the Calderdale cross Country finals! Well done to all our pupils who took part in the trials in some very difficult weather conditions and congratulations to the 17 children who qualified for the event! Watch this space for news of the West Yorkshire finals!



### Boccia Competition

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November we attended the Boccia competition that was held at Hipperholme Grammar School. There were 16 teams that took part from around Calderdale and our team came 1<sup>st</sup>. Well done!!



### Out of school Achievements

Jasper and Elliott W ran 50km in October, raising £375 for Cancer Research in memory of their grandad and uncle. Both boys enjoy running and regularly take part in local Park Run events. Congratulations boys – what a superb achievement – you should feel very proud of yourselves!



Thank you all for supporting Children in Need last week – we raised £519.81 with our efforts and donations. A special shout out to Saoirse O'H and Halle M in year 4 who raised an impressive £35.01 by holding a Lucky Dip in their class – brilliant work!



**We are currently looking for a cleaner to join our facilities team. If you are interested please visit our website for further information. To apply please complete the application form from the school website.**

### Prospective Parent & Carers Information Evening

Last week we held our annual information evening for prospective parents and carers interested in places for Nursery and Reception from September 2026.

We had a great uptake and loved seeing everyone. We are still holding tours, if you would like to book on please call us on 01422 202704. If you know anyone interested please spread the word.



**Term dates for 2026-2027 are now available on the school website.**



## Healthy Sleep

In assembly this week, we have been looking at how important getting a good night's sleep is for our mental health.

Not having a good night's sleep can affect us in many ways. It can:

- affect our feelings and make us feel angry and become unpleasant
- make us feel sad and down
- make our reaction times slower
- affect our concentration
- give us less energy

Did you know?

Children need between 9 and 12 hours sleep each night. Sticking to a regular bedtime each night can really improve their quality of sleep.

### Screen time

It is vital for a healthy diet of sleep that screen time is limited, particularly before bedtime. If children are taking phones and other devices to bed, this can hugely impact on the quality of sleep they have. We would always advise parents to carefully monitor this and to be vigilant about how children use their phones in order to safeguard them.

Top tips for good sleep:

- Go to sleep at a regular time.
- Try to find something relaxing to do before bed such as reading or playing some relaxing music.
- Make sure your room is a good temperature with the right lighting and maybe put some lavender oil on your pillow.
- Avoid vigorous exercise before bed - some gentle stretches might help.
- During the day, try to get some exercise and/or some fresh air.
- Try to talk about anything which is worrying you before you go to bed.



## Attendance and Illness

It is at this time of year where there are lots of different illness going around. School attendance is very important however, we do understand that sometimes children are just too unwell to attend. NHS guidance is clear: for most common illnesses, children should still attend school.

Symptoms like a runny nose, sore throat, mild cough or mild headache are not reasons to stay at home. These can usually be managed with rest, fluids and over-the counter remedies. Children should remain at home if they have:

- A high temperature
- Severe headache,
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Been advised by a medical professional to rest.

Mrs Deighton can administer medicines where these are prescribed by a doctor and need to be taken 4 times a day. If your child's attendance does dip below 90%, they will be classed as a persistent absentee and you may receive a letter from the Education Welfare Officer depending upon the individual circumstances.

We are fully aware that some children do catch everything going and we would much rather work with you to discuss this to see if there is anything we can do to help and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are worried about your child's attendance.

Please visit the NHS website for further information regarding illnesses <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for your support.

