



Northowram Primary School

Newsletter

Inspiring Success Beyond Expectation

JAJNURA

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 2026

Spotlight on The importance of Governors at Northowram Primary School.



As we begin the year, we are pleased to welcome Steven Amos as our new Chair of Governors. This is a timely opportunity to share with you the important role our governing board plays within the school.

All local authority maintained schools, such as Northowram Primary School, are required to have a governing board. Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring with them valuable skills and experience that support the leadership team and help shape the strategic direction of the school. Their role is not to manage the day-to-day running of the school but to provide support, challenge and encouragement to ensure the school continues to improve and provides the best possible education for our pupils.

In addition to attending regular meetings, governors spend time in school, visiting lessons and attending school events. This helps them gain a clear understanding of how the school operates and how our pupils are progressing. All governor roles are voluntary and we are extremely fortunate to have a knowledgeable and committed governing board.

We would also like to thank Canon James for his many years of dedication and service to Northowram Primary School. We are delighted that he will continue to support the school in his ongoing role as a governor.



FOREST SCHOOL REQUEST

Forest School are needing 6 concrete flags

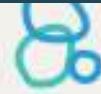
3 x 2 in size.

Please contact the school office if you can help with this.



The recent snow and ice have been fun to explore down at forest school! Children have made sure they look after the birds during the worst of the Winter weather by making bird feeders out of pine cones and been very resourceful to make a snowman despite very little snow! As the ice retreated, year 4 spent time on more creative pursuits, constructing frames and weaving art works to hang in their gardens - wonderful job Forest Schoolers!





Safeguarding

Anxiety

Anxiety Toolkit - Anna Freud Organisation

We all get anxious, no matter the age. Anxiety is simply the brain's response to new situations and constitutes its preparations to deal with the unknown. That is not a pleasant feeling, blood rushes to the arms and legs, the heart quickens and the brain can feel constrained and dazzled.

Without support to help them understand and manage these feelings, children may find it harder to recognise what is happening or to manage anxiety's effects in the moment. It is, though, vital that children learn to handle anxiety and even use it to propel them forward in complex environments.

The Anna Freud Organisation has recently published resources to help children understand anxiety, it is aimed at secondary children but some of it is appropriate for all children, particularly our older ones. It may also give you as parents some help in knowing how to tackle anxiety which may be presenting in younger children. If you are worried that your child is suffering with anxiety or is becoming easily worried, please do reach out to us. We may be able to support you here in school or recommend external support which could be available to you.

You can find the toolkit here:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/lets-talk-about-anxiety-animation-and-teacher-toolkit/>



Calderdale Safeguarding Team

Calderdale Safeguarding Team offer a wide range of services and advice for anyone who may be struggling. There is advice from Safer Sleep to Bullying, Keeping Children Safe Online and Domestic Abuse. There are also links for you to follow should you be concerned about a child. [Parents and carers - Safeguarding Calderdale](#)

Attendance and Appointments

We understand that sometimes getting an appointment out of school hours is unavoidable. However, we are finding an increasing number of people taking appointments within school time. Going forwards, we may ask to see evidence of these appointments, please have these readily available to show upon request.

Thank you for your support with this.





Thankyou to everyone that purchased items from the Forest School Christmas Stall outside School.

The children had a great time making all the lovely Christmas goods and selling them too. We have raised over £500 from the sales which is amazing and this will go towards purchasing some new equipment for the children to use in Forest School.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

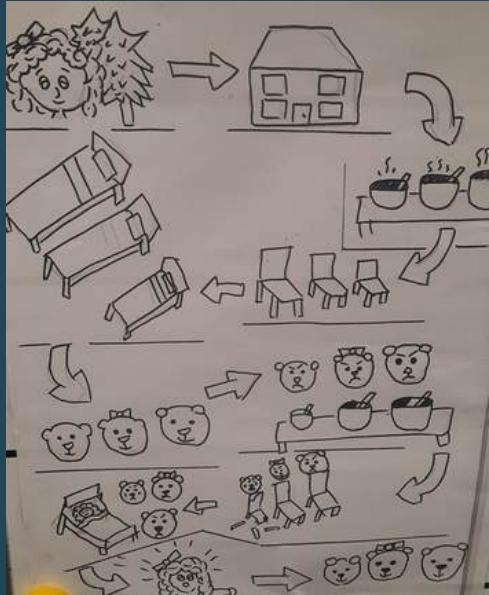
I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. It is a real privilege to step into this role and I am excited to continue supporting the fantastic work happening across our school and looking forward to working closely with you all going forward.

I have been involved as a parent governor for 3 years and have been the vice chair for 2 years. I have known the school for a long time as I grew up in Northowram and attended here myself. I have seen it grow from the original old school building into a larger community based school. It is a community I care about. Our pupils, staff and families make this a wonderful place to learn, and I am committed to helping the school continue to thrive.

As a governing body, our role is to support and challenge the school in equal measure. We work alongside the headteacher and staff to help provide the best possible education and ensure that the school remains a safe, ambitious, and nurturing place for every child and welcoming environment for all.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all staff, pupils, families and other governors for their ongoing hard work, support, and positivity. It is your involvement that helps make our school community strong.

Steve Amos



Developing Early Writing Through Storytelling

To become confident writers, children first need to develop strong spoken language skills and the ability to tell stories. In Nursery and Reception, we place a strong emphasis on story planning and oral storytelling as the foundation for early writing. Each half term, children learn to tell a new story, helping them to build vocabulary, confidence and an understanding of story structure. This half term, Nursery children are learning Three Billy Goats Gruff while Reception children are focusing on Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Children begin by learning to retell the story orally with their teachers. They then practise independently or with friends, using story maps, pictures and props to help them remember the sequence of events. This approach supports children in developing clear, confident storytelling skills that will later transfer into their writing. We encourage you to ask your child to retell their story at home — they love sharing their learning, and it's a great way to support their language development.



We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

Cleaner
Midday Supervisor

If you are interested please contact the school office or visit our website for further information .

To apply please complete the application form which can also be found on our school website.

FOOD HYGIENE INSPECTION

Following a recent visit from the Department of Environmental Health, we are proud to announce that the school kitchen was rated "5 Star" in its Hygiene Inspection.

Well done to all of the kitchen Team for your continuous hard work!



TRIM TRAIL REMOVED

Our regular assessments of our outdoor play equipment identified that the trim-trail on the side playground needed to be removed which has been actioned.

The trim trail (originally part funded by the PTFA) has served us well and will be missed.

We will be looking at possible enhancements to the playground/s and/or replacements for this in the new financial year which begins in April.



This year we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year by having a promotional school meal.

This will take place on **Wednesday 11th February**.

More information to follow.



School Crossing Patrol

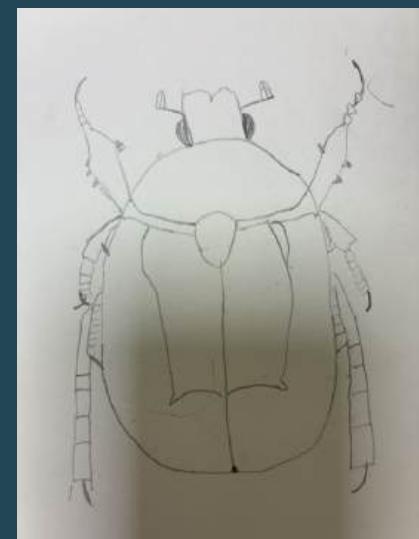
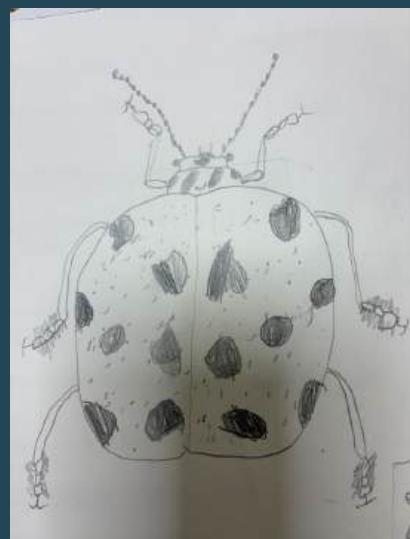
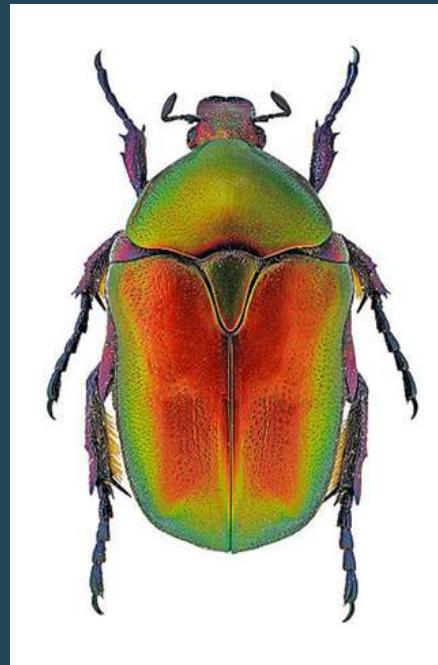
Thank you to all families who took the time to share their views with Calderdale Council as part of the recent consultation on school crossing patrols. Your feedback has been extremely valuable in helping to highlight the specific challenges we face at Northowram Primary School.

Following this, Calderdale Council accepted the school's invitation to visit during our busiest drop-off and pick-up times. This allowed them to see first-hand the traffic volume, road layout and safety concerns experienced by our pupils and families on a daily basis. We are pleased that they were able to fully understand the risks and the need for additional support.

We are now awaiting the outcome of the consultation and whether our case for a dedicated school crossing patrol at Northowram Primary School has been successful. We will keep families informed as soon as we receive an update.



As part of the year 5 African Art Project the children have been doing line drawings of bugs. Using the coloured images below for inspiration the children have drawn their own interpretation of the bugs.



**THE BUGS WERE
DRAWN BY:
FRANCESCA, LAYLA-
BILLIE, NOLA, HUGO
AND ANNABELLA.**

