



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2026

Spotlight on Project Sunflower!



Project Sunflower!

This summer, we're delighted to be joining The Northowram Village Society for Project Sunflower - helping to fill Northowram gardens with sunflowers and giving every child the joy of growing a flower from seed. From Nursery to Year 6, pupils have planted and cared for sunflower seeds and it has been wonderful to see the excitement as the first shoots appear. In assemblies, children have explored fascinating sunflower facts and learned about Van Gogh's famous sunflower paintings which inspired some beautiful artwork using oil pastels, pencil crayons, and watercolours. The children will continue caring for their plants at school before bringing them home on Friday 8th May. Extra sunflower seeds and plants will also be available to buy at the upcoming scarecrow festival and at a pop-up stall in Northowram Club car park after school on Friday 8th May with all proceeds going towards the purchase of the Northowram Village Christmas tree for December 2026.



Jane Scardifield



Sunflowers by Year 3 Oak





Online

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide to help parents and carers navigate the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

Written with direct input from children and young people, including teenagers consulted in schools and the Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors, the guide is designed to make difficult conversations easier and more regular.

The guide covers setting boundaries around phone use, talking about harmful content and building ongoing communication that goes beyond a one-off conversation. Please find a link to the document below, should it be of interest to you:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives>

New Policies

We have two new/revised policies to be aware of. We have revised our complaints policy and have introduced a new policy on the use of physical contact and restrictive interventions in line with new DfE guidance - both policies are available to view on the school website should you require them.



Polytunnel Repair

Thank you to the many parents who have offered their skills or advice about repairing the poly tunnel - we are hoping that the repair will be carried out soon so it can return to being an important area for growing and potting.

Thanks to Theia's mum for providing us with a solution for this!





Children and staff were delighted to welcome the sunshine back to forest school this week! Children had great fun in the sun and showed impressive skills (including very careful hacksaw work) to make these charming snails!



We are delighted to report that we have had a huge amount of frogspawn this year in our small, wet area in forest school which means that our frogs have been happy to return here to breed once again. This has given our pupils a great opportunity to study life-cycles first-hand and they look forward to welcoming new froglets and frogs to our forest school community!



**Scarecrow Festival
Saturday 2nd May 2026**

We're hoping to see many of you round and about at the scarecrow festival which takes place over the bank holiday weekend.

On Saturday 02 May, we'll have some fun and games to enjoy in the bottom car park of school so do pop in to see is as part of the fun of the scarecrow trail.

This year, our school scarecrows honour David Attenborough (very much a school hero!) who turned 100 this year!



David Attenborough - 100 years on planet Earth

Do come and view the selection of different animals which each class have made which have provided hours of fun as we contemplated how to make our allocated animal - from gorillas to rhinos!

Many thanks to Miss Williams for organising our scarecrows and to Miss Lowbridge for leading on planning our scarecrow fun event on Saturday.





P.E Curriculum

During this half term we have been focusing on cricket and the pre-requisite skills needed to play this competitive game.



The children have been working on:

correct batting technique
catching skills
throwing skills (underarm and overarm)
bowling skills (underarm and overarm)
fielding skills



The children have all been working hard on these skills and have made excellent progress.



Year 1 and 2 Gymnastics Competition

Five of our year 2 children have been selected to take part in a gymnastics competition which will be held at the Utopia Gymnastics Club at the end of June.

The children will perform a floor routine and a vault which will be judged according to presentation, execution and amplitude.



We wish these children the very best of luck!





All Star Worlds Competition



Congratulations Halle and Nancy-Mae!

We are very proud of Halle (year 4) and Nancy-Mae's (year 5) achievements. This month, they travelled to America to take part in the mini-pom World Championships and their team put on a superb performance and placed third and earned a bronze medal.

What an amazing experience for Halle and Nancy-Mae and what brilliant results after weeks of long practice hours and dedication - congratulations to them and the team!



REMEMBER!

Do remember that we love to recognise the out-of school achievements of our pupils in our newsletter so do send any photographs and details of achievements to admin@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk and we will do our best to include them.



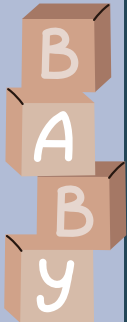
Congratulations

We send all our love and congratulations to Miss Jennings and her family as they welcome a beautiful baby girl into the family!

We know the children will be excited to hear this lovely news, and we are delighted for her as she enjoys this special time together with her family.

At the end of June, both Mrs Kelly and Miss Durn will return to school following their maternity leaves. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them back to the school community and know they are excited to return to their classes and colleagues.

Mrs Talbot, Mrs Scrimshaw and Miss King are due to begin their maternity leaves at the end of the Summer term, and we wish them all the very best as they prepare for the exciting arrivals of their little ones.



NO DOGS ALLOWED



Just a reminder that no matter how small/cute/adorable/well-behaved your dog may be, they are not allowed on the school site.

Scooters and bikes in the playground

We love that so many children are cycling or scooting to school and that our bike shed area is more well-used than it has been for some time! It is wonderful to see so many families choosing active and healthy ways to travel to school, particularly as the weather improves. Please remind children that once in the school grounds, they should dismount from their bikes or scooters and walk carefully to the bike shed area. This helps to keep everyone safe, especially during our busy drop-off and collection times. We would also encourage all children to ensure their bikes and scooters are stored tidily and securely so that the area remains safe and accessible for everyone.



School Visits



Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford! The children had a brilliant time exploring a range of exciting exhibits, including the interactive Wonderlab gallery where they could investigate light and sound, and the Sound and Vision galleries which explore how film, television and photography have developed over time.

They were especially fascinated by the different cameras, screens and how media technology has changed. A highlight of the day was taking part in the engaging Bring the Thunder workshop, where the children explored how sound travels and even created their own thunder!

The children showed great curiosity throughout the day and were a credit to the school with their excellent behaviour.

We are very proud of them all!



School Visits



Year 2 had a great day out at Sheffield Manor Lodge learning about life in Tudor times.

During their visit to this heritage site, they found it that it was once the place where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned!

Children learned about medicine in the past, made pomanders during their visit to the Tudor house and ruins.

We were also very lucky with the weather and great fun was had exploring the beautiful grounds and maze - what an adventure!





Northowram Rams Update - Vase Cup Runners Up



Well done to the boys who won 5 games in order to reach the Northowram Rams Vase Cup final and taking the runners up position in the cup final match.

Alex, Elliott, Thomas, Olly, William G, Niall B, William F, Hugo, Ted



TALENT SHOW

We are delighted to announce that our school will be hosting an Inter-House Talent Show, giving students the opportunity to showcase their creativity, confidence, and unique abilities. From singing and dancing to comedy, magic, and more, the event promises to be an enjoyable and inspiring evening for all. This is a wonderful chance for students to express themselves

Northowram Primary School

TALENT SHOW

Come showcase your skills

JUNE 2026

Names & Acts to teachers before Friday 22nd May

2 HOUSE POINTS PER ENTRY

Singers, dancers, comedians, magicians, all talents welcome!

