



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

JULY 2026

Spotlight on Celebrating a Year of Success

Celebrating a Year of Success

As another successful year comes to a close, I want to celebrate the many achievements of our pupils and thank our families for their continued support.

Our youngest children have had a wonderful year in Reception, with 81% achieving a Good Level of Development, giving them a strong foundation for Key Stage 1. Our Year 1 pupils also excelled in the Phonics Screening Check, with 90% meeting the expected standard—well above the anticipated local and national averages. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work of our children, staff and families, whose support with reading at home makes such a difference.

Year 4 pupils impressed in the national Multiplication Tables Check, achieving an average score of 21.2 out of 25, which we expect to be above the national average when results are published in the autumn. This year has also brought exciting improvements to our school, including our wonderful new library and the refurbishment of the Year 6 classrooms. Alongside this, pupils have enjoyed an enriched programme of experiences, from theatre trips, the pantomime and our first overnight visit to London, to inspiring visitors, workshops, performances and assemblies. Our inaugural talent show was a real highlight and will certainly be returning next year!

We are still awaiting our Year 6 SATs results following national delays, but we are incredibly proud of everything this year group has achieved. They have worked exceptionally hard, embraced every opportunity and set a wonderful example to younger pupils by showing that it is truly cool to be clever and to be interested and interesting. From their residential visit and SATs preparation to their fantastic end-of-year production, they have been an outstanding group of young people.

To our Year 6 pupils and to all the families leaving us this summer, thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Finally, thank you to all our pupils, staff, governors and families for another memorable year. Have a wonderful, well-deserved summer break—we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year ahead.



Jane Scardifield



Looking Ahead

Celebrating 150 Years

The 2026-27 academic year marks Northowram Primary School's 150th anniversary, and we are looking forward to celebrating this special milestone.

Over the coming year, we will be sharing our school's rich history, reintroducing our original school badge, and planning commemorative events.

We are also exploring some updates to our school uniform from September 2027 to reflect our heritage. We look forward to sharing more details from September.



Summer Improvements

Although the school is closed to pupils over the summer, it is one of our busiest times of year as we continue to invest in our learning environment.

This summer's projects include:

Refurbishing the front corridor to create a welcoming entrance that reflects our school's values and history.

Renovating both Reception classrooms with new furniture, décor and learning spaces designed to support high-quality play, communication, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging.



Changes to Lunchtimes

From September, pupils in Years 1-6 will have a 45-minute staggered lunchtime.

Having fewer children on the playground at once will improve supervision and the quality of play. Children will still enjoy the same amount of social time, as we are introducing a new afternoon active play session. These sessions will provide opportunities to learn and enjoy playground games such as skipping, French skipping and a range of group games, while also breaking up the afternoon to support pupils' wellbeing and concentration.



A Playground Surprise!

We're also delighted to be installing a brand-new piece of outdoor play equipment on the side playground over the summer.

We can't wait for the children to discover it when they return in September!





Important

As you may have seen in the news, there are some concerns around 'squishy dumplings' which have become popular amongst children.

Indeed, we have seen children with these in school. These contain a chemical which is potentially dangerous. Some children have also been heating these dumplings and then suffering with burns to their faces and bodies caused by them 'exploding.'

Please do take care if your child has these.

Over the summer can be a challenging time for some families. If you do need to contact Mrs Deighton in the holidays for help or support, you can do so by emailing allison.deighton.calderdale.sch.uk or by ringing/texting on 07494 691167. She will be monitoring this throughout the holidays.



Roblox

We have become aware of some issues around Roblox, which is a popular game amongst many of our children. This is largely around the 'chat' facility available. Messages have been sent directly to children of a threatening nature and it has also been reported that in one game, someone is walking around with messages on a sign which are highly inappropriate for children.

As with all aspects of internet safety, we urge you to add parental controls to ensure they are accessing age-appropriate materials and disable the chat facility in order to protect your children as much as possible. There are some useful tips on the following site for many different apps which children may be accessing:

[parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)



Attendance



Just a reminder that holidays during term time cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

We are seeing an increasing number of families taking 4/4.5 days. Where these are taken and other holiday days have been taken throughout the year, from September, the Educational Welfare team will review whether these will qualify for a penalty notice. These may be out of the ten weeks as previously mentioned particularly where attendance is below 90% and there is a history of accumulative holidays. Additionally, we will need to see all appointments which are taken during school time.

Inclusion and SEND communication

Our new Inclusion leader and SENDco from September is our deputy headteacher Mrs Alison Wild.

Please note that the SEND mobile phone number will cease to be in use from July 18th 2026.

If you would like to contact Mrs Wild about any questions regarding inclusion, pupil premium, looked after children or recently adopted children, you can do so by emailing sen@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk or by ringing or calling into the school office.



FOREST SCHOOL

Year 6 had some important learning down in forest school recently with a special first aid course delivered by Mr Wood and Mrs Deighton.

It looks like they managed to have a lot of fun whilst learning these important life skills!

Meanwhile, year 4 children got creative and made some minibeast decorations to use in their own gardens.



Art Gallery

Year 5 have been exploring the fascinating history of photography. Inspired by early photography using the camera obscura, year 5 were inspired to use photographs and cut-outs to create their own imaginative photomontages to express their unique identities.





P.E Curriculum

On Wednesday 17th June our fantastic year 2 Gymnastics Team attended the KS1 gymnastics competition, which was held at Utopia Gymnastics club in Brighouse.

The girls performed a floor routine and a vault, and despite some nerves on the day and strong competition from other schools, they managed to win the competition.

The girls have been a credit to the school. Their behaviour and attitude towards their training and how they conducted themselves on the day of the competition have been exemplary.



Well done to Bonnie, Delilah, Betsy, Ella and Isla!



Bee Netball Festival at Brooksbank School



Some of our Year 4 girls recently took part in a Bee Netball Festival at Brooksbank School. The event focused on learning new skills, developing confidence and enjoying the game of netball in a fun and supportive environment. The girls worked hard on their teamwork, passing and movement, showing great enthusiasm throughout the day. They all had a fantastic time, and there are definitely some super netballers in the making! 🏐🐝





**TALENT
SHOW**



Talent Show

Our first-ever Northowram Talent Show was a fantastic success!

It was wonderful to see so many children confidently sharing their talents, interests and creativity with an audience. From the heats to the finals, every performance showcased the courage, enthusiasm and talent of our pupils. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and especially to our winners. Phoebe (Years 4-6) impressed us all with her powerful performance of Defying Gravity, while Isla (Years 1-3) delighted the audience with an outstanding gymnastics and hula-hooping routine.

We are already looking forward to making the Talent Show an annual tradition!

**TALENT
SHOW**



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Maternity leavers and returners!

We warmly welcome back Miss Durn and Mrs Kelly who return following their maternity leaves and send our warmest wishes to Mrs Scrimshaw and Mrs Talbot and their families who begin their maternity leaves this month.



NO PARKING Reminder to Parents



Please remember that parking is NOT permitted in either of the staff car parks at any time during the school day.

We kindly ask all parents and visitors to use the designated parking areas and not enter the staff car parks.

This helps ensure the safety of pupils and allows staff to access and leave the site as needed.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



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.



TIME
TO SAY
GOODBYE

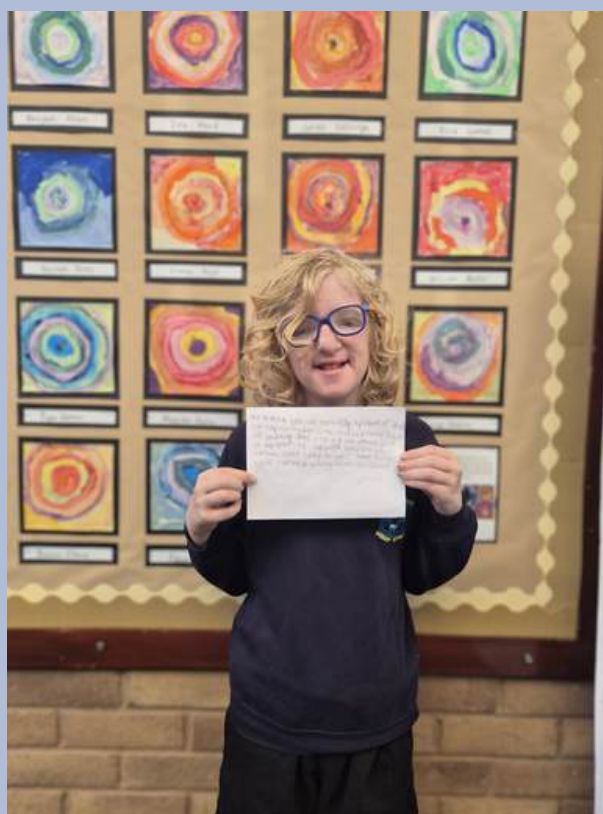
A Message of thanks from Ronnie (Year 6 Pupil)

TIME
TO SAY
GOODBYE

At the end of his primary school career, Ronnie was keen to share a message of thanks with our school community about his time here.

'Northowram, you are honestly my favourite school. I will really miss this school since it has kind, honest teachers and amazing ideas. It is one of the best primary schools in my opinion and I hope people love it like I do. So Northowram, never change because as an adult I will still be thinking about this school.'

Ronnie (Year 6 Pupil)



Thank you Ronnie for taking the time to write these lovely words – we are so happy that you have enjoyed our time here. Congratulations on a super successful time at Northowram Primary School!

THANK YOU!