



NORTHOWRAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



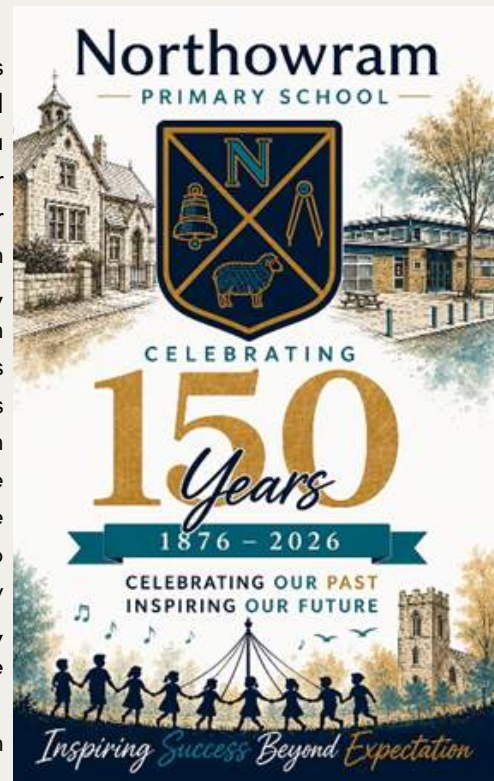
OCTOBER 2026

A Grateful Start to Our 150th Year

Gratitude is one of our six school values, and it feels particularly fitting as we begin this new academic year. There is so much to be grateful for at Northowram Primary. We feel incredibly fortunate to be here to witness and celebrate our school's 150th birthday. It is a very special milestone in our history, and we are looking forward to bringing together families, governors, community members and staff to help plan a year of celebrations. Our first 150th Birthday Committee meeting will take place at school on Wednesday 7th October at 3.30pm. If you feel a strong connection to our school, its history or its future, we would love you to join us. We are also extremely grateful to the Northowram Scarecrow Committee and Northowram Education Charity for their generous donations towards our new play circuit. It has already been a huge success, with children of all ages enjoying the opportunity to climb, balance, swing and play together. A very warm welcome and thank you to our new Nursery and Reception families. Your children have settled into school remarkably well and so quickly and your support in helping them make such a positive start has been wonderful to see. Finally, as always, I am hugely grateful to our dedicated school staff. Their hard work over the summer and during these first few weeks has ensured that we have begun the year with such a positive sense of purpose, establishing the routines, relationships and expectations that will help our children thrive throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who makes Northowram Primary such a special school. We have an exciting year ahead!

Jane Scardifield



Who's Who at Northowram

With a school community of around 70 staff, we know that it can take a little time – particularly for our new families – to get to know who's who!

To help, we've added photographs, names and roles for our staff and governors to the school website. This is a useful way to put faces to names and find out a little more about the people who help make Northowram such a special place.

You can find the information in the Parents section of our website or by clicking below:

<https://www.northowram.calderdale.sch.uk/parents/our-staff-team/>





Staff Training – De-escalation and Positive Handling

As part of our ongoing commitment to positive behaviour management and pupil safety, staff undertake six hours of certificated training during October. The training will focus on positive behaviour strategies, understanding and responding to behaviour, de-escalation techniques and the appropriate use of physical intervention where this may be necessary to keep a child or others safe.

We use an external specialist provider to deliver this important training, ensuring that staff have a consistent and up-to-date understanding of best practice.

We recognise the importance of being open with families about our approach to behaviour and physical intervention.

Our Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Physical Contact and Restrictive Interventions Policy are available to view in the Policies section of our school website.

<https://www.northowram.calderdale.sch.uk/policies/>



NEWS at Northowram Primary School

Meet Alison Wild – Inclusion Leader



Alison Wild
Deputy Headteacher

From September 2026, Alison Wild, our Deputy Headteacher, has taken on the additional role of Inclusion Leader. This includes responsibility for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), as our school SENCO, as well as leadership of our Pupil Premium provision.

As part of this role, Alison works closely with pupils and staff to ensure that children with additional needs are supported to access learning, participate fully in school life and make progress. She is also keen to work in partnership with parents and families, providing support, advice and a point of contact for questions or concerns relating to SEND and inclusion. If you would like to ask a question, share information, arrange a meeting or discuss your child's SEND support, please contact Alison via our dedicated email address: sen@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk

We aim to respond to SEND enquiries within three working days.

For matters that are urgent or require an immediate response, please contact the school office on 01422 202704.



Allergy and anaphylaxis policy Allergy Awareness and Anaphylaxis

The safety of children with allergies is extremely important to us, and from September 2026 schools have new statutory duties around allergy safety. These include having a dedicated allergy safety policy and ensuring that staff receive appropriate training in recognising allergic reactions, responding to anaphylaxis and using adrenaline auto-injectors in an emergency.

As part of these new arrangements, we now stock spare adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) in school so that emergency treatment can be given if a child experiences a severe allergic reaction, including in circumstances where they do not have a prescribed auto-injector of their own or their allergy was previously unknown.

We have also introduced a new Allergy Safety Policy, which can be found in the Policies section of our school website.

If your child has a known allergy, has recently been diagnosed with an allergy, or you have any questions about their medical needs or Individual Healthcare Plan, please contact Alison Deighton, who coordinates medical needs in school. She will be happy to discuss your child's needs and ensure that appropriate arrangements and care plans are in place.

Our aim is to work closely with families so that children with allergies can enjoy school safely, confidently and fully included in school life.



ART GALLERY

Year 6 have been inspired by close observational drawings from the Renaissance Period. After studying works by Leonardo Da Vinci, children made observational drawings of their hands, paying attention to shading, shape and accuracy – what talented artists we have in Year 6!



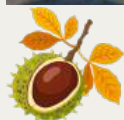


FOREST SCHOOL
at Northowram Primary
School



NEWS
at Northowram Primary
School

Children had a great time making bird feeders from the apples that have grown on school grounds. Thank you to Mrs Sharp for donating sunflower heads for the children to use during the making of the bird feeders.



WANTED



Mr Wood is wanting donations of conkers and acorns to use for forest school activities.. please bring to the school office



Safety First – Fabulous First Evacuation Practice!

We regularly practise both evacuation and invacuation procedures to ensure that everyone in school knows what to do and can respond calmly and safely in an emergency.

Our first evacuation practice of the year was a fantastic success, with all pupils and staff safely out of the building in just 2 minutes and 10 seconds – a great result for a large school, particularly for our first practice of the year!

A special well done goes to our new Nursery and Reception children, who did a marvellous job. They were super sensible, followed instructions brilliantly and showed just how quickly they are becoming familiar with school routines.

We also have Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) in place for pupils who may need additional support to evacuate safely. If you feel your child may require an individual plan, please contact Mrs Deighton in school so that we can discuss their needs and check that appropriate arrangements are in place.

Well done everyone – another important safety routine successfully embedded!



NEWS
at Northowram Primary
School

Parking – Polite Reminder

Car Parks in school are for **STAFF ONLY**.

If you need to use one of our disabled parking spots, please contact school to discuss this with our Buildings Manager.

Term Dates 2027-2028

Term Dates for 2027-2028 are now available on the school website



NEWS

at Northowram Primary
School

Curriculum Enrichment

One of our priorities this year is to increase the range of enrichment opportunities we provide for our pupils, including visits, visitors, workshops, experiences and special events that bring learning to life and complement our classroom curriculum.

We have made a fantastic start, with a number of exciting experiences already taking place during the first few weeks of term.



Consequences of Crime Workshop – Year 6



Year 6 pupils took part in a thought-provoking Consequences of Crime workshop delivered by the West Yorkshire Police Early Intervention Team. Pupils showed respect and curiosity as they explored important issues including the age of criminal responsibility, the consequences of criminal behaviour and the choices young people can make to keep themselves and others safe. The workshop forms part of our Year 6 PSHE curriculum and supports pupils in preparing for the increased independence and responsibilities that come with moving to secondary school.



Stone Age and Ancient Greece Workshops – Years 3 and 4



Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils had the opportunity to step back in time through exciting Stone Age and Ancient Greece workshops. Visiting experts brought history to life through artefacts, costumes and hands-on activities, giving pupils the chance to explore and handle objects linked to their current History topics. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to deepen their understanding beyond the classroom.

Understanding Anxiety – Year 5

Our Year 5 pupils also took part in a valuable workshop focused on understanding and managing anxiety, delivered by our mental health support worker, who works closely with Mrs Deighton, our Pastoral Leader. Pupils explored what anxiety can feel like and learned practical strategies and 'top tips' to help them manage difficult feelings. The workshop was very positively received, with pupils commenting that they found it reassuring to understand more about anxiety and what they can do when they experience these feelings.

We are looking forward to building on this strong start and providing even more opportunities for our pupils to experience, explore and enjoy learning beyond the classroom throughout the year.

