



FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

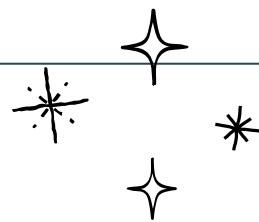
The Spring term, whilst short this year, is always my favourite term. It is a term where we pay close attention to the changing of seasons and the coming of Spring and when children's learning and progress often accelerates the most - we have got off to a flying start since our return from the Christmas holidays with exciting new topics and a really focused feeling around school. We welcome new teachers to our school family - Mrs Kelly joins the year 2 team and, as Mrs Scrimshaw and Mrs Greenwood prepare to begin their maternity leave, Mrs Lindsey has joined us in year 4 and Miss Durn rejoins us in year 6 after returning from her maternity leave. The Big News this week around school is that Hot Chocolate Friday with the head is back! After taking a break, our school council (carrying the voice of all pupils) requested that it be reinstated so we are delighted that this lovely ritual begins again this week. If your child comes home to say that they have had hot chocolate with the head, this means that their teacher has identified them as having had a super successful week, being 100% reliable and demonstrating our school values in and around school. I can't wait for this afternoon for the first hot chocolate Friday of the year!



Jane Scardifield



YEAR 6 ART & ARCHITECTURE



Pupils in year 6 are studying Victorian Art and Architecture. These drawings by Bella and Hudson really celebrate the gothic revival style of the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey and show excellent pencil control and attention to scale.

Remember - you can follow our school Art gallery on Instagram @northowram_artwork to view all the latest artwork from throughout school.





FOREST SCHOOL

We offer forest school to all pupils in Reception and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4. Visiting forest school in all seasons is a key part of outdoor learning and this week, children have kept busy and warm enjoying activities including making bug hotels and cooking dough sticks on the fire. Mrs Scardifield joined forest school on one of the coldest days this week and was served a delicious meal of freshly popped popcorn and warm Ribena - delicious! We are committed to maintaining our forest school and know that it contributes a great deal to children's personal development and well-being. Many thanks to our forest school instructors Mr Wood and Mrs Duke for making forest school such a magical place!

SAFEGUARDING

Calderdale officers find safeguarding procedures are very effective at Northowram Primary School!

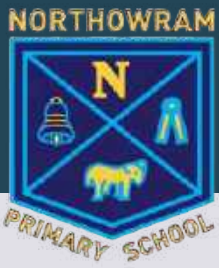
Before Christmas, we welcomed two members of Calderdale's safeguarding team into school (Steve Barnes - Calderdale Schools Safeguarding Advisor and Ian Curry - School improvement Partner) to spend a full day conducting a Safeguarding Deep-Dive to rigorously audit and check the effectiveness of our safeguarding processes. Officers spent time in and around school including over the lunchtime period, checked documentation and spoke to a range of pupils. Checks included our staff safeguarding checks and training, processes linked to attendance, our safeguarding curriculum, site security, behaviour of pupils and procedures linked to behaviour management and anti-bullying. We have now received our final report which identifies that safeguarding processes linked to all areas are effective and that safeguarding is very well-led and managed in school. No areas for immediate action were found and a number of recommendations made have already been actioned and will help make our safeguarding processes even better.



Year 4 concentrating hard on baking their dough sticks around the fire in mid-Winter

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**





CHARITY NEWS – PET TREATS COLLECTION

Total Raised So far: £23.90

Total treats collected: 0



Each year, our children choose their 'Charity of the Year'. This helps children across school develop altruistic attitudes, links strongly to our school value of Kindness and helps children understand the value of helping and supporting others within the community. It also gives pupils the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they organise a range of small and larger scale fundraising events. This year, our year 6 children have chosen the RSPCA as our whole school charity of the year which is no surprise as I know that Northowram is a community of animal lovers! This week, I have been liaising with Rachael Cooper (our local RSPCA community liaison person) to arrange some events for school. Rachael will be visiting assemblies on Monday 29th January to explain the work of RSPCA and to launch some special events for us to take part in during February including writing Valentine cards to animals currently at the shelter, fundraising ideas and explain how we can get involved in the 200th anniversary of the RSPCA celebrations taking place later in the year. To get us started, we are starting a collection of pet treats (for dogs and cats) and will leave a collection basket in the porch at Reception for any donations – perhaps you have some treats that your dog doesn't favour or perhaps you could put an extra packet of doggie treats in your shopping trolley – if you would like to make a donation, the dogs and cats at our local shelter would be very grateful!



GOVERNOR DAY



We welcomed our school governors into school in December for one of our regular Governor days. Governors are volunteers who provide a vital part of our school's leadership offering challenge, support and encouragement to us all in school as we continue our journey to achieve our school's vision of 'Inspiring Success Beyond Expectation.' Being in school gives governors a valuable opportunity to observe first-hand and hold school to account for the policies and practices that we discuss in meetings. Governors joined lessons, stayed for lunch and talked to a wide range of pupils and staff throughout the day. They were very impressed with the learning of our youngest pupils in the early years and year 1 who they saw earnestly engaged in their phonics learning and lessons in year 6 where children were responding to narrative poetry were described as 'magical'. Joining lessons in year 5, governors saw first hand how well children are checking and editing their writing leading to great progress with the spelling and content of their work. A lively, practical year 3 design and technology was seen where children's creativity in design and accuracy in diagrams and evaluations were noted and it was noted that our history and geography lessons were clearly offering our pupils much more than the national curriculum requires us to provide. It was a wonderful day and we are very thankful for the time and expertise of our governors that brings such benefits to our school.

