



## INSPIRING SUCCESS BEYOND EXPECTATION

Head teacher: Mrs Jane Scardifield

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Hello everyone,

Goodness me - What a week!

### **Bubble Closures and home learning**

To bring you up to date, since starting back after half term, we have had two members of staff who have tested positive for Covid 19. Working with the Public Health team, we identified the need to close both Reception classes, 4 Sycamore and 5 Birch. Children in these classes are currently learning at home and staying connected with the school family and continuing to progress with their learning with daily live lessons from their teachers, daily assemblies and plenty of work being set on Google Classrooms. It's really put our home learning offer to the test and I have to say a huge thankyou to Mrs Annetts, Mrs Dennison, Mrs Scrimshaw and Miss Hall for their valiant efforts this week. It's the first time we've done live teaching and it has been a steep learning curve and rather nerve-wracking too! I've dropped into several live lessons this week and have been really impressed with the lessons and delighted to see the children engaging brilliantly with their teachers and classwork.

### **Take-Away Fridays**

It's the small things that make us happy and I was amazed at how many children came into school today excited to be getting a hot meal delivered to their class at lunchtime today. I'm looking forward to sampling today's offer myself - I don't think fish fingers and chips will have ever tasted so good! Due to our bubble closures this week and our review into lunchtime procedures, we've put on pause our plans to introduce dinners in the hall for year one at the moment.

### **Christmas**

We all know that Christmas will be different and more than a little challenging this year but we're determined to enjoy the spirit of Christmas with the children in school (or at home!) Nursery and Reception team are (fingers crossed), hoping to prepare a videoed nativity performance which can be shared with the classes' parents and watched by classes in school which is something to look forward to. I've also had conversations with Cannon James this week who is one of our school governors and he is helping us plan for how we can manage our Christingle making and services in classes this year.

### **Children in Need, shoe boxes and food donations**

It was a real delight to see the children happy to join in with our Children in Need Day today and I hope that they enjoyed it whether at home or at school. Many thanks for your donations which we will ensure are sent promptly to the charity. I have always known that our school family is a generous bunch, but we have been amazed by how many of you chose to send in a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. These are being collected and being sent off today and at the last count, we had over 50 boxes which is just brilliant. I know that our parents collecting food donations in the box at the entrance to school for the Calderdale Community Matters Project have also been overwhelmed by your generosity too. Your food donations will help low income families by providing weekly food parcels to them through these hard times.

### **Virtual Open Evening for prospective parents - Monday 30th November**

If you have, or know parents with pre-school age children who may be considering our school for their child, please be advised that we are having a virtual open evening on Monday 30th November at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to meet key members of staff and hear about what's special about Northowram Primary School. To attend, parents need to click on the link on our school Twitter or Website.

Wishing you a happy, peaceful weekend,

Jane Scardifield