



## INSPIRING SUCCESS BEYOND EXPECTATION

Head teacher: Mrs Jane Scardifield

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Hello everyone,

It's Friday again after a very productive week in school! Here are my weekly updates:

### **Calderdale Perspective**

I met with other Primary Headteachers across Calderdale yesterday (virtually of course!) and it is clear that we are very fortunate in Northowram to have enjoyed six happy and healthy weeks in school with no positive Covid cases for staff or children. In a briefing from the local authority, it was made clear that across Calderdale, Covid cases are rising in all boroughs and across all age groups. It just underlines the need for us to maintain our safety procedures in school and do everything we can to prevent any spread of infection and to contain any cases we may have in the future. Please look after yourselves and your children too on school grounds - keep remembering those face masks and keep your distance from other families please.

### **School Meals**

The first week of hot school meals in the dining room for our Nursery and reception children has been a real success! Children have enjoyed a range of meals from sausage rolls to pizza and have been brilliant with their table manners! We are still monitoring this (especially timings) and are hopeful of being able to extend our hot meals offer at some point after half term to year one so look out for updates. Thanks for your patience for this - we know that children are eager to recommence their normal lunchtimes but we have to go carefully and slowly with it, ensuring that the class bubbles do not mix and putting additional cleaning in place. This is to reduce the risk of any transmission of the virus and also to ensure that, if we have a positive Covid case, we can minimise the number of pupils who would need to self-isolate at home.

### **Children in Need**

In happier news, we are really looking forward to celebrating Children in Need in school on Friday 13th November so please put this date in your diaries. Although we can't meet together in the hall as we would do usually, children will be able to come to class in spotty or bright clothes, take part in a Pudsey Bear colouring competition and each class will have their own class 'duck' to take part in the live virtual duck race broadcast by the BBC. Children need to bring a pound coin on the day to donate to Children in Need.

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## **Virtual Parents' Evenings**

Most parents have now signed up for a virtual parents' evening either next Thursday evening or during the day on Friday. There's still time to make an appointment if you have not done so already. Your children's teachers are really looking forward to talking with you about how they have settled back into school life as well as their academic and social progress. We hope the virtual meetings go well (with telephone calls as back up of course in case technology lets us down!). As this is the first time we have done parents' evening in this way, I would welcome any feedback from a parental point of view about how these work for you.

## **Virtual Open day for prospective new parents**

At this time of year, we usually hold an open evening for prospective new parents of children who are entering Nursery or Reception next September. We are hoping to be able to provide a virtual open event after half term (details to follow) so, if you know any parents who are considering our school for their young children or if you have a child who will be entering Nursery or Reception next September, look out for details of the event on our school Twitter and parentmail.

## **Cooler Classrooms**

Government guidance is clear that we need to ensure ventilation in classrooms by having windows open. As we move into the cold months of the year, we will need to consider how to provide ventilation without freezing the children! For now, as classrooms are definitely cool (especially in the mornings), please ensure that children are dressed warmly (an extra vest wouldn't go amiss!) - I would recommend moving to tights with skirts rather than socks to help keep cosy and warm!

Sending my best wishes to you and your families for a lovely weekend,

Jane Scardifield