



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Spotlight on.....Bringing the Curriculum to life!

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025

Practical workshops are a fantastic way to bring our history lessons to life!

Recently, our pupils took part in exciting hands-on sessions linked to our World War I and Early Islamic Civilisation (Baghdad) topics.

During the WWI workshop, the children tried on replica uniforms, handled artefacts, and used virtual reality headsets to deepen their understanding of what life was like for soldiers during the war.

In the Baghdad workshop, pupils explored how science, trade, and culture flourished in the Golden Age, taking part in activities that showed how advanced and creative people were at that time.

These interactive sessions make learning memorable and help our young historians connect with the past in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

Jane Scardifield



Happy Diwali!

We would like to wish all our families who are celebrating Diwali this week a very happy and joyful festival! Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a wonderful time for coming together with loved ones, sharing food, giving gifts, and celebrating the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

We have marked the occasion with special assemblies and our nursery children enjoyed making their own diya lamps. From everyone at our school, we send our best wishes for a safe and sparkling Diwali.



Harvest

Thank you to all of our families who supported this years Harvest Festival.

All of the donations have now been taken to the local homeless charity Happy Days which is located in Halifax town centre.

Each year, we ask our year 6 pupils to choose our "charity of the year" for all our fundraising. We are delighted that the children have chosen "Happy Days" as this years charity and we look forward to supporting them with more events as the year progresses.



Thank you and congratulations to our year 4 and year 6 children for producing crafts to sell in our forest school sale. Children were totally engrossed in the last of the Autumn sunshine making their conker wreaths and conker creatures and really enjoyed setting up a stall last week. Thank you to all families who supported the children's endeavors - all proceeds will be ploughed back into resources for forest school



Art at Northowram

We like to use our corridors and shared spaces as an Art gallery to carefully display children's artistic creations.

Take a look at our most recent displays which celebrate the fabulous Art work completed by children from all year groups this half term:

Nursery - Self Portraits



Year 1 - Shades, Tones and Seascapes



YEAR 2 - COLOUR AND SHAPE (INSPIRED BY KANDINSKY)



Year 3 - Exploration of Line





Year 4 - Still Life



Year 5 - Exploring Style in Art



Year 6 Art - Italian Renaissance





Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

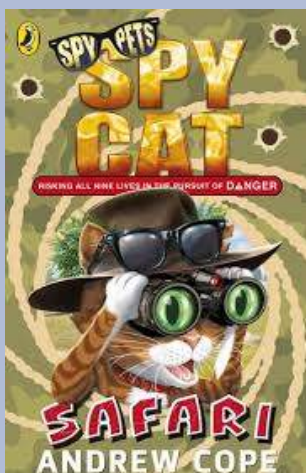
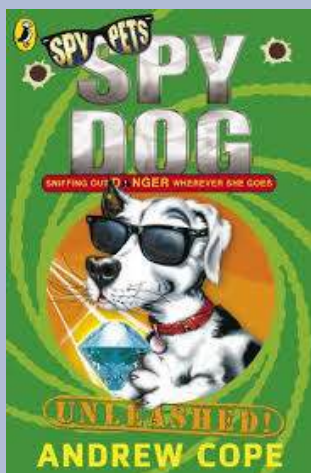
What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.

- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves – the concern is only with the outdated link.

- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.



Attendance

Just to remind you that we cannot authorise any holidays during term time- there are very few exceptions to this and holidays will incur a fine if there are more than 5 days taken within a 10 week period.

However, if there are 5 days accrued which goes over this and attendance is of a concern, a fine could still be incurred.

We work closely with the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) with regards to attendance. Of course, we do understand that children do become ill/have unavoidable appointments and operations and we do not expect you to send a poorly child to school.

We may ask to see evidence of these appointments. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please do contact us as it is much easier if we work together to tackle this. The chart below gives you an idea of what we are aiming for.

Where attendance drops below 90%, we may contact you or refer this to the EWO should we have concerns. Each case is monitored very carefully.

We do take into account that the figures will be inflated at this time of year therefore may look back at last years' attendance.

190 school days in each academic year	100% attendance	Brilliant! Well done
184 days of education	97+% attendance	Good
181 days of education	95+% attendance	Satisfactory
171 days of education	90+% attendance	Concerned
Less than 170 days of education	Less than 90% attendance	Persistent absentee- serious concern



We love to celebrate children's achievements outside of school.

This month, we're celebrating the charity achievements of William (year 5) and Theo (Reception).

The brothers chose to take part in a 10 mile midnight walk to fundraise for Overgate Hospice. The pair walked 10 miles on a wet night to raise £460 to donate to Overgate - what an amazing achievement - congratulations boys!



If you would like to share any children's out of school achievements that you would like to be considered for our newsletters- you can email photos and stories to
admin@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk

STARTING SCHOOL OR NURSERY NEXT SEPTEMBER?

If you are a prospective parent/carer for our Nursery or Reception intake for September 2026, we are welcoming parents and carers to take a tour at 2pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays daily starting from 4th November until 11th December.

We are also holding a parents information evening on Wednesday 19th November at 6pm.

Please call the school on 01422 202704 to book your tour and your place at the information evening.

NORTHOWRAM SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



We are excited about the launch of our official school social media accounts where we will share many of the wonderful things that happen in school every day.

WINNING HOUSE TEAM

A massive "Well Done" goes to this half terms winning House Team - DIAMONDS



All the teams had done really well - Children please keep up the excellent hard work and behaviour