



FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



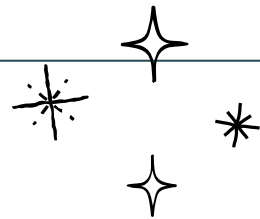
Jane Scardifield

Curriculum Spotlight - RE

Religious Education is a highly valued part of the curriculum that we provide here at Northowram. We believe that RE is an essential area of study which ensures children are well prepared for life in a world where there are a multitude of viewpoints and beliefs. This week, we welcomed Ian Ross into school to work with us to conduct a Deep-Dive into learning and teaching of RE across all year groups. Ian specialises in working with governors and primary school leaders and is the professional advisor to Calderdale, Kirklees and Sefton SACREs (Standing Advisor Council for Religious Education). We often work with external partners to help us quality assure our curriculum and children's progress. Together, we visited lessons, an assembly, spoke with pupils and scrutinised work books across school. I am delighted to share with you that the deep-dive showed just how well our pupils are doing in this subject. Ian found great consistency in our teaching approaches and found high levels of enthusiasm, knowledge and engagement from pupils with the thought-provoking subject content. The subject knowledge of our RE leader in school (Miss Hill) and staff teaching RE was also highly praised. It was evident that teaching techniques that we use across the curriculum such as retrieval practice and quizzing are really helping children to remember knowledge from their lessons. We have agreed some exciting development points which include enhancing our RE curriculum further with visits and/or visitors and we look forward to actioning these. As always, my grateful thanks go to the amazing staff team we have here for ensuring that our pupils access a curriculum where knowledge is highly valued and taught to be remembered.



YEAR 1 ART & ARCHITECTURE



Children in year 1 have been studying architecture and have made careful representations of the houses of parliament, St Paul's Cathedral and the Rose Window from Westminster abbey. This week, they will be using clay to make scary gargoyles - we can't wait to see them!

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



SAFEGUARDING

Attendance


Part of our safeguarding duties involves monitoring pupils' attendance. In line with the government attendance strategies and procedures, we inform parents of children whose attendance is 90% or below, categorised by the DfE as persistent absentees. Our local Education Welfare Officer has been into school recently and closely scrutinised our attendance figures and we will continue to inform parents where attendance drops below 90%, whatever the reason. We are aware of the individual circumstance surrounding absences, many of which are due to illness and term time holidays, however, it is a requirement to regularly inform parents of attendance particularly where it falls below 90%. We will continue to contact parents to discuss absence and, as ever, we are here to provide support if needed.



This website provides advice, information, support and signposting on local and national emotional health and wellbeing services that help children, young people and families who are going through a difficult time.

<http://www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk/>

FOREST SCHOOL



Although February has only just begun, there are signs of the Spring to come all around our school grounds! Whilst all our forest school sessions have a structure and intended learning outcomes, a key part of Forest School Instructor training is to leave room within each session to be led by children's interests or discoveries. This week, Year 1 and year 4 were very excited to find a frog after moving a pile of wood. The children carefully moved her closer to our wet area as we had disturbed her home and made sure she had everything she needed - we have our fingers crossed that she will produce some frogspawn later in the season!



The joy and wonder of meeting a frog in forest school - Year 1 with Mrs. Duke



CHARITY NEWS - PET TREATS COLLECTION

RSPCA (children's chosen charity of the year)

Money Raised: £23.90

PET TREATS COLLECTED: 61

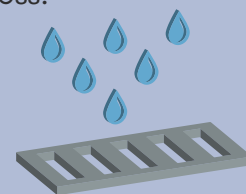
We've been making the animals at our local RSPCA shelter very happy this week with our collection of dog and cat treats (collection box in the porch at the main entrance). Thanks to your generosity, one full box of treats has already been delivered and we already have another full box of treats ready to be collected! Rachael Cooper from our local branch came in to talk to classes in assemblies on Monday to explain the work of the RSPCA and how the children could help. We have been thinking about animals Great and Small this week in our daily collective worship and expressing our gratitude for all the animals in our lives - well done children and thank you to all our families! Our Pet treat collection will continue until the Easter holidays.



NEWS/UPDATES

Drainage works

The planned drainage works to the banking in the front playground have been postponed due to high winds last week and the banking being too wet (ironically!) this week. These works are now scheduled to take place during February half term to minimise impact on children's playground access.



Road Closure

Towngate and Lydgate from 19th February

We have been advised by the council that resurfacing works straight after February half term will mean that there will be a road closure of Towngate/Lydgate to the Hough whilst these works take place. This may well affect access to the Village carpark at the end of Baxter Lane and may mean that more parking will be necessary on Northowram Green at Drop off and Collection times. We are hoping that the resurfacing will mean clearer road markings around school to make the area safer for our pupils and families. The work is planned to take approximately two weeks.





BOCCIA INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION

Well done to George, Ronnie, Jack and Charlie who represented our school brilliantly in the Calderdale inter-school Boccia competition this week. Boccia (pronounced 'Bot-cha') is a Paralympic sport introduced in 1984. Athletes throw, kick or use a ramp to propel a ball onto the court with the aim of getting closest to a 'jack' ball - we've also been enjoying Boccia in our PE lessons in year 2 this week and there was fierce but friendly inter-house competition as teams competed to see whose aim was the most accurate!

INTER-HOUSE EVENTS STRICTLY COME DANCING

Rehearsals for our annual inter-house Strictly Come Dancing Event have begun in earnest this week! Mrs Stapley has invited any interested children from year groups to come to rehearsals during break times to learn dances which will be performed on the last Thursday before the Easter Holidays - there's a lot of hard work still to do but we can't wait to see the children perform and find out which house team will raise the Northowram Glitter Ball trophy this year!

500-WORDS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

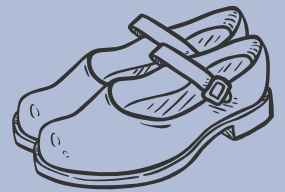
Our fabulous heads of house in year 6 have organised a superb calendar of inter-house events between now and the end of the year which include a chess tournament, Art Gallery event, Football tournament and Northowram's got Talent! The closing date for the 500 word short story event is Tuesday 20th February and pupils from year 1-year 6 have been given information about how to enter. Miss Davis will be judging entries and prizes of books and house points will be awarded after half term.

REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

Water bottles



We encourage the children to drink regularly through the day. Children should bring their own water bottle and only water is allowed - no juice/squash or other drink - thank you. We are seeing a trend of children bringing in very expensive water bottles and would strongly advise against this as, in a class of 30 children, these could become lost/damaged/muddled with others.



School shoes

It is important that children look smart for school and our school uniform is that black school shoes are worn by both boys and girls - no trainers please.

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