



Northowram Primary School Newsletter

Inspiring Success Beyond Expectation

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025



Northowram Primary School Headteacher's log 08 May 1945:

"V-Day. Only 82 children came to school and there were only 38 for dinner. The children played games and were sent home at 12.00pm with holiday in the afternoon and the day following (the 9th)"



In advance of our own VE Day celebrations this week, Year 6 and I have been poring over our old school log books and discovering how the day was celebrated in school 80 years ago!

We are extremely fortunate to still have the original log books, kept by each headteacher of Northowram Primary school since its opening (in the Victorian building we walk past every day on our way to school) in 1876 through until the 1960s and 70s.

There is something deeply moving about reading these entries from all that time ago, written in beautiful cursive handwriting which chronicle the life of the school and which help us realise that our school today is deeply-rooted in traditions and history. We learned together that during the second war, our school hosted evacuees from Hull and London and had regular gas mask practices with the children and on 08 May 1945, celebrated the news of VE day by being sent home early at lunchtime to celebrate with their families!

We can only imagine the celebration and joy that would have taken place in our village and we seek to honour and mark that day, 80 years on with our celebrations on Thursday.

Year 6 pupils study the world wars as a major part of their History curriculum and these log books have really helped them to connect world events to our school and our place - it is more than likely that some of the children's ancestors were there in school as the village of Northowram celebrated the news and began removing blackout curtains, bomb shelters and the evacuees who had been attending school were finally allowed to return to their own families.

If there are any experts in historic book preservation or traditional book binding out there, please do get in touch as we would like to ensure that these log books are kept in beautiful condition for the years to come and some are in need of some gentle repair. As we approach our 150th birthday (October 2026), we're aiming to prepare some kind of exhibition for our community that charts the history of our school as well as, of course, a fabulous birthday party!



Jane Scardifield





Educational Visits:

Year 2 enhance their learning with a trip to Sheffield Manor Lodge

In the first week of the Summer term, Year 2 visited Sheffield Manor Lodge and took part in a Tudor workshop to support their history topic. Children had the opportunity to dress up as a Tudor doctor, an apothecary and a plague doctor! Year 2 then made our own herb bags to try and deter any nasty smells! Classes had a tour around the grounds and learnt more about the Talbot family who owned the lodge. The visit really helped to bring the Tudor period alive for our young historians!



WOW WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE!

Congratulations to all the children pictured here who have been chosen to represent their classes as Wow Walk to School Ambassadors.

We were visited last week by Louise Hodgkins (from Living Streets – a charity which aims to inspire people to walk more to reap personal and environmental benefits) who spoke to pupils in assemblies about the Walk to School project which we are taking part in.

Each day in Reception-year 6, children log their journeys to school and earn badges if they walk, park and stride (a very popular option), cycle or scoot to school at least twice per week.

Children learned about the benefits of getting to school in these ways including reducing traffic congestion and pollution as well as benefits to physical and mental health.

Our fabulous Walk to School Ambassadors are helping children with their logging and will be awarding badges each month to children who have met the 'at least twice a week' target.

Thank you for your support with this – we can already see it is making a positive difference to traffic at drop-off and pick-up times.



Club News

We have been pleased to offer two new after-school clubs this half term: Lego club and Minecraft club. Each week, pupils who are enjoying these clubs explore a different theme. Last week in lego club – the theme was the American flag and children explored 2d and 3d creations with very creative and imaginative results:



AYLA



FINLEY





Year 4 children enjoyed the sunshine in forest school last week. They encountered a robin escaping the heat and cooling off in our wet area by taking a bath and made smores over their fire. Year 3 children were challenged to become outdoor Artists and make framed pictures using only found, natural materials with stunning results – well done forest schoolers!



In year 3, our children have been studying Saxon Art and Design.

Pupils have learned about the Lindisfarne Gospels which is a richly decorated text written around 720 CE and now housed in the British Museum.

Children learned about the art of calligraphy and created their own illuminated letters linked to their own name initials.

Please admire the detail, care and attention which is displayed here in these examples:



Illuminated letter by Nieve (Y3)



Illuminated letter by Jobe (Y3)



Illuminated letter by Ellie (Y3)



WhatsApp Groups

We are increasingly finding children are taking part in group chats formed on WhatsApp.

Whilst, in the main, these are friendly and amicable, we have had several occasions where children have received or sent inappropriate messages, including mean comments and bad language.

In order that we can all work together to protect our children, please can we ask that you remain vigilant in monitoring your child's phone usage.

Although children do often remain many steps ahead when it comes to technology, the advice below may be useful.



Roblox

Roblox and Parental Controls – South West Grid for Learning
Roblox, the popular minecraft 'style' game has announced a new raft of parental controls.

The website which ranks among the most popular games for children in the e-space, has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. Their new raft of adaptations is important due to the game's position among school aged children. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time in a more comprehensive manner.

Parents will now be able to block individuals who communicate with their children, as well as have more detailed oversight over their usage of the programme. Real-time awareness measures have been increased and these changes represent a big step forward in making popular multiplayer games more secure for underaged users.

If interested, the South-West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has produced a comprehensive run down of these changes. Please follow the link below for more:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-launches-new-parental-controls/>

Wake Up Wednesdays

National College have produced some very useful guides for parents about safer use of a wide range of games and Apps: Snapchat, Roblox, Minecraft, WhatsApp to name just a few. They have created easy to use guides, like the one below. The TikTok link can be found on : Library | The National College. We will also add these to our website as the information below is too small to read.



The weblink below, where this information was produced, also has lots of useful advice for parents with technology-savvy children:

[#WakeUpWednesday – Free resources for trusted adults](#)



Suncream, Water and hats!

We have welcomed the return of Summer sunshine recently in school! Please remember that children are out for lunchtime play for an hour at the warmest part of the day and suncream is a must to protect your children's skin against sun damage. Children may bring sunscreen to school and apply this themselves (please teach your children how to do this) but most good quality sunscreens protect for long periods and we find it best for sunscreen to be applied at home before arriving at school.

Keeping hydrated is also especially important in these warmer months so please ensure your child has a suitable (and inexpensive!) water bottle which they bring to school each day. Sun hats or caps of any kind are encouraged in school and we will remind children to wear these before play sessions. Thank you!

Year 5 and 6 walking home

Parents can provide consent for children to walk home unaccompanied from the Summer term of year 5. If you have provided consent for your child to do this, please support us by reminding children of the expectations that they walk home promptly and sensibly and do not cause problems for other families and children.

Walking home independently is a privilege which helps prepare children for life beyond primary school but may be withdrawn for individual pupils if they do not present themselves, the school and their families well whilst on school premises and in the community.

Similarly, if you send your older children to school at drop-off time unaccompanied (in year 6 especially), please remind them (as we do) that the school grounds are not supervised until doors open at 8.50 and our expectation is that children behave sensibly and calmly if they have been trusted to do this.

Children's conduct remains the responsibility of parents until 8.50am so please check that your children are clear around your and our expectations of them to conduct themselves in a safe, exemplary manner which represents you and the school well and sets a positive example for younger children.

Collection from school - age 16 plus

Children should be collected from school by people you have identified as parents and carers on your contacts list. Please contact the school office if there are any changes to who is collecting your child. If you sometimes send older siblings to collect pupils from school, please remember that these children should be added to our contact list and that siblings must be over the age of 16 to do this.



Thank you as always to our hardworking PTFA who have been busy over the last few weeks and months organising events to raise funds for school and give the children memorable experiences. Our mothers' day flowers shop was very popular this year and it was lovely to see children leaving school with beautiful flowers to present to their mums, aunties, grandmas and loved ones. Our special mentions and thanks go to Tesco Queensbury, Dan Harrison -The Gardener Brighouse and a huge thank you for being so generous and supportive to Diane Bellerby at Crossleys Flowers- Halifax Borough Market- and of course the PTFA team!



Our grateful thanks also go to the PTFA team for organising and volunteering their time to run the family fun event as part of the Northowram Scarecrow festival over the bank holiday weekend- a great time was had by all!

