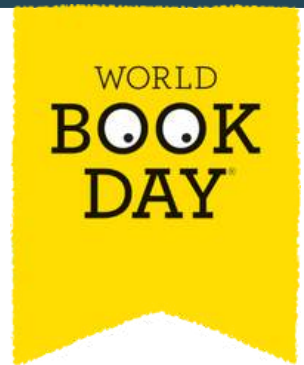




FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Curriculum Spotlight - READING

The more you read - the smarter you get!

The more you read-the smarter you get! This is one of our mantras in school and it was so lovely to celebrate reading and the treasure to be found in books on World Book Day yesterday! We had a fun-filled day with lots of reading events - we had the excitement of the unveiling of our 3 masked readers, all the children's wonderful book character outfits to marvel at and a fantastic book day spread prepared by our brilliant kitchen staff. One of the highlights of the day was observing our older pupils reading with younger pupils which took place across school - the gentle joy of sharing books was so lovely to see that we are finding ways to include this more regularly into our timetable. Reading is always a priority in our school and our reading leaders (Miss Davis and Mrs Lewis) are always happy to answer questions or queries you may have about how the different stages of reading development are supported through school. It is one of my aims to transform what is currently our computer suite (as we replace these PCs with laptop banks from September) back to its original purpose as a whole-school library right in the heart of school - we shall need to do some serious fundraising but we are determined to find a way to do this - watch this space!

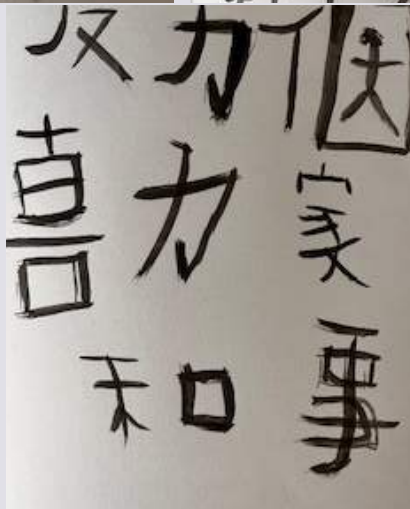
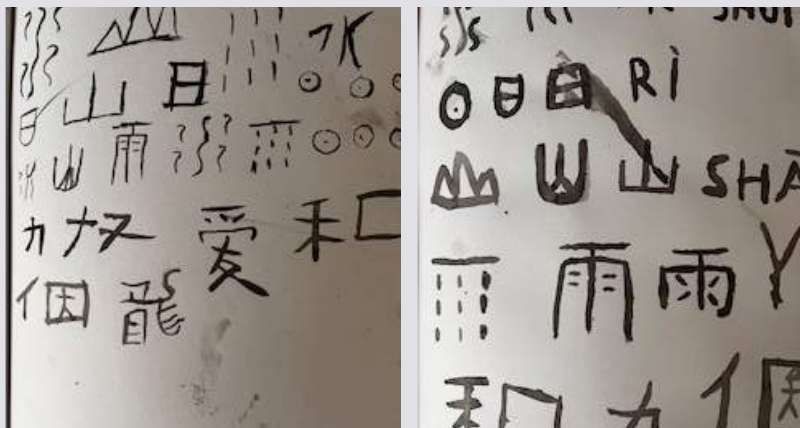
Jane Scardifield





Art Gallery: Year 5 Chinese-inspired Art

Children in year 5 have been studying Chinese-inspired Art and have been using traditional Chinese paintbrushes and inkwells to create simple, beautiful art-work inspired by the natural world.



FOREST SCHOOL



In forest school, we make meaningful links with curriculum areas to explore in our wild forest setting. This week, year 3 have been making 'settlements' with found natural resources to link with their History learning on invaders and settlers. It's lovely to see the children (and Mrs Imran!) so focused in their work and learning!



Making Settlements for 'Sticky' the stick-man - year 3 with Mrs. Imran





SAFEGUARDING

Staying Safe online - We have a comprehensive e-safety curriculum which takes place in year groups across school. Our recent safeguarding deep-dive identified how knowledgeable our pupils were about how to stay safe in the online world. As we see younger and younger pupils being given phones and mobile devices, we remind pupils and parents of the following:

There is a blanket prohibition of mobile phone use in school grounds. This includes before school and after school. Where parents have provided consent for our oldest pupils to bring a phone to school, these must be turned off at all times in the school grounds and handed in to teachers to be safely stored until the end of the school day.

- Children of primary school age should not be using WhatsApp for group chats with their peers and these chat-type platforms have an age recommendation of 13 years old. Partaking in such activities causes significant risk for pupils safety and well-being and I have written to year 6 parents this week with more information and recommendations on this.

- Parents should ensure that they have good boundaries in place for mobile phone use including limits on screen time and not allowing phones to be taken to bed or to be used at bedtime.

- Parents should be regularly monitoring their children's online use and have parental controls in place on all mobile devices and tablets.

- Parents and families who have any concerns about online safety, messaging, chat or any other online issues should contact Mrs Jennings, our pastoral and safeguarding leader in the first instance so that we can support you with appropriate action.



Listening to your feedback - Clubs

Our before and after-school clubs are an important part of our curriculum offer.

We set ourselves the target that at least 50% of all pupils will take part in at least one extra-curricular activity every year - at the half-way marker in the year, our figure currently stands at 47% which is fantastic but we want even more pupils to benefit from our clubs offer.

As we advertise the next 6-week club offer, we have listened carefully to your feedback from this year's parental consultation. Some of you said it was difficult to secure a place in clubs as these were allocated on a first come, first served basis.

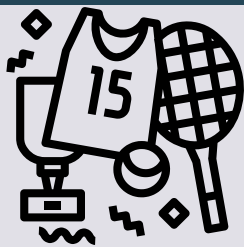
To address this, we will prioritise places in the next set of clubs for pupils who have not taken a club place.



PE AND SPORTS

PE and Sports

Well done to Daisy, Bo, Lizzie, Isla, Martin and Benjamin who represented our school brilliantly in the Calderdale inter-school Panathlon competition this week. These children took part in a range of multi-skill sports activities and flew the flag for our school brilliantly – they gained third place which is a really wonderful achievement!



Inter-house Events

Strictly Come Dancing

Things are hotting up with our Strictly Come Dancing rehearsals in preparation for the finals in our inter-house event in the last week of the Spring term. At every playtime and spare moment in the day, music can be heard in the hall, the atrium and any other space as children from different year groups practice their dances ready to represent their houses very soon!



Inter-House Chess championship

Following the great success of our inter-house 500-word story writing competition, next up is an inter-house chess tournament! Our heads of houses will be looking for representatives from all houses to take part in the head to head competition to find our very own Northowram Chess Master! Pupils will learn more about how to enter in assemblies next week.

REQUESTS AND REMINDERS



School shoes

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

PE Kits

Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school for indoor and outdoor PE.

Toys



Please support our staff by not allowing children to bring in toys from home (unless by prior arrangement). These become a distraction in lessons, can be broken or misplaced and are not appropriate to have in the classroom – many thanks.



Money Raised: £23.90 (and rising!)

Pet treats collected: 372

There's just two more weeks to make a donation to our pet treats collection so there's still time to add a little something to our collection box.

More fundraising events are underway with pupils from year 6 (Matilda, Pheobe & Ella) organising a super Easter colouring competition (50p per colouring sheet) with some Easter goodies as prizes! Our Nursery team and are also raising money by selling laminated animal rail maps of the local areas which is a lovely idea for family walks around the village with animals to look out for on the way – please see the Nursery team if you would like to buy one!