

A: Avondale Drive, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 3NR

T: 020 8573 5177

E: office@minetinfants.org.uk

W: www.minetinfants.org.uk



Headteacher: Wayne Wathen-Howell BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Abbas Jaffer BA (Hons), PGCE, MEd, NPQH

Raising Aspirations

PRESS RELEASE – WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 2025

INSPIRATIONAL HAYES EDUCATOR WINS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD FOR TRANSFORMATIVE WORK

18 June 2025: Hayes teacher Sundip Bhambra from Minet Infant and Nursery School has been recognised with a Silver Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School in this year's Pearson National Teaching Awards. Chosen from thousands of nominees, they will now be in with the chance of winning the highly desired Gold Award, which will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in London and on BBC One's The One Show later this year.

Sundip is an exceptional teacher, year group leader, mentor and subject leader who lives and breathes the school's motto of "Raising Aspirations". Her dedication and diligence have transformed the lives of every child she has taught over many years, giving them the best start to their education. She is an inspiration to our staff and is key to developing staff members across the school. The school is truly lucky to have her as a member of the team!

Sundip was presented with her award on National Thank a Teacher Day by John McDonnell, the MP for Hayes and Harlington and Councillor Susan O'Brien, the Hillingdon cabinet member for Children, Families and Education.

Sundip is one of 93 deserving teachers, lecturers, leaders, support staff and institutions recognised as a silver winner in this year's awards for the lasting impact they have on shaping the lives of young people.

The announcement follows tributes from celebrities, students and schools across the UK as they say thank you to all those who work in education to mark National Thank a Teacher Day.

Celebrating the whole education community, National Thank a Teacher Day and the Pearson National Teaching Awards are run by the Teaching Awards Trust, an independent charity established over 25 years ago to celebrate the transformative impact of education, shining a spotlight on the pivotal roles teachers, support staff, colleges, schools and early years educators play in inspiring young people, every single day.

Sir Michael Morpurgo, author, former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, says: "The dedication and impact of those involved in educating young people is truly remarkable. Their influence extends well beyond the classroom - offering encouragement, inspiration, and unwavering support that can shape lives for years to come. That's why National Thank a Teacher Day is an important opportunity to pause and celebrate all that they do.

"I'm also delighted to be able to congratulate this year's Silver Award winners. Your passion and commitment to shaping the next generation is extraordinary. Thank you for the difference you make every single day."

Sharon Hague, CEO of Pearson UK, says: "Every day, educators across the UK go above and beyond to inspire, support, and shape the future generation. Today, we proudly recognise those making an extraordinary impact. Our Silver Award winners represent the very best of the profession, and we're thrilled to celebrate their dedication and achievements. Congratulations to all of this year's Silver winners!"

Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, says: "On Thank a Teacher Day, I want to celebrate the remarkable professionals who are the backbone of our education system. Brilliant teachers make the single biggest difference to a child's education.



"I've experienced first-hand how a great teacher can make all the difference. Teachers don't just deliver lessons – they transform lives, inspire curiosity, and build the confidence our children need to succeed. For this incredible commitment to our nation's future, we owe our teachers our deepest gratitude."

Sadie Besley, Divisional Managing Director - Professional Talent Solutions UK & Ireland at Randstad, Sponsor of The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School says: "Primary school teachers lay the foundations for a lifetime of learning, curiosity, and confidence. Their passion, patience, and dedication shape not only young minds but also futures. We are proud to celebrate this year's exemplary Silver Award winners for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School, your dedication has a lasting impact. Congratulations on this well deserved recognition!"

ENDS

Further information:

Another Word Communications
Email: teachingawards@anotherword.com
Lynda Redington: 07946 355547

Notes to Editors:

About the Awards:

The Pearson National Teaching Awards are open to every early years setting, school and college across the UK. The awards were established by Lord Puttnam CBE in 1998 and are managed by the Teaching Awards Trust, an independent charity. The vision of the charity is to recognise and celebrate the impact of education across the UK. It does this through its public-facing 'Thank A Teacher' campaign www.thankateacher.co.uk, and through the Pearson National Teaching Awards www.teachingawards.com #teachingawards #thankateacher

About Pearson:

At Pearson, our purpose is simple: to help people realise the life they imagine through learning. We believe that every learning opportunity is a chance for a personal breakthrough. That's why our c. 18,000 Pearson employees are committed to creating vibrant and enriching learning experiences designed for real-life impact. We are the world's lifelong learning company, serving customers in nearly 200 countries with digital content, assessments, qualifications, and data. For us, learning isn't just what we do. It's who we are. [Visit us at pearsonplc.com](http://www.pearsonplc.com).

About Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain's best-loved writers for children. With a writing career that spans four decades, he has written over 100 books, selling more than 5 million copies in the UK and over 35 million worldwide. A former Children's Laureate, Michael has won countless prizes, including the Smarties prize, the Blue Peter Book Award and the Whitbread Award, and was awarded an OBE for Services to Literature. Michael was also awarded an MBE in 1999, along with his wife Clare, in recognition of their work in founding Farms For City Children, a charity that has enabled 100,000 children to visit the charity's three farms over the last 40 years.

The 2025 Pearson National Teaching Award Categories are:

Outstanding New Teacher of the Year - supported by The Sunday Times	The Award for SEND and Inclusive Practice - supported by The Sunday Times
The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School - supported by Randstad	The Award for School or College Partnership of the Year supported by Pixl
The Award for Making a Difference - Secondary School of the Year - supported by Step into Teaching	The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School - supported by Nord Anglia Education



The Award for Transformational Use of Digital Technology - supported by Nord Anglia Education	The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School - supported by Hays Education
The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School - supported by Hays Education	The Award for Unsung Hero of the Year
The Award for Teaching Assistant of the Year	The Award for Making a Difference – Primary School of the Year
Early Years Team of the Year Award - supported by DfE	Further Education Lecturer of the Year - supported by DfE
Further Education Team of the Year - supported by DfE	Lifetime Achievement - supported by DfE

