



# September Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. We hope you find it informative and useful.

Based on the feedback we received last academic year about our newsletters, we have decided that this academic year, a monthly one, filled with lots of information about what your children have been learning as well as updates about everything that has been taking place within school will be issued.

As I am sure most of you are aware, this Summer our Nursery classroom, now known as Room 1, has undergone a complete refurbishment. This included a significant redesign, total redecoration and new floor and the installation of all new furniture.

Since September we are now operating as an Early Years Foundation Stage Unit and are thrilled with how things are going!

We would therefore like to invite you into school to come and see for yourself just how amazing things are looking in EYFS! If you have young children this is a great opportunity to see the provision that they may experience. However, it also provides the parents of our older children with the

chance to see our first designed classroom as our long term plan for the school includes the redevelopment of all classrooms and learning environments. We are thrilled to be joined by Dean Jackson, Director of Education and Skills and John Beynon, local councillor for Stobhill on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October who will officially open the room. Parents are invited to come and have a look around from 14:30. We look forward to seeing you there!

This is not the only change to have taken place within EYFS. We are now offering 30 hours free childcare to parents who are eligible. Spaces are filling up so if you are interested, please contact our school office for more information.

There has been a lot of other building work taking place to the cabin at the front of our school. This building was originally built as a Sure Start Centre, bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support. However, at Easter this year, Action for Children made the decision to no longer operate from this building. The Local Authority made the decision that our neighbor's, Collingwood School and Media Arts College will now use the facility and it

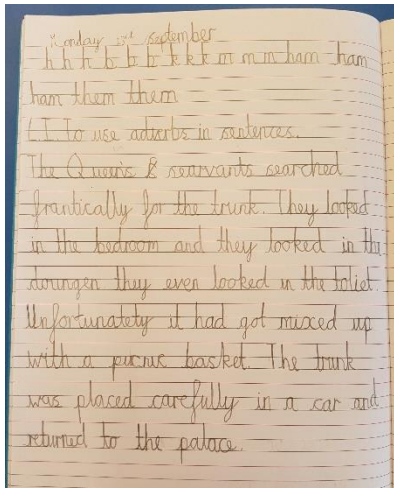
will be predominantly used for their 6th Form pupils. As part of the development work a fence and gate has been installed between the two schools. This gate will be programmed to open in the morning to enable children to access breakfast club and soft opening as well as in the evening to enable class 3/4HO to leave and parents access for after school club. It does however mean that the gate will be closed during the school day and will stop people walking through the school site.

During September's training day we were joined by Sharron Johnson from Action for Children who provided staff with information of how to signpost parents to support in the local area. If you require any information about how you can access support from Action for Children please feel free to call in and ask. Don't forget, every Thursday morning Action for Children host Learning Together Through Play sessions in our school hall for children aged 0 to 5 years. If you would like further information please contact the school.

# What Learning Has Been Taking Place?

## Handwriting

Our children and staff have been working extremely hard to improve our schools handwriting. Last year we invested in the 'Letter Join' handwriting scheme. The children are now receiving daily handwriting lessons and it has had an incredible impact on handwriting across school. Just look at this example:



The children are taking such pride in their handwriting and overall presentation. Can we also thank parents who have been helping their children by accessing 'Letter Join' at home. If you wish to use the scheme at home the website can be accessed at [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk).

## Home School Reading

Children reading at home is hugely important for all of our children in order for them to practise and develop the skills they are learning in school. It's also a lovely time to share a book with your child and chat about what they are reading. All children from Reception to Year 4 should have a home/school reading book and a reading record book. Whilst children are on the Read Write Inc programme, which begins in Reception, they will bring home a RWI Book Bag Book each week for the level of RWI they are working on. This is an important book for

them to read as it helps them to develop their phonic skills. They should read this book daily to develop their understanding of the book and their fluency. They will also bring home another reading book from our reading scheme which should be of a similar level. They can read this book in addition to their RWI Book Bag Book.

Once children are no longer on the RWI programme it is still expected that they will read regularly at home. It is important that children read to an adult and talk about what they are reading even when they become fluent readers. For children to become fluent readers they may need to read a book several times.

We would appreciate it if parents/carers could comment in the reading record books at least 3 times a week. Books can be changed on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Please encourage your child to put their reading book in the box in the classroom if they are ready to change their book.

Information about our new online reading programme will be coming very soon and this will provide children with another way to engage with reading.

# What have your children enjoyed learning about?

Hi I'm Freddie and I am loving learning about the Romans. We've been finding out why the Romans invaded Britain. We did some drama, so some people were Celts and some Romans, and the Romans said, "We want your precious farmland and iron". The Celts said, "Not without a fight!" Boudica was a ruthless ruler and burned down some of London when she gathered 200,000 people but she didn't win.

Freddie, KS2



I'm George and I like learning about London because it's fascinating. My favourite fact is The Great Fire of London because it was massive and started in 1666. I also like Science because we have learning about materials using Minecraft. The blocks are made with different materials. George, KS1



This year we have welcomed some new faces at Stobhillgate First School. Let us introduce them:



I'm Mrs Turnbull and I work with Miss Taylor and Miss Kinahan in EYFS. I was so excited to be offered the opportunity to work at Stobhillgate, especially in the newly refurbished nursery. I have received such a warm welcome by the parents that I have met so far, and I am looking forward to getting to know more of you over the course of the year.

Mrs Roberts is thrilled to be the new class teacher in KS2 working with Mrs Donkin and Miss Owens. She is thoroughly enjoying teaching such a wonderful class of children who are keen and eager to learn. She is also looking forward to bringing some exciting music opportunities to the school!

Hi, I am Mr Hannay and I am the new PE and Sport Apprentice. I finished sixth form last academic year after studying PE and Sport and I am super excited to be working with the fantastic children at Stobhillgate. I have already worked with a lot of children during my lunchtime sport clubs and I am pleased to see so much promising talent.



### ***Extra-Curricular Opportunities***

This year Miss Reeves (our Extra-Curricular Coordinator) intends to extend our offer, by providing our children with a broader range of extracurricular clubs. Already this year we have children taking part in an after-school fencing club. This club has been run by a specialist sport coach from Tyne-Met College. The children have had a fantastic time and have loved the opportunity to learn a new skill.

We are also currently working with Newcastle Falcons who are running an after-school Tag-Rugby Club. This has enabled our children to gain specialist coaching to embed the rugby skills that they are currently learning in their PE lessons. We are also very excited to attend the up and coming rugby tournament!



Miss Reeves has a number of other clubs planned throughout the year including archery, cookery, performing arts and running. We would also love to find out your opinion on our extra-curricular offer and would like to invite you to meet Miss Reeves on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 14.30pm to have a chat over a cup of coffee to discuss the types of clubs you would like us to offer. Please return your reply slip to the school office to indicate if you are coming along.

### **UP AND COMING EVENTS!**

#### ***School Quiz***

We are excited to be hosting our very first Stobhillgate First School Quiz on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> October. Our very own Mrs Bush, who is an experienced quiz master has planned a brilliant quiz that will be suitable for children and even the most experienced quiz goers! We're sure it will be a great night for all involved and a brilliant opportunity to raise funds for our fabulous school. Tickets for the event are now available at the school office at a cost of £2 each. This includes both your entry to the event, a pie and pea supper and refreshments! We look forward to seeing you there.

#### ***Forest School Parent Sessions***

This year we would like to provide all our parents with the opportunity to take part in a Forest School session. Some of our Early Years parents have already had the chance by taking part in our Early Years Unit Forest School Fridays, which has proved a massive success! We would now like to invite our KS1 parents (Years 1 & 2) to take part in a Halloween themed Forest School session that will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Mr Innes has planned a spooky themed session that will give you the chance to put your wellies on and work with your child in the great outdoors, learning more about what Forest School is. Letters will be coming home soon so if you are interested please ensure you send your response back, outlining which session you wish to attend. Our KS2 parents will also have the chance to take part in a survival workshop in the Summer term.

### **Breakfast and After School Club**

This year has seen quite a few improvements to our Breakfast and After School Club. It has relocated to the middle of the school; we have extended the hours both in the morning and after school and have ensured that the provision is led by a school teaching assistant. We have also introduced a light tea to after school club and dramatically improved the activities that are available for our children.

This has proven a massive success and we have received amazing feedback from both children and parents. The number of children attending both in the mornings and after school has significantly increased. It is therefore important to book early to ensure you avoid disappointment!

### **Mr Innes's London Adventure!**

As you may know I have just taken up a new role as Raising Achievement leader for KS1 and 2. To help me fulfill this role I am also undertaking a National Qualification in Senior Leadership with Teach First.

The launch of this qualification was in London, so 2 weeks ago I travelled down to London on Friday night ready for the course to start on Saturday. The timing was perfect because our topic in KS1 at the moment is London! So I got up at 6am and walked around the South Bank taking selfies and photos of as many London landmarks as I could to show my class. After a spot of early morning sight seeing I arrived for my days training. The day was packed full of lectures and workshops each one giving me fantastic

ideas, resources and strategies to bring back and use in school.

I will be completing the course over this academic year and am excited about the rest of the training I have yet to come.

I am incredibly grateful for having the opportunity to access such high quality training and I hope it will have a big impact in helping the school move forward.



### **A Polite Reminder about Parking**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all our parents about parking safely and legally when collecting and dropping off the children, both at the start and end of the day. We respectfully ask our parents and other family members to be mindful of private driveways, 'keep clear' and 'no parking' road markings. It is also important that we park safely in ways that do not restrict clear views of safe places to cross the road. Parking on Eleventh Avenue by the School can cause serious congestion at busy times and especially when cars need to reverse or manoeuvre. Please feel reassured that if you are running a little late or cannot find a safe place to park, we will always keep your child safe until you arrive. We would also like to ask all our pupils and parents to walk, scooter or cycle to school wherever possible as this would significantly reduce congestion around school and is a brilliant way to keep fit. Thank you for your continued support is helping keep our children safe.

### **Key Diary Dates**

Miss Taylor will be hosting a parent meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October to talk about reading in EYFS. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Don't forget to return the consent forms and payment for the upcoming Vindolanda visit for KS2. Letters have already been sent home about this. You can give consent and pay via School Gateway if you wish.

In preparation for the upcoming Robinwood residential for Y4, parents will be able to come along to a meeting to find out more about the trip. This will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 15.30pm. Reminder letters will be issued about this nearer the time.

Other key dates for this term were included in the packs that were issued at the parent meetings at the start of the year!

Don't forget, you can be kept up to date about everything taking place at Stobhillgate by following us on Twitter, @stobhillgate.

## **And finally.....**

Our new school website has now launched! Be sure to check it out at [www.stobhillgate-northumberland.co.uk](http://www.stobhillgate-northumberland.co.uk). We are continuing to add content to it however we would love to hear what you think of the new design.

