



Nov/Dec Newsletter

Topic Week

We had an exciting start to the half term with our annual Topic Week. This year's was a little bit different in that each Keystage delved even deeper into the topics that they have been researching since September. The week ended with a final celebration whereby all of the children came to school dressed in an outfit linked to their topic.

Our EYFS children focused on the core book 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. They made their own soup and made a list of all the ingredients. The children chopped, peeled, stirred and tasted it. Everyone agreed it was delicious!

We looked carefully at the inside of a butternut squash and used the seeds to help us count.



KS1 had a fantastic week continuing their London Topic. The children looked in detail at the Gunpowder Plot and Guy Fawkes and learnt what happened in the gunpowder plot and why we celebrate Bonfire Night. They used pastels to create some wonderful firework art using vibrant colours. This led to a talk about fire safety and then finished the week with some real sparklers. The children had lots of fun and for some of them it was the first time they had ever experienced a sparkler.

The children (and staff) really enjoyed the London themed dress up day with costumes including Big Ben, Soldiers, King and Queens and even Guy Fawkes himself.



For the rest of the term KS1 will be looking at the Great Fire of London, how it started and why it spread so quickly across London. In the final week of the term the children will be making Tudor Houses.



KS2 children loved being Romans for the week. They learnt all about what the Romans did for us, including introducing clean water into houses. They also learnt the Roman numeral system and were like real roman gladiators when they tested out their shields!



Anti-Bullying Week - Change Starts with Us

We recently supported Anti-bullying week.



The week started with Odd Socks Day, to show our support for, and encourage our pupils to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! Thank you to everyone who took part.



Over the course of the week, every class in the school had a lesson explaining exactly what bullying is and how to stop it happening in our school. We talked to the children and they came up with some things that they thought were bullying:

- Hurting someone by hitting or kicking them
- Making fun of someone
- Telling lies about someone, the things they have said or done
- Making comments about the way someone looks
- Pulling faces
- Using bad language
- Ignoring a person, refusing to let them join in with a game

We talked about the fact that in order for a person's actions to be called bullying they have to be repeated. Falling out with a friend one day and making up the next is not bullying. Being unkind to someone day after day is bullying.

You can find out more about Anti-bullying week 2019 at <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

We want all of our children in Stobhillgate First School to feel safe therefore the children came up with some fantastic ideas

- Look out for the other children in your class
- Tell a teacher or someone you trust what is happening
- Talk to the bully and tell them to stop
- If you can, ignore the bully
- If your friend is being bullied, go over and ask them if they would like to play with you or tell a teacher what you think is happening

Children In Need

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed and took part in our Penny Drive for Children in Need. We raised almost £200 from your donations.

Well done to Herbie on his successful biscuit stall. Children in Need is a charity that Herbie and his sister have supported for a number of years now. Between them they have raised a staggering £900; well done to you both!!

What else has been happening this half term?

Y4 Planetarium Visit

Our Year 4 children were invited to Chantry Middle School to take part in a session with Kielder Observatory who were at the school with their inflatable Planetarium. The children had an amazing time and really enjoyed the experience.



Parent Consultations

We hope you found our parental consultations informative. It was lovely to see so many parents attending appointments

to find out how their children have settled into their new classes.

In our efforts to increase parental engagement, we also extended an invitation to parents of our KS1 and KS2 children, to come into school and be part of lessons. Thank you to those of you who came along to the sessions; we received some really positive feedback:

'I thought observing a lesson was a brilliant idea and if more sessions were put on I would certainly recommend them to parents who haven't been. It made me realise how much the teachers have to do in lessons.'

'I saw some great teaching and learning'

'I think my visit was very useful for better understanding how to help my child'

We will collate all of the feedback from the parents and report back on the findings. It is our intention to offer this opportunity every year but only if you think it is worthwhile. We would also love to hear from you about other ways in which we can further engage with parents, so please let us know your thoughts!

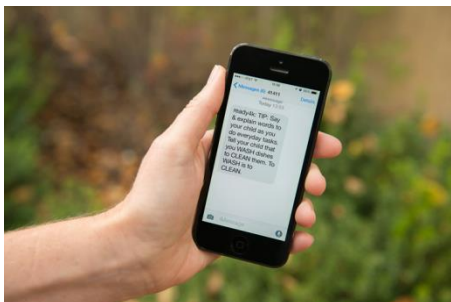
Tips by Text

Tips by Text is a texting program that will deliver a 9-month text curriculum to the parents of Reception children, sending 3 texts per week designed to improve 4-5 year olds' literacy, language, numeracy and social and emotional skills. These texts are derived from the READY4K! programme developed and tested in California. The first message of the week is designed to inform and motivate parents, the second offers a specific activity designed to fit into family routines, while the final message provides encouragement,

reinforcement and a follow up tip. A typical activity message to help develop numeracy skills might take the following form: "As you put away the dishes, count the plates one-by-one with your child. Then try the bowls..."

This pilot project is currently involving reception children in 105 schools and we are excited to be one of them!

We hope that our parents who are involved in the 'Tips by Text' pilot are finding it useful and we would love to hear your opinion of the project



UNICEF

This year we are working towards achieving our Silver Rights Respecting School award.

What is a Rights Respecting School?

A Rights Respecting School is a place where we can all feel confident with ourselves and it encourages us to use our voice. There are four key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting school; wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem. The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community.

Each class in our school has two UNICEF ambassadors who will be launching projects throughout the year. Our first project this year is going to be the playground challenge. In June 2020, thousands of schools will come together to play, fundraise and change children's lives. Keep your eyes peeled for more information from our UNICEF ambassadors very soon



Christmas Performance

We hope you all enjoyed this year's unique production of Cinderella. It is fair to say that Mr Innes well and truly surpassed himself with his imaginative and funny interpretation of the well known story.

Our Year 4 children wowed with their performances, enhanced by fantastic dance routines by our other year groups.

A massive thank you to everyone involved in putting together a fabulous show. And a special thank you to you, our parents, for supporting events such as these. They are what make Stobhillgate First School truly special !!

Here are just a few highlights from the show :



Check out our website for more images and video.



This half term saw a new addition to the school.....our new display outlining our school values of Inspiration, Empathy, Collaboration and Excellence. Be sure to take the opportunity to have a look at it as well as the lovely new displays along the corridor which highlight the wonderful work done by the pupils during their topic week.

After School Clubs

Our children have thoroughly enjoyed the after school clubs on offer this half term; archery and performing arts. Miss Reeves is currently looking at what clubs can be offered after the Christmas break so we will update you very soon!

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto. Our PTA did a fantastic job in collating some brilliant prizes for our raffle; thank you very much. Through your support, we managed to raise a staggering £1,250 which will be used to enhance our English curriculum.



Huge congratulations to Alexander (Y3) who competed in the Kick Boxing Council World Championships which took place in Manchester last month. Alexander won 3 silver medals, 1 for Sports Sword fighting and 2 for light contact fighting. Huge congratulations!



We all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Dinner this year, as always! A big thank you to the catering team from Dolce for a lovely festive lunch – and for getting into the Christmas spirit.



The new lunch menu for the Spring term is now available on the school website. Please remember to make sure your child's account is kept up to date with information such as allergens. If you don't have access to School Grid, then please contact the school office for more information.

Our children have thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas parties, especially since a special visitor came along to hand out gifts!

Thank you for bringing along some delightful food contributions for the children to share.

The whole school enjoyed their visit to St. Aidan's Church on Tuesday 17th December for a celebration of the Christmas story. There was some beautiful singing which will be showcased once again during our Coffee and Carols celebration this coming Friday 20th from 09:15am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget that school will close for the Christmas break at 15:15pm on Friday and that after school provision is still available until 17:00pm on the last day. School will re-open on Monday 6th January at 08:50am.

Just in case you miss school work a little too much over the holidays, you can always access Oxford Reading Buddy, Timetables Rockstars and Letter Join to keep you going until the start of the new term!



And finally.....

Thank you so much for all of your support over this past term. We hope, like us, you are looking forward to the rest of the academic year. We certainly have lots of exciting things planned.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoy the Christmas break and have a wonderful time with family and friends.

