



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Summer Term

As we start the Summer Term, we do so at a time like no other. We still find ourselves at home, staying safe so our NHS heroes can continue doing the amazing job of saving lives. I know there are many of our parents who are working hard as key workers and on behalf of myself and the Stobhillgate team I would like to say a big thank you!

This is an extremely challenging time for everyone, and it is really important that you know we are here for you. If you need anything, please contact the school via admin@stobhillgate.northumberland.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

All of our team are missing you and, like you I am sure, we are missing our 'normal lives'. Our school team has been learning to operate in a very different way. On the days when they have not been at school, staff are very busy working from home, planning schemes of work, completing online training, having online meetings and the teachers have even started to

write pupil reports! We love hearing what you have been up to and thank you so much to the parents and children who have been communicating with us via email and Twitter, if you don't currently follow us on Twitter this would be the perfect time to start, simply create an account and add @stobhillgate. We have been adding lots of information, guidance and messages including a very special message from us to you! (click [here](#) to take a look). Our teachers have also started making phone calls home and have loved talking to pupils and parents and helping in whatever way possible. Next week class teachers will also start to send out a weekly postcard to their class, to assist in this it would be great if you could send in photos of what you have been up to at home (you can either tweet the photo or email it to the school).

As I hope you are aware by now, our fabulous teachers have been adding weekly homeschool learning sources on our school website ([home school learning](#)) as well as signposting parents to other useful sources that have been produced to help parents and children during this

challenging time. It is great if you have been accessing these resources. We know that home learning is not always easy and your priority is ensuring your family is as healthy and happy throughout this period of uncertainty. Once our Stobhillgate family is reunited we will do everything in our power to ensure that we get the children back on track, don't worry. In order to help you further, we have improved our home learning resources. As of next week home learning will be divided into separate documents for each year group and will give suggestions of what lessons you could do on what day. We appreciate that some families will choose to follow a clear routine/structure, whilst other families may prefer a more relaxed approach where they pick and choose activities throughout the week. Do whatever is best for you and your family.

Keep safe and hope to see you soon.

Mr Whitehead.

Our very own Miss Owens has contributed an article for the next online edition of 'Inside Morpeth'. With her articles she provides some interesting advice and insight into the world of home-learning.

It is a strange time to be a school pupil right now, going from seeing friends and teachers five days a week to sharing a 'classroom' with siblings and parents, perhaps even an excitable dog who *really* is eating the homework!

In a national effort to slow the spread of Coronavirus, life has changed significantly in a matter of weeks, with schools only open to vulnerable children and the children of essential workers.

As the initial chorus of "hooray for no school" fades and boredom sets in, children are likely to feel confused and perhaps anxious about what has disrupted their world. Parents and carers may find themselves increasingly concerned regarding their child falling behind academically, facing the prospect of taking on the mantle of home schooling their children for the foreseeable future.

Deep breath parents and carers! No one is expecting you to replicate your child's teacher or provide home schooling for a full school day. However, do establish some structure; find out what works for your family and set some realistic goals and targets. Help is at hand, in addition to distance learning tasks that your child's school should provide, there is an abundance of free online resources that can help.

The Department of Education has compiled a list of online educational resources to support children's learning at home. These websites have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages. The list includes subject specific resources which are currently being offered for free.

My students have found White Rose Maths especially good; providing five maths lessons each week for children from Year 1-Year 8. Every lesson has a short video that demonstrates how to complete an accompanying activity.

From Monday 20th April 2020, BBC Bitesize will publish daily online lessons to help parents engage children from Primary School age to Post-16. The website offers a new TV channel, podcasts, videos, games and daily lessons.

Less formerly, there are lots of ways to cover the wider aspects of the curriculum at home- you can get creative with these! Cooking and baking links to Science and measuring amounts and budgeting the ingredients requires Maths skills. It's still all learning time and can be fun!

Making learning meaningful and purposeful, together with keeping children motivated and engaged, can be a challenge. We're living through history and your child might like to write a journal or create a time capsule to document this period in time. They could do some research on significant individuals: Who was Florence Nightingale and why are the

new hospitals that have been built named after her? Who is Captain Tom Moore? How has history changed throughout his life?

Promoting a little healthy competition to keep children motivated and engaged can be helpful. In school, we sometimes use reading and times table leader boards; this could be replicated at home and even shared between families and classmates over social media. Asking a reluctant writer to write to a grandparent, teacher, friend or someone they haven't seen for a while, may give the tasks more purpose. Similarly, reluctant readers could be encouraged to record reading and post it online to extended family to celebrate children's achievements.

Despite this being an awful time, people are pulling together: there are rainbows in windows and we clap on our streets every Thursday at 8pm. Stay positive; don't be too harsh on yourself or your class. Your best will be enough.

Check out my Twitter @Oswald_Bear where I will be posting lots more ideas for children to explore.



Zambezi Sunrise Trust - Uniform Donations

Before the Summer holidays last year we donated the old school uniform to the Zambezi Sunrise Trust. We recently received an email to say that on their recent visit to Zambia they distributed hundreds of items of uniform donations, the majority of which were from Stobhillgate First School! The donations were hugely well received and helped transform the look of the school.

Once again thank you to everyone who donated the old school uniform.

