

Introduction by Mr Whitehead

Hello and welcome to our September Newsletter. Despite the obvious challenges that we are facing, the start of term has been absolutely brilliant. The children have returned to school with incredible attitudes and have relished the opportunity to be back with their teachers and friends and learning again!

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative but please remember the best way to keep updated with Stobhillgate news is to follow us on Twitter and Facebook. These sites are full of up to date posts, photos and videos which give a real flavour of how amazing it is to be at Stobhillgate!

<https://twitter.com/stobhillgate>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/School/Stobhillgate-First-School-101191301632359/>

Please click these links and start following us today.

Shout it from the rooftops!

It will soon be the time of year when the online portal opens for Reception 2021 admissions. Information regarding Reception admissions can be found [here](#)

In normal years, we would currently be inundated with parental visits, in which we are able to show prospective parents our incredible school and meet our special pupils and staff. However, due to Covid19, this is currently not possible.

Therefore, our incredibly skilled Mr Innes has filmed a promotional video that we feel gives a real flavour of what Stobhillgate is like. We are extremely proud of our school and we feel it is important that as many people as possible get the chance to see our video.

https://www.facebook.com/Stobhillgate-First-School-101191301632359/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Please help us share this video with as many people as possible: friends, family, social media? Let's get the word out there that good things are happening at Stobhillgate!

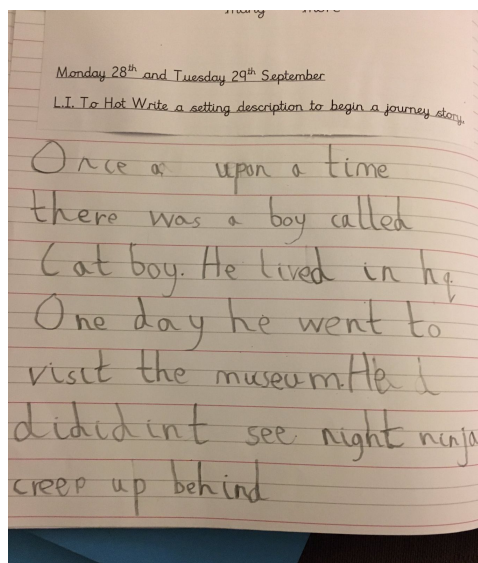
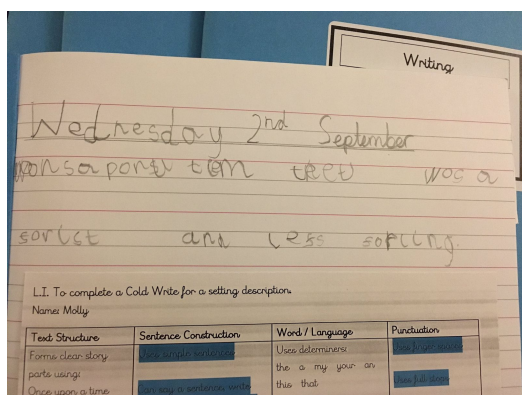
Promotional Film Images



Message from Mr Henderson

I will start off by saying a huge thank you to all of the families who have made me feel so welcome during my first few weeks at Stobhillgate. Not only has it been wonderful getting to know my Year One class, but also meet you during the morning as you come into school.

The passionate, dedicated and supportive team who work with your children every day have blown me away with the engaging and focused lessons they have been sharing with your children. As you can see from Molly's work below, it is not surprising to see the fantastic progress that our children have already started to make.



With your support at home, by using either Seesaw, or Tapestry, you can help your children consolidate their learning and work with their class teacher to address any missed learning. Please speak to your class teacher if you need any further support with this.

It has also been great to see our attendance at 96.9% so far this term. Please keep up the hard work to ensure your child is in school to learn and take part in the wonderful opportunities we offer.

EYFS News

Nursery and Reception children have made a wonderful start to their learning journey in our early years unit. They have settled in very well and have picked up classroom routines very quickly.

They are currently working on their independence skills, health and self care and challenges such as putting on their coats, sharing and turn-taking this term and are doing a great job!

The children have shown such engagement with our core book 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and have created some wonderful pictures of the characters from our story. We were amazed by the attention to detail in their story maps!

Phonics is off to a flying start with our children showing great sound recognition and replication of sounds. I have been so impressed with the children's enthusiasm in class and in their home learning!

It's been great to see the children take on practical maths challenges using their knowledge of number, shape, size, pattern and colour to solve problems with peers.

Little Movers has been a big hit on a Tuesday afternoon and the children have loved getting their groove on with Bave!

We have been making the most of the warm weather, while it lasts and getting outdoors as much as we can. The children have loved climbing, balancing, scooting, biking and hula hooping!

Forest Friday fun has allowed us to explore, investigate and get muddy! The children have thoroughly enjoyed digging in the mud, making mud pies, climbing trees, looking at nature, jumping in puddles and chatting around the campfire. (Remember to bring a spare change of clothes and shoes as we can get very wet and muddy)

It would be great to receive donations for our creative fund for buying resources for our making and playdough areas.

Hopefully you are all able to access Tapestry to see your child's learning journey at Stobhillgate. We would love to hear from you and see what your child is getting up to at home, so please post and share.

Year 1 News

Little Movers sessions have continued to be a big hit in Year 1 with Bave. We have been enjoying sessions each week, moving rhythmically and having lots of fun in small groups.



In Art, we have travelled back in time to the Stone Age to explore Cave Art this half term. Check out some of Year 1's amazing work in their new sketch books, which they have taken particular pride over.

Furthermore on our journey back through time we have been learning about what life was like in London 350 years ago at the time of the Great Fire of London. Year 1 has been retelling the tale of London and how the fire started and spread through lots of practical work. We have particularly enjoyed making and using puppets, showing our understanding of our learning through the voices of the characters.

We are off to a fantastic start in English too in Year 1 and have been exceptional story tellers, learning and using our first class text, 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Our writing has made incredible progress in just a few short weeks.

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year. It has been amazing to all be back together again. The children have blown me away with their hard working attitudes and motivation to learn.

This year I've added a little bit of sparkle and positivity to our classroom with a cheerful positivity wall. It has been so lovely to see the children reading these messages with big smiles on their faces.



As part of our History unit this term, we explored the enquiry question 'Who were the Tudors and what were their homes like?' To get the full experience, we enjoyed a very wet, very muddy, yet VERY fun Forest School day making a wattle and daub structure. We worked collaboratively as a team to cut and strip willow, weave the willow to make a strong wall and then we got truly stuck in mixing mud, straw and water together using our hands before pasting it onto the wall. It was amazing to look at the wall a few days later once it had dried. The structure was so strong! I think we would all make excellent builders!



Year 3 News

I have been amazed by how Year 3 have come back to school and got straight into their learning. They are already starting to make the jump to Key Stage 2 and are working more independently.

I have been really impressed with the writing so far. As a class we have been using 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' to write a portal story. We started the unit by using a green screen to make a portal to another world and this inspired some fantastically creative writing in the children.

Our topic this term is the Egyptians. We have already had a lot of fun learning about the River

Nile and making Shadufs. We also became archaeologists and dug for artefacts in the sand. We still have lots of exciting things to come including a lesson on making mummies!



In science we are learning about the human skeleton and the different bones and muscles and how they work together to help us move. We are also looking at the different types of animal skeleton.



Finally as a class we have made a great start with Accelerated Reader. The children are all reading regularly and enjoying taking the quizzes about the books. I am confident this is going to be a fantastic tool to help the children make excellent progress in reading.

Year 4 News

I couldn't be prouder of my Year 4 class; they came back after the summer holidays totally ready to learn. I have been so impressed with their hard working attitudes and enthusiasm for our new curriculum; especially towards Science- I think we may have a few scientists in the making!

We are currently learning about The Digestive System, taking part in some "disgustingly good" experiments to demonstrate the process of digestion and getting mathematical by measuring different parts of our digestive system! Did you know...The 'small' intestine is approximately 6.5 metres!!! (3 1/2 times the length of your body)



The level of enthusiasm Year 4 had towards the home learning tasks on Seesaw has been fantastic. This drive and determination is exactly the attitude we need in Year 4 as role models for the younger children in our school.

It has been lovely getting to know everybody a lot better this year; in class and on Seesaw.



Year 4 Time Capsule Project

Our children have been absolutely amazing over the past 6 months and we are keen to capture their positivity, resilience and community spirit.

This year, Year 4 has had the exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with Abbeyfields. The Year 4 children in both schools will share their experiences (virtually) of the Covid19 pandemic. We believe that this will provide a fantastic opportunity to find out about the experiences of other like-minded children who live in the same town.

Once complete, both schools will bury their time capsules in their school grounds, enabling children of the future to find out about the lives and experiences of our fabulous Abbeyfields and Stobhillgate children. Obviously we will capture this moment and share it with you all. History in the making!

We have had some amazing contributions so far.



Don't panic though as there is still time left to submit an artifact to our time capsule! - photos, anecdotes, diary entries, rainbows paintings etc and anything that you feel tells their story of the last 6 months. These can be sent to:

stobhillgate@the3rivers.net

Deadline Monday 5th October 2020.

Admissions

Middle School Admissions - SEPTEMBER 2021

This is a reminder to Year 4 parents that the online portal opened on 12th September 2020 for applications into Middle School (Year 5). Please log into the [portal](#) and you must apply before 31st October. Any applications received after 31st October will be classed as 'late' and will not be processed until all 'on time' applications have been allocated.

The following link will provide further information and guidance:

[School Admissions](#)

We STRONGLY recommend that you use all options when naming a school, in order of your preference.

Library

I am happy to share with you the incredible news that John Beynon, our local councillor, has generously contributed £10,000 from his small grants scheme to support Stobhillgate in developing a new library space at the heart of our school. Our children love to read and we feel this new space will enable us to further promote the importance of reading throughout school. We look forward to updating you, as the project develops.

Halloween Facebook Live Disco

Halloween will be here in a few weeks, instead of cancelling our annual disco we are planning on hosting a brand new facebook live disco which will be brilliant fun. Keep posted for further information!



Coronavirus Update

School Meals

School meals are working brilliantly and unlike most schools we have been able to successfully deliver hot food to the classroom bubbles.



If you would like your children to have a school dinner please log on to the school grid to check out the tasty menu (the Full English Breakfast is a fan's favourite). If you have not used the school grid before please contact the school office for login details.

Social Distancing

Can I please remind you of the importance of maintaining social distancing at drop off and collection. This includes ensuring your child stays with you whilst they leave the school site.

We have significant measures in place to keep children apart in year group bubbles, so please support us by ensuring your child does not mix with other children when leaving the school site.

When dealing with a positive case it is important for you to realise we have to follow the following guidance:

Contacts from 48 hours before symptoms began

- **Direct contact** - face to face conversation / skin to skin contact / within one metre for one minute or longer - this does not include corridor contact unless face to face but does include friends they were with at both break and lunchtime
- **Proximity contact** - less than 2m for more than 15mins - This is defined as those sitting next to, in front of, and behind a student in a class

PE Kit

The changes that we have had to introduce due to Covid19, including staggered starts and regular handwashing, have inevitably had an impact on the time the children spend learning. We are trying our best to be as efficient as possible and constantly looking at ways to make school life more streamlined.

One way that we would like to achieve this is by your child coming to school in an outdoor PE kit on their allocated PE days.

On these days we would like children to come to school in their normal white polo shirt/ jumper or cardigan but with black/blue jogging bottoms and trainers. We would also encourage them to bring an outdoor jumper or hoodie to change into for the PE lesson.

Removing the need to get changed for PE, will save a significant amount of time over the week (particularly for our younger children which can take a loooong time)

PE Days

Year 1- Wednesday and Friday
Year 2- Monday and Thursday
Year 3- Monday and Wednesday
Year 4 -Wednesday and Friday

New Staff Introductions

No doubt you will have seen some new faces within Stobhillgate since the start of term. We would like to officially extend a very warm welcome to the new staff joining our fantastic team and school!

Miss Francis joins our EYFS unit and comes to us with a wealth of experience within Early Years. Mrs Jones joins Mrs Price in our breakfast and after school provision and is thoroughly enjoying getting to know you all. Mrs Pringle joins our very valuable facilities team, helping to keep the school sparkling clean! Especially important during this time. We have also been joined this year by two School Direct student teachers; Mrs Moore in Year 1 and Mr McPhail in Year 3 who are already demonstrating that they will be brilliant additions to the teaching profession!

Parking Around School

Can I please remind you of the importance of being careful and considerate when driving and parking around school.

Please ensure you:

- do not park on the single yellow lines which are located on the corners near school.
- do not park in the school car park during the school day
- do not block the entrance to local residence properties
- do not block pavements

It would be brilliant if as many families as possible could walk to school, particularly if you live close by. This would significantly reduce congestion at busy times.

As we have had a number of complaints recently regarding dangerous parking, the local council will be conducting parking patrols over the next month.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

Free School Meals

Why should I apply for 'traditional' free school meals if my child is already having a free dinner?

There are a number of reasons why applying now for 'traditional' free school meals is a good idea:

- Your child will immediately become eligible for free school milk and toast.
- You may get help with the cost of educational visits.
- You may get help with the cost of other activities such as music tuition.
- If your circumstances do not change, your child will automatically receive traditional free school meals when they move into year 3 without you needing to do anything, saving you over £350 a year on meals.
- The school will receive Pupil Premium income for every child who is registered for traditional free school meals and will have more money to spend on helping your child to achieve their potential.
- All of these benefits to you and school apply even if your child would prefer to bring a packed lunch to school – they just need to be registered for 'traditional' free school meals.

Would I qualify?

If you are in receipt of ANY one of the following benefits, then you should be eligible and able to help us raise more funds:

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also eligible for Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Income Support
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance

- Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment made for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

How do I apply? To apply simply complete the online form at www.northumberland.gov.uk or call Free School Meals at County Hall on 01670 623592. For more information speak to Mrs Ewart by ringing the school office; your enquiry will be dealt with in complete confidence.

Winter Coats

If you need a winter coat for your child, then please get in touch with [Stobhill Link](#) based at 37 Shields Road, Morpeth. They have good quality second-hand children's winter coats for you to choose from **free of charge**.

They also have a comprehensive uniform bank and can provide uniform, including PE kits, for all the Morpeth Schools.

Help reduce waste by choosing clothing which has been grown out of but is still in great condition.

Call in to Stobhill Link any weekday between 9am and 2pm or give them a call on 01670 519575.

WHERE

**LEARNING
COMES TO
LIFE!**

WHERE

**MEMORIES
LAST A
LIFETIME!**



Stobhillgate First School

September 2020