



Oct/Nov Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to the October/November newsletters! We have had an action-packed term so far and despite the required alterations to the school life, our fabulous pupils and staff have achieved so much and had a fantastic time! Thank you so much for your constant support! Although, 2020 has certainly been a challenging year, it is clear that it has made the Stobhillgate family closer and stronger! Thank you.

Maths Week

Maths Week England took place on the 9th - 13th November this year. In school, we had a week of Active Maths. Active Maths uses PE and physical activity to raise achievement in Maths. The children had a fantastic time taking their learning outside of the classroom and took part in a range of activities that included athletic arithmetic and calculation cardio! During the week KS2 children also took part in a national times table competition. All the children engaged well and it was fantastic to see them so excited about their times-tables. At the end of the week, the top 3 players received a certificate for all their hard work. Well done to Samuel, Emma and Harry and everyone else who took part.



Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who took part in our first-ever virtual parents' evening. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to chat with you and let you know how your children are doing. I have received some wonderful parental feedback since the event, which is greatly appreciated. If at any point you would like to have a further discussion with your child's class teacher please ring the school office or contact the class-teacher via Seesaw or Tapestry.

Thank you also to everybody who took the time to complete the 'Covid-19 Questionnaire'. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, which is fantastic. We are always looking for ways to improve our school so if you would like to discuss any issues please contact us to discuss this further.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to Children in Need. We managed to raise over £130!!



Anti-Bullying Week

Last week was Anti-Bullying week with the theme of being united against Bullying. The week started with Odd Socks day on Monday with staff and children wearing Odd Socks to represent the fact that we are all different and we should celebrate this. Throughout the week children took part in assemblies and PSHE lessons which looked at what bullying is and how together as a school community we can unite against bullying.

You can find out more about Anti-bullying week 2020 at <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>



The Assemblies Go On!

Despite being split into bubbles at the moment and not being able to meet as a whole school, we are still providing a series of weekly assemblies for the children on a range of current and important issues. Mr Innes and Mr Henderson take turns to deliver an assembly on Monday, this assembly is our 'Picture News' assemblies in which the staff and children discuss a topical question that relates to recent news. Recently the children have discussed 'Do famous people have a responsibility to use their voice to help others?' and

'What are the best ways for us to keep active?' The other staff led an assembly on Wednesday discussing important issues such as a bonfire safety and Remembrance Day. Finally, Mr Whitehead always leads a celebration assembly on a Friday where we celebrate the fantastic work and attitudes!



What else has been happening this half term?

Writing at Stobhillgate

At Stobhillgate, over the last few years, we have developed our Writing curriculum by adopting the 'Talk 4 Writing' approach. If you are interested in finding out what 'Talk 4 Writing' is, Pie Corbett (the creator) explains this brilliantly in the following video [here](#).



This year to continue our 'Talking 4 Writing' journey, Miss Owens is involved in online training with Pie Corbett, to look at ways to develop greater depth writing (basically how can we make our children incredible writers!). Miss Owens has already adopted innovative and inspiring strategies and as a result, our superstar Year 4s are producing some high-quality writing.

As an extension of the course that Miss Owens is undertaking, our children in Year 4 will be afforded the opportunity to engage in a live Zoom session with renowned educationist; Pie Corbett. The session will be directed towards the craft of writing, developing confidence and stimulating imagination in the children's writing (Miss Owens is very excited, she is a big fan!).

History Curriculum

In preparation for this academic year, the broader curriculum has undergone a huge redesign by our staff to make significant improvements to the learning taking place. One subject that we have already seen significant improvements in is History.

The lessons that have taken place this term have been awe-inspiring and vibrant, to say the least. This has involved everything from a life-like mummification in Year 3 to rebuilding the city of London with Lego in Year 1.

Our new curriculum design ensures clear and concise progression, where each year group builds upon their learning

from the last with a focus on their skills as a historian at the heart of each lesson. Within each lesson, pupils focus on building a bank of subject-specific vocabulary. This is embedded through carrying out a practical, hands-on experience in each session, alongside a written activity each week. The recall of historical knowledge has been abundant across the school as a result of the changes to our lesson design. One parent recently commented at parent's evening:

"The way you have been teaching History must be wonderful as she has remembered so much and taught me all about the Great Fire of London."

May in Year 3 explained that her favourite thing from her Egyptian topic was making a Shaduf to transport water from a lake to water crops. She mentioned that it was fun because she got to test it out for real, putting actual water in it, to see if it had been successful.

Now that we are in the second half of the term, pupils have switched to newly designed geography units too, where the elements included will continue to inspire the learning of our pupils.

Christmas

I can't believe that Christmas is fast approaching! Christmas is a significant time of the year at Stobhillgate, and we are determined, despite Covid-19, to make it special and memorable for our children. However, I am sure you will realise that this year things obviously can't be the same.

Due to the current restrictions on social distancing and gatherings of large groups, we have been advised that we will not be able to have our normal Christmas performance.

I know you will be as equally disappointed about this as I am, but we are still going to produce a 'performance' to share with you all, that the whole school will contribute towards. I am sure

this will help bring some festive cheer to the school and our wider community.

I feel that this year, more than any other, it is important that to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Therefore, this year's performance will be an upbeat retelling of the nativity story (for new parents, this is very unusual for Stobhillgate. Previous performances have involved a giant inflatable Tyrannosaurus-Rex, dancing pink Galahs and much more!). We will be sharing this performance with you all electronically.

As we won't be able to celebrate parties in our normal way, this year we will be having outdoor Forest School Christmas parties with individual classes. During these sessions, the children will enjoy various activities and have food cooked on our campfire. As we can't bring food

in from home to share with classmates like normal, we would appreciate a £1 donation towards party food which school will then supply.

This year Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 16th December, further information will be provided closer to the time. Children will be invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day and to make a contribution to Save the Children.

Any Christmas cards or gifts for other children or staff can be brought into school, however, the final day for this will be Friday 11th December. The items will not be distributed until the final week allowing several days in between.

Lock Down Outdoor Ideas

I'm sure like myself, you have found yourself spending a lot more time in the great outdoors this year! At Stobhillgate, we value the importance of spending time outdoors. As you may be aware, the National Trust has created a list of '50 things to do before you're 11 3/4'. This has been created to encourage children to spend more time outdoors with their friends and family. Research shows that children thrive outside and these ideas from the National Trust are great, everything from building a den to flying a kite! Please find below the link to the list.

<https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/50-things-activity-list.pdf>

At School we are developing a list of experiences that we would like our children to have whilst at Stobhillgate, this list includes visiting the theatre, going on a historical walk along the quayside and visiting an art gallery, plus lots more exciting experiences.

We would love to know what experiences your children have had! Why not send us a photo of your child completing one of the activities from the National Trust List. Either email the school or share via Twitter or Facebook. I wonder if anyone can complete all 50?



In the news!

Just in case you missed it, please find attached the Morpeth Herald Newspaper story about our time capsule project with our 3 Rivers partner school, Abbeyfields First School.

<https://www.morpetherald.co.uk/news/people/sending-message-future-time-capsules-buried-two-schools-3037695>