



March Newsletter

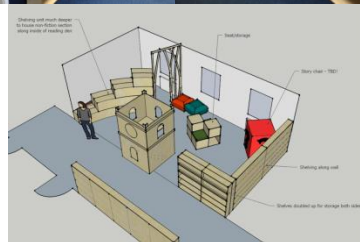
As we come to the end of what has been, yet again, a challenging term for us all, it is the perfect time to stop, reflect and celebrate the incredible hard work, resilience and determination of our school community.

It has been fantastic to have all the children back in school. The children have settled back into school life well and have really impressed us with their hard-working attitudes. More importantly, it has been heartwarming to see the children back with their friends again, laughing, joking and having fun!

Our New School Library

Our library development is really starting to gain momentum. Over the last month, we have had the old ICT suit removed, the room has been fully decorated and our bespoke furniture installation has started to be assembled. Once complete, the library will provide the perfect environment to promote the love of reading: a place for pupils to change their reading books; a quiet space for a class to listen to their class text or even a place for children to chill out, kick off their shoes and enjoy their favourite book in our Morpeth Clock Tower reading den! (Please see our exciting new design). Thank you so much for your kind donations this academic year, we have already raised over £1000 which will go towards purchasing exciting new books to fill our library. In addition to this, we have recently received a donation of £1000 from the Rotary Club, thank

you so much! In the future, (post-Covid) we will be looking for an 'army' of family helpers to man our library. Could you be a Stobhillgate Librarian? This could involve volunteering for an hour, one morning a week to help children change books and listen to readers. If this is something you might be able to offer please get in touch!



School Lunches

The children have loved getting back into the school hall to eat their lunches! It has taken lots of hard work for all the staff to make this happen, to ensure that we have effective

systems in place to clean between sittings and ensure social distancing at all times. Despite, this we firmly believe that this has been the right decision. Our dining experience will improve even further with the introduction of an exciting [new menu](#). This will provide more choice and a step closer to our normal catering offer. In other good news, our catering provider Dolce has recently provided us with new individual trays, plates and bowls for our KS2 children. This means they will no longer need to use the traditional 'compartment food trays'. If successful we look forward to purchasing more trays, plates and bowls for our EYFS/KS1 children.

Easter Competition

If you're looking for something fun to do, over the Easter break, why not enter our decorate an egg competition? You can use whatever materials you like. You may like to use paint, pens, paper shapes, pom-poms or other materials. You could choose to decorate a hard-boiled egg, a chocolate egg, a biscuit egg or an egg made of paper or card. The options are endless, let your imagination run wild! You might even want to turn your egg into a character from a story or your favourite tv character or book. We would love to see your creations. Please send them to your child's teacher via Seesaw or Tapestry. We look forward to seeing your egg-cellent work! Have fun!



EYFS

We are so glad to have all of our children back in reception and nursery. The early year's unit has been filled with joy and laughter and the children have loved spending time with their friends again. They have made a fantastic start to their learning journey so far this year and we would also like to welcome the new nursery children who have settled in beautifully!

Our new core book 'The Odd Egg' has provided such fun and eggciting learning opportunities over the past few weeks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed working on their gross motor skills when building obstacle courses, carrying eggs in baskets and taking part in egg and spoon races. They have also worked on their fine motor skills when weaving baskets, making cracking egg pictures with spilt pins and writing Easter cards. They especially enjoyed using their cooking skills to make chocolate nests for the odd egg. Our farm shop has proved very popular with the children weighing and counting out real produce and exchanging money as the shopkeeper.

Dough disco sessions every morning have been strengthening up their fingers for mark making and writing. Wake and shake dance routines have enabled them to get active while singing along to their favourite songs.

The children have been working very hard on their phonics, learning new sounds, sounding out words, blending words and reading. In Maths they have been working on numbers to 10 and thinking of lots of different ways to represent and make 10 through practical work.

Our children have absolutely loved taking part in Little Movers each week and expressing themselves through movement to music. Forest Friday was full of fun as children worked on their tree climbing, mud pie making and den building skills with natural resources.

Well done everyone you have been amazing! We are so proud of you and we have loved seeing your happy, smiling faces each day.

We hope you have a wonderful Easter Holiday, love from your Early Years teachers.



Year 1

Year 1 have returned to school brilliantly! We have had some very exciting lessons, from recreating the very first flight in role as The Wright Brothers, flying our own early aeroplane creations, to recreating the arrival of Jesus on Palm Sunday outdoors with huge leaves and cheering crowds, to digging up magic rings in our Year 1 garden, ready for learning our class text, 'The Magic Ring.' We LOVED our first forest school session last week with Mrs Bush, making muddy face creations, and getting very muddy ourselves!

Year 1 would like to say a big thank you to Barratt Homes who have just donated £1000 to our school, this money will be used to create an outdoor learning/nature area next to our Y1 classroom. Mr Henderson and Mrs Roberts already have some very exciting ideas! Watch this space.

This is what our space looks like now, we are extremely excited to share the end result with you!



Year 2

Well, what a term it has been! I can honestly say that I am over the moon that we are all back together again and I couldn't be more proud of how hard you have all worked this term.

The Moon has been a big focus of this half term, as the children have learnt about The Space Race and the first Moon landing. We have absolutely loved this topic and the excitement each History lesson has been 'out of this world'! Scan the QR code to watch us recreate the launch, landing and first steps on the Moon using a script.



In Writing we have been focussing on recount writing and Year 2 had a very exciting morning when they arrived at school to find that all of their chairs had gone on strike. We had lots of fun learning our model text 'The Day the Chairs Quit' and have developed our knowledge of recounts to write some brilliant recounts of a trip to a new planet.

We are absolutely loving Accelerated Reader and are really enjoying our Reciprocal Reading lessons every morning. It is great to see such a buzz in the classroom about reading. At the moment we have become editors and critics for Luke Temple, an author who both KS1 and KS2 have completed masterclasses with. We have been sent the 3rd draft of Luke's brand new chapter book for 6-7 year olds and have been asked to read it and let him know what we think. We were super excited to find out we were the first children IN THE WORLD to read this book (even before Luke's editor has seen it!)

I am super impressed with how hard everyone has been working in Maths. We have learnt how to add two 2-digit numbers using the column addition method, both with and without exchanging. Keep it up Year 2, you guys are superstars!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic return to school. We have spent some time getting back into routines and recapping some key knowledge in maths and English. We have been looking at column addition and subtraction in maths and writing an information report on a deadly 60 animal in writing.

In topic we have been learning about the Romans and how they changed life in Britain. The children have been bringing in lots of artefacts and work they have been doing at home which has really added to our learning. Ava brought in a collection of Roman coins for us to look at and Charlotte made her own papier-mache Roman helmet. Well done Girls.

We have loved doing Science this term and particularly enjoyed our lab coats which help us to work like a scientist. We are learning about forces and magnets and enjoyed investigating the amount of friction generated by different surfaces by measuring how far toy cars travel on them.

I am really proud of how the children are working. I know it is not easy for some of them to come back to school after so long at home but we are working hard to make school as fun as possible and make time to talk about our worries and feelings.



Year 4

Happy half term! And indeed, what a happy half term it has been being able to welcome all of our children back to school! Laughter on the playground and a buzz in the classroom has resumed and I am so relieved!

I am extremely proud of how resilient and positive our Stobhillgate family have been throughout this period of lockdown; adjusting once more to the world of online learning, missing being able to socialise with friends and most recently, the anxieties of school reopening and returning to school.

Year 4, without exemption, have embraced every stage with a really impressive attitude. They almost look Chantry ready; now being able to walk to and from school independently.

We have loved our topics this term but a firm favourite has been learning about The Stone Age to the Iron Age. This period of time was prehistory- a time before things were written down. We have found this very interesting as we have had to work like real historians to look at primary sources and discover what these tell us about what life was like for people in this time period.

We have also enjoyed welcoming another adult into our classroom- Mrs Moore who is completing her teacher training with us! We've loved showing her how hardworking we are in Year 4 and we look forward to continuing to impress her into the next term!

Although we are back to school, this hasn't stopped our enthusiasm and engagement for learning at home- we have been continuing to use Seesaw as a platform for sharing with our families what we have been learning and reinforcing our learning through exciting homework tasks.



Super science in school:

Investigating changes in state... with chocolate – Yummy!

The solid changed from a solid to a liquid when it was heated because it melted.

When it cooled, it solidified and turned back into a solid.

This is called a reversible change!

Super science at home:

Observing evaporation and condensation around the house.

Here Ryan and his Mum poured hot water into the jar. When the water was heated, it evaporated and turned into a gas (water vapour). When it touched the cold plate, it cooled and condensed, turning back into a liquid!

Forest School

It has been fantastic to have Forest School sessions up and running for the children returning to school after lockdown. The Forest School ethos is to allow children time and space outdoors to build confidence and self-esteem. As a school we felt it was really important that during this time when many children are feeling anxious and worried that we prioritise giving children time to rebuild their relationships with each other and with staff and have time in the outdoors. During sessions children have been playing games that develop their communication and team work skills and completing tasks which require working collaboratively.

Red Nose Day

It was great to see all the children wearing red last Friday to help raise money for Comic relief. We are happy to announce that we have managed to raise £117. Well done everyone for taking part.



World Book Day

It was so lovely to see all of the children (and staff) dressed up as their favourite characters on World Book Day. The children had lots of fun joining in with book themed activities and quizzes. The children also had a BRILLIANT time guessing which staff member was which character in 'The Masked Reader'. Laughter could be heard all throughout the school as the contestants revealed who was behind each mask. Both The Masked Reader and the reveal video can be found on our Facebook page.

Ready Steady Read

Thank you so much to all the children that participated in our Ready Steady Read sponsored reading event last week. It was amazing to hear about how many minutes in a day everyone was reading for. All of the money you raised through your sponsors will go towards buying some amazing books for our brand new library. You can now add the money you raised to School Gateway.



Important Reminders

We appreciate that over the last year many families have expanded with the arrival of a new dog/puppy. However, can we please remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on the school site. Therefore from Monday 12th April 2021, can we please ensure that no dogs, except guide dogs, are brought into the school site, including dogs that are being carried. Can we also ask that dogs are not tied up outside the school gates. Many thanks.

A reminder that the staff car park is to be used by staff only. We have limited car parking spaces, so please could we ask parents and carers to park sensibly within the avenues. This includes before and after school club pick up and drop-offs.

Parents' Evenings

You can now book an appointment with your child's class teacher through <https://stobhillgatefirst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

Covid Lateral Flow Testing

Primary school staff, their families and the childcare and support bubbles of pupils, now have access to lateral flow testing. For further information on how to order these test kits, please click [HERE](#).

Stobhill Link

Stobhill Link has free school uniform available including white polo tops, grey trousers and black school shoes. Please ring **01670 519575** to place an order and arrange a time to collect. By using preloved items we are preventing more waste to landfills.



Bridge Northumberland

Eligibility

Bridge Northumberland is a National Lottery Community ESF funded employability project. We provide free and voluntary 1-1 Bridge Worker support to Northumberland residents who are 16+ NEET, or adults not in paid employment and experiencing barriers preventing them from moving forwards.

What we do

People can expect connection with friendly understanding professionals who have the best interests of the individuals at the centre of everything they do. A Bridge Worker provides specialised one-to-one support-helping people to grow in confidence, connecting with professional friends and peers as well as opportunities to volunteer and make positive supported steps towards training, education and employment.

Centred around each individuals' needs, the personalised support can include;

- Financial MOT including benefits & debt advice
- Digital inclusion with some access to free devices
- Mental health counselling
- Social inclusion
- Skills building, training and education
- Confidence coaching
- Supported bespoke volunteering opportunities
- Careers guidance and job search support if appropriate

You may also like to take a look at our website: <https://bridgenorthumberland.org.uk/>

To refer in to the project or if you have any questions, simply contact me directly via email leanne.brown@northumberlandcva.org.uk



Update Regarding Relationships Education

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to invite you to share your thoughts and opinions with us regarding the proposed changes in our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and subsequent policy.

As you may be aware the Department for Education has introduced statutory guidance for schools on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (RSE), which was first introduced from September 2020. Due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, schools were given flexibility to delay the start of this to the Summer Term 2021.

We've worked hard to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:

- Our pupils' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds
- The values of our school community
- Every pupil's learning needs
- What pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world

At Stobhillgate First School we believe that delivering high quality RSE and PSHE is vital in providing children with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and skills they need in order to reach their potential as individuals and within the community. Children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of our school and communities. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. At Stobhillgate First School children reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

We've now updated our RSE policy to include our proposed new curriculum and would like you to take time to look at our draft policy which you will find in the link below.

[Link to our draft policy](#)

If you have any questions or comments about the new policy please could you contact Mr Henderson on the following email address. We would invite comments by 9th April 2021: stobhillgate@the3rivers.net

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Look after your school and remember the rules

- Socially distance at least 2m everywhere on site and when queueing outside school.**
- Be alert to signs that coronavirus symptoms may be developing in your child and stay at home to monitor.**
- Remember to wash your hands often, use face coverings and keep your distance.**
- If you're asked to self-isolate, stay at home and don't go out for any reason.**
- If you, your child, or anyone you live with has a new continuous cough, a temperature, or a loss of/change in sense of taste or smell, stay at home and get a test.**

School Advert

Please see below our school advert which will be making an appearance in the Inside Morpeth magazine soon. We have a limited number of Nursery and Reception places available for September so we wanted to give our parents and carers the opportunity, before the advert is publicised, to share this with anyone you know who may be interested in joining the Morpeth school system and applying to our school.

WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE



Start your child's journey at a small Morpeth school with a big heart. We have a passion for creating innovative learning experiences for all and offer a well-balanced and stimulating curriculum that encourages children to develop a positive attitude to their learning.

"I love how much my child loves to come to school every single day. She skips to school and can't wait to be here. It's a supportive nurturing environment, where children are happy to learn".

Stobhillgate Parent

To find out more about school places

Call: 01670 513382

Email: stobhillgate@the3rivers.net

Visit: www.stobhillgate.the3rivers.net

Part of The Three Rivers Learning Trust



SEE OUR SCHOOL

LIMITED NURSERY
AND RECEPTION
PLACES STILL
AVAILABLE FOR
SEPTEMBER

