



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

April Newsletter

Welcome to our April Newsletter and what a month it has been!

Our children have been so busy in school and it has been fabulous to see just how much they love being here. Our children have had a wide range of opportunities this month, from developing cricket skills, learning to cycle and even meeting (virtually) a real life engineer.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, schools have clearly not been able to offer the broad range of activities that they normally would. As a school, we value the importance of providing our children with a broad range of experiences such as sport and the arts. We have started to plan how we intend to enhance this offer even further for the next academic year and we are excited to share these plans with you!

Next academic year Newcastle United Foundation will work closely with Stobhillgate First School to support in the delivery of PE. Coaches from the Foundation will be in school for a day and a half each week! We feel this high quality coaching will enhance our PE curriculum and I'm sure our children will love the sessions. In addition to this the coaches will run after school clubs every week, including the introduction of a school football team! Come on

Stobhillgate! (If you know of anyone that would be interested in funding a football kit please get in touch)



At stobhillgate we already have a broad musical offer. Our classes Y1-4 have the opportunity to learn an instrument in class and children also have the opportunity to choose to learn an additional instrument: keyboard, woodwind or guitar. We are looking forward to enhancing our music curriculum offer next academic year. I am over the moon to share with you that next academic year, every week a music specialist will be coming into school to establish and run a school choir. Our children love to sing and I'm sure many of our children will want to be part of this new vocal group. We intend to give the choir the opportunity to perform at lots of events in the local area! We are very lucky that Miss Roberts (our Music Leader) is a highly skilled steel pans player, and from September she will be teaching this skill to our older children. There is a real tradition of steel pan

playing throughout Chantry and King Edwards High Schools and it is brilliant that our children will be getting the chance to develop this skill from a younger age. Our EYFS children will also be taking part in music sessions each week delivered by Northumberland Council specialist music teachers, this early exposure to high quality music teaching, we believe, will enable them to quickly develop a love of music which we can develop and nurture as they move through their 3 Rivers journey.

Choir



We have also arranged for our younger children, from September, to access weekly Yoga and dance classes and for all our children in the Autumn term to work with a local artist. We are extremely excited and look forward to sharing with you more exciting news for a bright future at Stobhillgate!

School Library

What a transformation our library has undergone!!

The old, underused Computer suite has now been reinvigorated into the most incredible space for our children to read in. After lots of planning and designing, Dave from Out of the Wild has created lots of beautifully crafted bespoke furniture that has now been installed in our library. The children were super excited to explore the area (especially the Clock Tower reading den)! It is already looking fantastic and will look even better with the addition of some soft furnishing finishing touches. Keep your eyes peeled for the bean bags!

Thank you to all of the children who kindly contributed some book donations, we received over 400 books from our families and they have now been added to our shelves. The children in Year 2-4 have been loving Accelerated Reader, so now we have a full wall jam packed with our expanding selection of Accelerated Reader books. It is lovely to see the children flicking through the books to find their next choice.

With the help of Debbie, our fabulous Play Therapist, we have created an area for books linked to emotions and feelings. These books will be great to use with our children to support them in their development and understanding their own emotions and the world around them.

We also now have a WONDERFUL selection of non-fiction books to enjoy. Our shelves are bursting with inspirational people and events that have impacted our lives today. I wonder if you can spot anyone you are familiar with.

Another huge thank you to all the children who participated in the Usborne 'Ready Steady Read' event. The children did amazingly well and as a school we raised a whopping total of £1,672.48! Miss Reeves can't wait to buy some amazing books to fill up the shelves.

Finally, the book nook competition was a huge success and we had some brilliantly creative and magical entries. From Harry Potter to The Lion King, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to Peter Rabbit. All of the entries were amazing and it was so difficult to choose a winner. However, the winning entry was 'Tilly's House' made by Charlotte in Year 3. Well done Charlotte, your prize is on its way! Check out these super entries.



Donation

We have received a generous donation of £1000 from Barratt Homes. This will be used to develop Year 1's secret learning garden with the focus of supporting and encouraging wildlife into the area.



Bikeability

The school yard was alive with sound of success last week as we welcomed The Cycling Partnership into Stobhillgate. Our children from Reception worked hard across the week on balance bikes as the first step in their cycling journey and many of the children also built upon their already excellent skills riding a bike. Year One and Two also took part in 'Learn to Ride' sessions which for some built upon their pre-existing skills, while others learnt to ride their bike for the very first time. It was a proud moment seeing our children conquering some of the fears they had about riding a bike and then taking this new found confidence home to keep on riding! Thank you for the various discussions on the school yard last week where many of you shared the joy of the children and their cycling success. There were many successes over the week, but Lauren from Year One and Alexander from Year Two really stood out for their riding skills by the end of their sessions. While I am very proud of Layla and Poppie (Year One) and Lillie (Year Two) for overcoming their apprehensions related to cycling.

I am sure you will agree the week was a great success. So much so, that we have developed a four year plan to further enhance cycling at our school. This will hopefully mean, this time next year, some of our children will be taking a packed lunch in a rucksack and going out for a bike ride adventure! Look out for our exciting plans in the future.



Cricket

The children have been enjoying cricket sessions delivered by All Stars Cricket on Thursdays. Year 3 children also have the opportunity of taking part in the after school cricket club. It's been great seeing them have a fantastic time and improve their skills each week.



Outdoor Area

Plans for the development of our new EYFS outdoor area have been underway for the last few months. It has been an absolute pleasure to observe the children fully using this beautiful space over the past fortnight. The area was designed to significantly enhance our provision all year round by providing a slightly different approach to many aspects of the curriculum that cannot be accessed indoors. The children are developing their mathematical skills on a large scale using the equipment in the mud kitchen, the large bucket balances and the wooden ten frames for measuring and counting. They are also developing crucial language and communication skills by interacting with staff and each other during rich role play and investigations. The stage has already proved very popular for putting on performances involving singing and dancing. The newest addition which will be available to use next week is the sensory path. The children (and staff) can't wait to take off their shoes and socks and walk along it, describing what the different textures feel like.

It has been fantastic to see how the children have been looking after the area by making sure they tidy up after themselves and use the resources appropriately.

Happiness and wellbeing at Stobhillgate has certainly been enhanced by increased quality time in a natural outdoor environment!



DT Week

Last week we had another fantastic DT week in school. Every afternoon children worked together to research, design, make and evaluate different products.

In year 1 the children were learning how to build and strengthen structures and used their knowledge to build some amazing moving windmills.

In year 2 the children were looking at levers and linkages and made fantastic moving cards.

In year 3 the children were learning all about pneumatics and used a pneumatic system to make a moving monster toy

Finally year 4 were learning about electrical systems and used their knowledge to create working light circuits and then design and create a housing so they could be used as a torch.

It was wonderful to walk around the classrooms last week and feel the buzz of excitement in the classrooms as the children worked together and created new things. DT is all about teamwork, collaboration, and creativity, values which are at the heart of our ethos at Stobhillgate. The children all did amazingly well and it was fabulous to see the pride in which they showed off what they had designed and made.

We look forward to our next DT week later in the summer term when every class will be working on a textiles project.



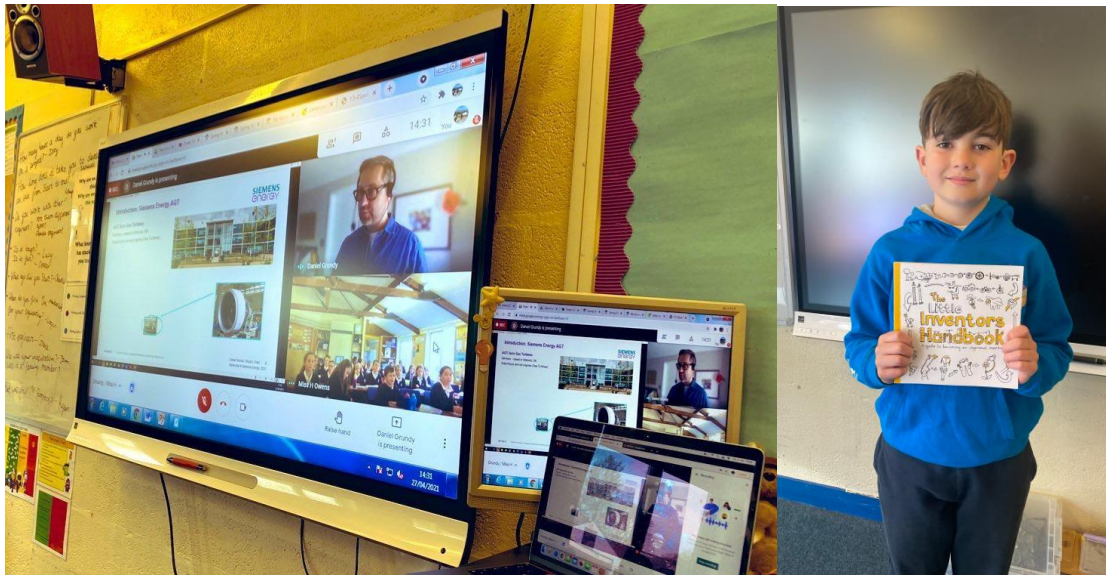
STEM

Year 4 have had the exciting opportunity to be involved with this year's primary STEM project. The project asks children the question: ***If you were an engineer, what would you do?***

As part of our engagement with the Primary Engineer Leaders Award, Year 4 enjoyed the opportunity to interview Daniel Grundy, an engineer from Siemens energy.

As pupils interview engineers and research engineering in general, they are encouraged to look at the world around them to find problems an engineered solution could solve. Alongside their annotated drawings, an accompanying letter is required to persuade engineers to choose their design to build.

We have really enjoyed learning about engineering and our perceptions have totally changed! We have created some innovative designs that will be judged internally within school and then sent to be graded by engineers and educationalists. Shortlisted entries form part of the regional public exhibitions and winners are presented with a trophy at a prestigious award's night!



Farewell to Mr Innes

Today is an emotional day for all of us as we wish farewell to Mr Innes, after working at Stobhillgate for 8 years.

In this time, Mr Innes has become such an important part of Stobhillgate life. We are very grateful for the contribution he has made and the care and support he has provided our children. We wish him every success in his next adventure of senior leadership!

We know you will do a fantastic job and look forward to hearing about your future adventures.



A Brilliant Role-Model

Since the start of lockdown three in January one of our Year 3 pupils Max has been serving our community in an amazing way. At least three times a week Max and his mum pick litter on their way to school. At the weekends they also go on long walks and collect litter as they go. We are super proud of Max for taking the time to do this and make our community a better place to live.

Max says "When my grandma asked me to start litter picking I thought it was going to be boring but actually when I started it was really fun, enjoyable and I wanted to keep doing it and now I can't stop. It feels like I am doing the right thing when I pick litter."

As a school we want to say well done to Max for his fabulous hard work and effort. It is wonderful and inspiring to see someone really making a difference in our community.



School Displays

In recent weeks our staff have been working hard to develop corridor displays to show off our fabulous new and exciting curriculum. We can't wait to invite you in soon!

May Day

Next Monday 3rd May is a bank holiday.



SchoolGrid/Dolce

The children in KS2 love using their new plates, bowls and trays and the new menu is going down a treat!

Please remember to remove your child's lunch pre-order on SchoolGrid if they are absent or have opted for a packed lunch instead. The kitchen are unable to remove the pre-order so you will still be charged for the meal if it is not removed.





WE NEED YOU!

Red Row Raptors Under 9s are looking for talented **Year 3s** to join the team!

Training is at Red Row Welfare

- Wednesday 5pm-6pm
- Saturday 10am-11am

First 2 sessions are free and £10/month after that.



If you are interested please contact the Club Manager Billy Hegarty on 07794818274



Fun Little Foodies Morpeth
Pre School Cookery Classes,
Nursery & School Workshops,
Parties & After School Clubs

Pre School Classes 2.5 years - 5 years	After School Classes 2.5 years - 12 years
Tuesday 10am	Tuesday 4pm
Tuesday 1pm	Thursday 4pm
Thursday 10am	
Thursday 1pm	



We run weekly preschool & after school cookery classes in Morpeth - New Life Morpeth, Dacre Street, NE61 1HQ

Fun Little Foodies is an exciting activity class which promotes an enjoyment of food and cooking while having fun and learning new skills.



@funlittlefoodiesmorpeth



Find us on
Facebook

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