



# May Newsletter

## Welcome to the May edition of the Stobhillgate Newsletter!

Over the last few months, it has really started to feel like school life is returning to normal! We have our fingers crossed that the Government's roadmap will continue as planned, enabling us to plan events that we traditionally hold in the Summer term. We will be in contact with you at the start of the next half term to confirm these dates.

I have been incredibly impressed with the hard work of all our children. Despite, missing big chunks of school due to the pandemic, they are doing brilliantly and are a credit to us all. I have particularly been impressed with the care and attention the children are giving to the presentation of their work; the standard of handwriting is incredible! Remember, if your child

would like to practice their handwriting you can log on to the [Letter Join](#) scheme at home. Please contact the school office if you need the login details.

As a team, we have been blown away by our children's determination to develop their reading skills. The introduction of Accelerated Reader has proven a hit with our children and they are reading so many books! This is brilliant, thank you for supporting and encouraging your children with their home reading, it is really paying off.

Finally, I hope you have a lovely half term break. Hopefully the sun will shine (fingers crossed) and we can have a special time with friends and family.

Thanks for all your support.

## School Update

Please find an update on our journey, explaining what we've done and where we are now. Click [here](#) to view.



Since 2019, when we last visited by Ofsted, we have been working extremely hard to improve the quality of education that we provide our children. As times it is easy to forget how far we have come! Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we unfortunately haven't been able to invite you into school to see all the brilliant things that happen everyday at Stobhillgate. We would therefore like to tell you about our journey, what we've done and where we are now.

One of the most important aspects that Ofsted highlighted was the need to improve educational standards to ensure our children are achieving their full potential. The improvement in this area has been an utter transformation! The staff have worked tirelessly to improve standards across school and as a result our children are making brilliant progress, resulting in a higher percentage of children meeting the national expected level and lots more children now working above this standard.

**Maths**  
In Maths, we have introduced the 'Mastery' approach. This has allowed our pupils to acquire a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. When I call into classrooms, talk to pupils and look in their books it is extremely clear how well they are doing and how much they enjoy it. We now use this approach as soon as our children arrive in Year 1 and this will ensure that by the time they move to Year 2 they will have the mathematical knowledge and skills they need.

**Writing**  
In Writing, we have embraced the 'Talk 4 Writing' approach and both the pupils and the staff love it. This process enables the children to speak, hear and perform orally before learning how to articulate the words and then write their own. The quality of their writing is amazing. Our children are now being clearly

taught how to be brilliant writers, we can't wait to share their work with you. The pupils have also worked extremely hard to improve their handwriting, following the Lettering scheme. I hope you will agree with me that our pupils' handwriting is beautiful, we are extremely proud of them!

**Reading**  
In Reading, we now directly teach reading each day using the Response Reading approach. This places the focus on providing the children the opportunity to experience high quality books every single day. We now have a carefully considered reading list that maps out which books the children study in each year group from 'Wise Guys on a Bear Hunt' (EYF) to 'Hatchet' (Year 5). The 'Butterfly Lull' in Y4. This book is a lovely piece of the day. I often pop in classrooms to see the excitement in the children's faces as they begin on their teacher's entry point in anticipation of what might happen next. The staff are now extremely skilled at teaching reading and carefully use questioning to develop the children's reading skills. As I am sure you will know we have also improved the quality of books we send home. Using both Read Write Inc. and Accelerated Reader we now ensure that children's home-school reading books are accurately matched to meet pupils' ability and with the installation of our new library we have improved the quality and variety of books the children can read.



## EYFS

We have had a wonderful start to the summer term in Early Years. The grand opening of our new outdoor area was a real highlight. The children have absolutely loved exploring our sensory path with their bare feet, making mud pies, weighing and measuring in the mud kitchen as well as creating wonderful performances on our very own stage.

The core book 'Superworm' was very popular with the children as they thoroughly enjoyed going on bug hunts and investigating our wormery. They especially enjoyed watching our caterpillars change over time, forming cocoons and emerging as butterflies. It was wonderful to see them fly off to start their new, exciting journey in our big release!

At present our core book is 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have loved planting their own beans and sunflowers and watching them grow. We are eagerly waiting to use our fine motor skills and give our grass heads a snip and a trim! There have been some amazing story maps and retelling of our story in the writing area. We have also created some super castles and beanstalks in the construction areas too.

We have been working very hard on our letter formation and handwriting skills. In addition we have continued to make great progress in phonics; learning new sounds, sounding out words, blending words and reading. In maths we have been working on shape, space and measure and have enjoyed making patterns and measuring our beanstalks, towers and castles.

We continue to be so very proud of you all and we love watching and helping you along your learning journey.

We hope you have a wonderful half term holiday, love from your Early Years teachers.



PIC·COLLAGE

## Year 1

Science - Plantastic

This half term we have been learning about plants in Year One. We started by observing plants in our school grounds and learning the names of some of the more common ones we might come across. Next, we learnt about the structure of the plants and what important job each part does. We have also been trying to identify different trees by looking for clues like what their leaves look like. Next time you are out on a walk, try using the ID card attached in the link to help the whole family identify some of the trees growing around us.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/tree-id-kids/>

We have also had sunflower seeds, compost and other equipment donated by Morrisons that the children have all planted and the seeds have started to grow. I hope you manage to keep them going at home and plant out in the garden to see how they develop. Be sure to talk about the different parts of the plant together and how they change over time.





## Year 2

Year 2 have worked extremely hard this half term and I could not be more proud of them. All the children have tried really hard with their handwriting and it is making such a difference. Their presentation in their books is incredible! We have looked at Warning Tales and Rhyming Poetry this half term and the children have loved using speech in their work to develop a character's personality.

In Reciprocal Reading we have finished Fantastic Mr Fox. This story was a real hit with Year 2 and their prediction and inference skills have developed massively over the last half term. This has been really clear in the amazing progress they have all made in their recent reading tests.

We have had a tricky half term of Maths including column addition, column subtraction and multiplication and Year 2 have smashed it! They always try hard in Maths lessons and have developed their problem solving skills and reasoning skills as well as their self-confidence.

Our Science topic of Plants has improved the children's understanding of how different plants grow. We know that some plants grow from seeds and some plants grow from bulbs. We have been observing the growth of our Sunflowers and discussing the changes at each stage.

It has been great to see some of you continuing to look after your Sunflower at home.

History found us learning about the incredible lives of Sarah Forbes Bonetta and Nelson Mandela. Year 2 have shown such empathy and understanding towards people who experienced inequality and we have had some brilliantly thought-provoking discussions about the importance of treating everyone equally. It was heart-warming to experience the unprompted cheers and claps the children gave when learning that Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years and was the first South African President to be voted for by all people. This unit also developed our understanding of chronology and timelines.

In Art, we have been creating nature inspired Collograph Prints. We observed the work of Barbara Garrison before having a go at using a range of materials to create a printing plate with lots of different textures. We then had a go at painting our printing plate and printing it into our sketchbooks using the printing rollers to create the finished piece. The results were gorgeous and the children were extremely proud of their work.

This half term we were also lucky enough to have All Stars Cricket coaches in school to teach us some Cricket skills. The children have been great in these sessions and have thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills.



A huge congratulations to Hector in Y2 who won the [@MapedHelix\\_UK](#) [#ThankYourTeacher](#) competition with his brilliant drawing of Miss Reeves (having a great time at a disco!). Amazingly he won some fantastic prizes for his whole class! They were all over the moon!



### Year 3

This half term has been emotional and very busy in year 3! We said 'au revoir' to Mr Innes and 'bonjour' to Miss Bulloch.

In Maths it has been all things fractions, from finding equivalent fractions, to ordering them, adding and subtracting fractions and finding fractions of amounts. We are fractions pro's! We also finished our class text, The Tale of Despereaux, which we really enjoyed.

Our topic this half term has been the Anglo-Saxons. We started the topic re-enacting the invasion of 'Briton' – we were incredibly fierce! We also decided that life as an Anglo-Saxon was very hard, it wouldn't have been very fun at all.



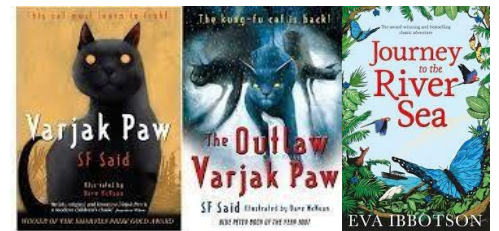
We have spent a lot of this half term outside too! We have thoroughly enjoyed our Thursday morning cricket lessons: rain, shine or even hail, we've been there. We have built on our tennis skills in PE and in forest school we have made animal dens. As part of our science we have conducted lots of experiments – planting sunflowers and altering the conditions they grow in in order to work out what is vital for their growth.

In our RE topic of Sikhism we have tried some traditional foods, chapatis and karah parshad, a sweet treat usually eaten after the sermon at the Gurdwara.

### Year 4

We finished our Reciprocal Reading text: Varjak Paw – A firm favourite this year!

Because we loved it so much, we have started to read the sequel in our reading for pleasure sessions! We think it might even be better than the first! We are completely hooked and desperate to read each day. We have started our new class read: Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson. Already, we have some brilliant predictions on what could happen in this exciting adventure story.



Our DT week this term kicked off our Science topic of electricity perfectly- we have thoroughly enjoyed being very practical and hands-on with our learning. Take a look at our fabulous torches- made using a simple circuit. In DT week, we looked at various character profiles, designing and making our torches to meet the needs of the criteria.

We have been detectives in our topic lessons!

In our most recent topic lesson, we were provided with evidence to help us #FindTony, a kayaker who was lost somewhere along the course of the River Danube! We used non-fiction texts, together with map skills to decode where his last location was in order to write a report to the emergency services advising which countries should be on high alert and which countries could call off their search. The children took the case very seriously and gave excellent advice, using the evidence to support their ideas.

**MISSING**

This has become an international search. Countries across Europe are searching for Tony and they need your help in limiting the search.

In today's lesson you will be provided with evidence to help you file a report suggesting where you think Tony may be along the course of the River Danube.

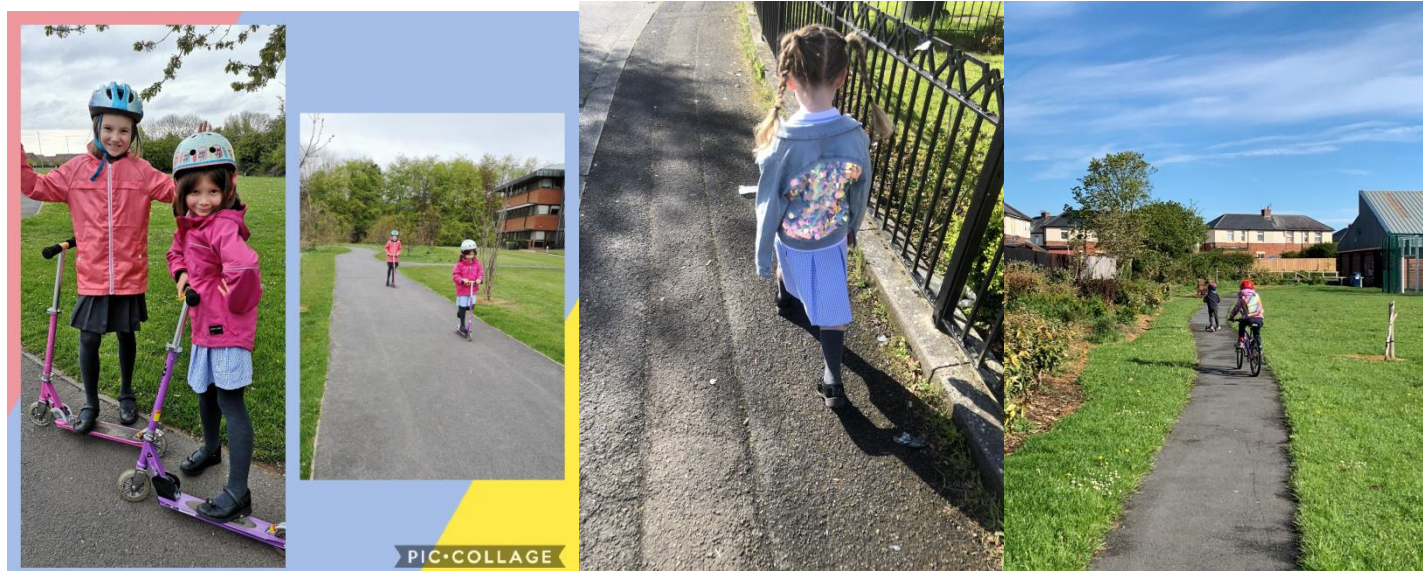
Name: Tony  
D.O.B. 20/03/1990  
Occupation: Kayak instructor, Summer camp coordinator.  
Last sighting: 12th May 2021

Witness statements suggest that Tony was doing a trail run of a section of the River Danube on his Kayak ahead of a summer camp he was looking to run in August this year.



## Walk to School Week

Well done to all of our families who took part in this year's 'Walk to School Week!'. It was brilliant to see so many children choosing to take the healthier and greener transport option. Try to challenge yourself to work/cycle or scooter to school more regularly over the remainder of the school year.



## Mrs Ewart

Over the last year Mrs Ewart has had 2 roles, Business Manager at Stobhillgate and Trust Governance Manager. The new role means that Mrs Ewart has responsibility for governance across all 8 schools and also the Board. As you can imagine, this is a big responsibility and one in which Mrs Ewart is doing a brilliant job. As she is so fabulous, the Trust has asked her to become full time Governance Manager. This will therefore mean that over the next few weeks we will be internally recruiting a new member of staff to support Stobhillgate with Business Management. Luckily for us, Mrs Ewart will be mentoring this member of staff next academic term and will continue to be involved in our governance. Mrs Ewart has done a sterling job at Stobhillgate and I would like to thank her for everything she has done in her Business Manager role and wish her luck as she embarks on this exciting promotion. We are very grateful and happy that Mrs Ewart continues to be, very much, part of the Stobhillgate family.

## A Message from Stobhill Link

We have been very busy over the last few weeks sorting all the school uniforms into size and type and the portacabin is looking really organised.

We have free school uniform including summer dresses and shorts. We also have an urban garden here at the office in Stobhill which we welcome everyone from toddlers to play with the mud kitchens to anyone wanting to grow their own flowers, fruit and veg.

If anyone is interested please contact us on 01670 519 575 or pop into see us for more information. If you have spare uniform to donate to us you are welcome to drop off between Monday – Friday 9am – 2pm at our office.



## Academy Councillor Recruitment

Are you interested in a great opportunity to volunteer in your local area? The Three Rivers

Learning Trust is looking to recruit Academy Councillors to the governance of its schools. It is a great role, and a way of volunteering in your local community.

As an academy council member, you will join a dedicated group of governors to support the work of the Trust and its schools in offering pupils a high quality education. By using your own skills, you will have the opportunity to contribute significantly to the life chances of pupils within the Trust schools and wider Morpeth community.

Please refer to the information below to find out more.

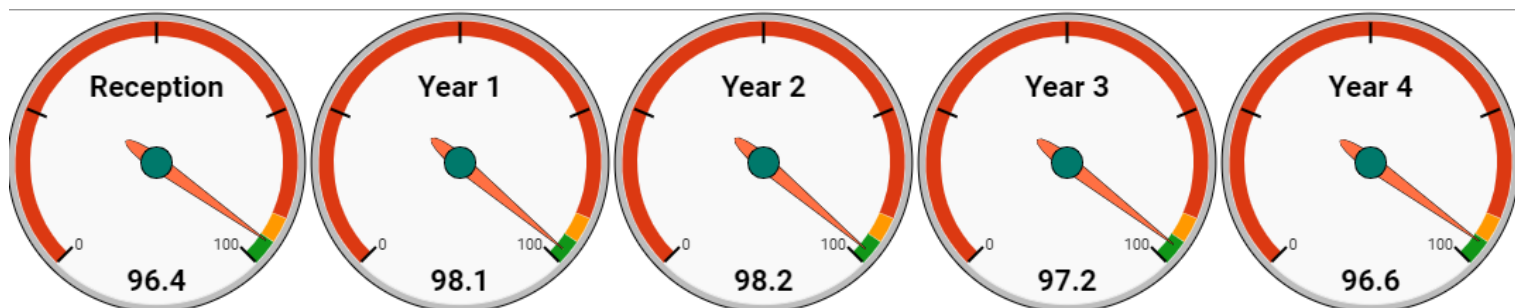
[Recruitment Letter](#)

[3RLT Annual Performance](#)

[Becoming an Academy Councillor](#)

## Current Class Attendance

It's great to see every class above 96%! Keep it up everyone.



The image shows two posters side-by-side. The left poster is dark blue with yellow text and icons. The right poster is light blue with yellow and white text and icons.

**THANKS  
THANKS  
THANKS**

**TO ALL OUR STUDENTS**  
for doing all you can to protect yourselves and others!

HANDS FACE SPACE FRESH AIR

**STUDENTS PLEASE  
DON'T  
FORGET**

**ONLY 6** people can meet up inside or a maximum of **2** households.

**Thank you**  
for doing all you can to protect yourselves and others!

HANDS FACE SPACE FRESH AIR

Northumberland  
Local Council