



MORPETH  
Stobhillgate  
FIRST SCHOOL

# September Newsletter

Welcome to our September Newsletter!

As we approach the end of our fourth week back at school, we take the time to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to our academic year. Our children have been incredible; they have quickly settled back into school life and have done so with positive, can-do attitudes. They are a credit to you all! School is calm, purposeful and alive with the buzz of learning!

Last week we had the opportunity to welcome some parents/carers into school which involved a tour of our new learning environment. I was extremely proud of our children during these visits! They were engaged, focused and working extremely hard! Our visitors were blown away by their incredible behaviour and impressive work, as you will see from the positive feedback we received.

*"What was on display was very impressive."*

*"The pupils work is at a high standard"*

*"Very good, the children were engaged and keen to learn, and very well behaved"*

*"The atmosphere -it just felt like a very close knit school where all staff were working together towards delivering the best learning experience for my children. It was an inspiring visit -the teachers all appear to be very enthusiastic and keen for the school to be the absolute best it can be."*

*"The classrooms looked nice and modern and calm. The new library looks brilliant."*

*"Lovely encouraging environment"*

*"I was pleased to hear about the plans for school trips, cycling, the allotment and other experiences the children will be getting involved in to make their time at first school exciting and memorable."*

I have enjoyed having the chance to talk to parents/carers over the past week and also having the chance to meet new members of our school community. Earlier in the week, it was lovely to hear from a group of Y1 parents who were amazed by the impressive facts their children have shared at home, relating to the Great Fire of London! From popping into lessons, it is clear that our children are loving their History lessons. They are extremely interesting, engaging and active. Why not ask your child what they are learning about in History?

Thank you to all parents/carers who are using Seesaw/Tapestry, this will really help your children and allow you to find out what they have been doing in school (I know as a parent you may get limited responses from your children, including I can't remember or I'm too tired!). Can I also please remind you of the importance of reading. Please read with your child as much as possible as reading as this is very important.

Since returning to school our children have started to attend assemblies. Our assemblies are at the end of the school day and are a lovely calm time, where we come

together to talk about important issues. Our KS1/2 assemblies focus on Picture News, allowing the children to find out about important issues in our world. This term our children have already considered:

What's happening in Afghanistan?

What did Emma Raducanu achieve?

How does facing disasters change us?

How do lorry drivers keep our country moving?

Why not ask your child about one of these current issues? I'm sure you will be impressed with their knowledge and understanding.

Finally, can I please remind you that we are here to help. Please get in touch if we can support you in any way!

Kind regards

Glen Whitehead  
Head Teacher



## EYFS

We have had an exciting start to the year in EYFS. The children have enjoyed exploring their indoor and outdoor classroom environments and are beginning to access all areas with confidence. We are extremely proud of how quickly everyone has settled into school life and daily routines.

The highlight of our week is Forest Friday, where the children have been learning about, 'What changes in autumn?' We have been enjoying learning about the changing of seasons and finding signs of autumn. We collected fallen leaves and created our pictures using natural resources. We mixed paint together to create colours that matched the autumn leaves we found and painted our own autumn scenes. Everyone's favourite part of Forest Friday is sitting on the logs, sharing stories and eating biscuits, it has become a special Friday treat!



Reception have enjoyed reading their first core book, 'You Choose'. We spent time looking through each page and talking about our likes and dislikes. We discussed where we live and where we have been, healthy and less healthy foods, and people we can aspire to be. We enjoyed a visit from the police and have visits from a nurse and horse trainer scheduled. We watched interviews from people who work in our local community, telling us about what they do and what we aspire to be. Throughout our time in Reception we will learn through role play and give purpose to everything we do by talking about what we can become when we acquire new knowledge and skills. A very special thank you to our local businesses, 'Bee and the Botanist', 'Made with Crumbs' and 'Matt Robson Artwork', for sharing short videos all about what they do!

Nursery started their reading journey with, 'Dear Zoo'. They have enjoyed retelling the story together as class and in the classroom environment using props. They have been learning the animal names and making their own representations of animals in the creative area.



Finally, the children in Reception have a very exciting opportunity to take part in Boromi. "Boromi is an award-winning community of school play libraries on a shared mission to empower every parent to support and nurture the early development of their child through powerful, purposeful play together at home, where it matters most." – Boromi. As a school we are extremely excited to be part of this initiative and ask that you sign up for the opportunity to borrow our Boromi play bags as soon as possible.

We have made a wonderful start to our learning journey and we are looking forward to a year full of new opportunities!



## Year 1

Wow, what a fantastic start to the year the whole class have had. They have settled into our routines in school fantastically and also the new expectations we have in Year One for their work. The class have also thoroughly enjoyed accessing our outdoor provision to enhance their learning in our Year One secret garden. One thing that is very clear is how much the children have enjoyed playing out together with the rest of the school, having lunch in the dining hall and taking part in assembly once again.

In the class we have been learning about the great fire of London in our history lessons and all about the different parts of the human body and our senses. Also in our English lessons we have been learning to write a story based on Little Red Riding Hood with a focus on setting descriptions. In maths we have been focusing on place value which has included a real focus ordering and comparing numbers as well as ensuring we can write our numbers correctly.

Finally, it has been wonderful to see the children and their families engaging with the homework that has been set on Seesaw. We can already see the positive impact it is having on the children in the classroom. If you have not joined in with our homework yet, don't worry there is still time. Please let the school office know if you can't get onto Seesaw and we will help you out.

Here is a link to some wonderful maths homework set by Mrs Roberts:  
[maths homework](#)



## Year 2

This half term we have been learning about how homes have changed over the last 500 years in History. We started by identifying what types of houses we live in today – bungalows, semi-detached, detached, flats, terraces. Next, we looked at Tudor houses and their features of dark timber frames, lime-washed walls, thatched roofs, and small casement windows arranged in a criss-cross pattern. Following this were Victorian houses, which were made of bricks, had no bathrooms and an outside toilet. We have loved comparing the similarities and differences between the all of these houses.

In Maths, it has been all about place value of tens and ones, numbers to 100 and comparing amounts of objects using mathematical language of 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'. We are brilliant at representing numbers in different ways, such as with part-whole models, bar models, number sentences and writing them as words. Practical resources are always at hand to help with deepening our understanding and problem solving.

English has been about 'journey stories' and have focused on the book 'Grandad's Island' and we are now experts at reading our story map which we practice every day. We are beginning to plan our own journey story where our main character will find a secret door that leads to another world of magic and mystery where they go on an adventure.

In Science, our 'Animals including Humans' unit has been about how humans grow - what can we do now that we couldn't as babies? We know that to survive, we need food, water and air and that different animals have different life cycles. This week we have focused on the life cycle of a butterfly and have made our own.

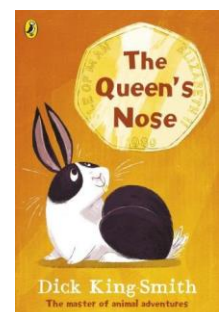
In Music, we have just started learning the recorder and in only two weeks we are sounding amazing! Bring on the Christmas performance next half term!

Smiles, smiles, smiles, that is all you see when we take part in our PE lessons with the Newcastle Foundation. Lots of fun activities while learning skills.



## Year 3

What a brilliant start to the year Year 3 have had! They have settled well into their new routines and have all helped me settle into my new role too, which has been much appreciated. During our reciprocal reading sessions, we have been reading 'The Queen's Nose' which the children are thoroughly enjoying, they love making predictions about what Harmony may wish for next! In English, we have been writing to entertain through a journey text called 'The Explorer'. Children are becoming familiar with some powerful language features including: fronted adverbials, similes and the power of three. Maths has been all about recognising the place value in 3 digit numbers.





Our learning across the broader curriculum so far has included the Ancient Egyptians, animals including humans, staying safe on the internet, how to be kind to others and much more. We have a very exciting trip coming up next month to the Hancock museum where we will visit the Egypt gallery. This session will be followed up, a day later in school, with a virtual 'visit' where the children will be educated in a mummies workshop!

As part of the children's physical education curriculum, they are now enjoying one session per week with a Newcastle United Foundation coach (Nathan). The children have all taken well to Nathan and the fun sessions he has been putting them through.



## Year 4

What an amazing start we've had to Year 4; we've said "Goodbye" to bubbles and "Hello" to new members of staff, new friends, and new opportunities throughout school. We have settled back into school brilliantly!

At the start of term, a very mysterious suitcase arrived in our Year 4 classroom. Further investigation led us to believe that the case could belong to Alice in Wonderland. We have been on many an adventure since; our journey story writing taking us to far and distant lands!

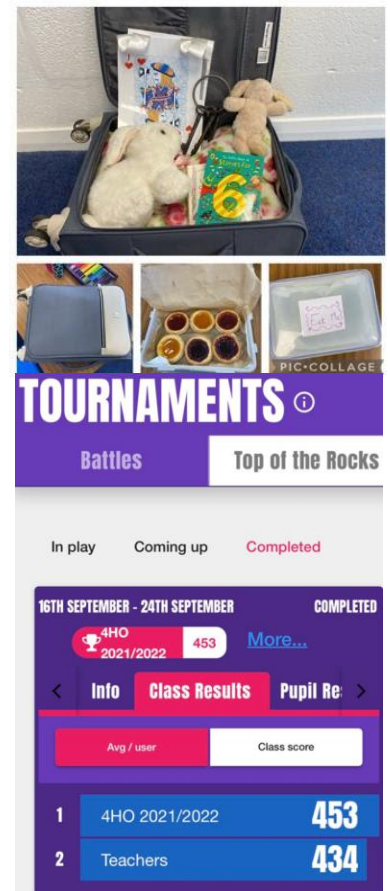
In Science, we are learning about our Digestive System – We are enjoying working scientifically to find out more about how our bodies work. We've been on fact finding scavenger hunts, have been dentists and we've even made poo!

Enthusiasm in the classroom has been reflected at home: engagement with homework on Seesaw has been fantastic!

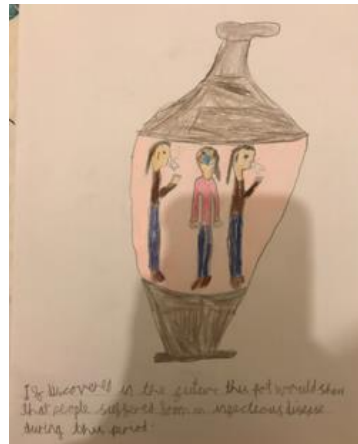
### What's coming next?

We are only a few chapters away from finishing our current class read: The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. We have thoroughly enjoyed unpicking this story in Reciprocal Reading sessions. Our next class text is The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo.

Miss Owens demands a rematch! Last week, Miss Owens and Year 4 went head to head in a week-long Times Table rock battle. It was neck and neck but Year 4 were victorious! Throughout October, Year 4 and Miss Owens will compete for the most points. Who will be champion?



TOURNAMENTS	
Battles	Top of the Rocks
In play	Coming up
Completed	
16TH SEPTEMBER - 24TH SEPTEMBER	COMPLETED
4HO 2021/2022	453
Info	Class Results
Pupil Re	
Avg / user	Class score
1	4HO 2021/2022
2	Teachers
	453
	434



## Friends of Stobhill

It is with great joy that I write this message as working together with our families is a key component to the school and your children's success here with us at Stobhillgate.

Now that we are returning to some normality, we would like to reinvigorate our parents and teachers association (Friends of Stobhill). If you are interested in joining the 'Friends of Stobhill,' we will be having a small get together on Wednesday 13th October at 09:15 when you have dropped the children off at class. Please meet at the school office then we will go to the hall. During the meeting we will outline our plan for the year and what events we will focus on and look at how we can all work together as a team.

May I also thank everyone for their wonderful donations for our Macmillan coffee afternoon, there were definitely some star bakers among you! Thanks to all of your support, we managed to raise £130. Hopefully this will be the start of many successful events.

If you want to find out more about this, please speak to Mr Henderson, or Mrs Bush.

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**





## The Curiosity Approach - EYFS

Nothing is too precious for a child to touch and explore!

The children have made a wonderful start to their learning journey at Stobhillgate. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful indoor and outdoor learning environment. Last year, we focused on enhancing our outdoor learning space and we are proud to offer our children a space to explore outside in any weather.

We would now like to enhance our Reception classroom. We would like to encourage our children to learn and explore using the 'Curiosity Approach'. This involves children investigating pre-loved authentic items through play, in a calm and welcoming environment.

If you have any pre-loved teapots, teacups and saucers, cutlery, coffee pots, jugs, scales, typewriters, phones, keyboards, binoculars, photo frames, perfume bottles, costume jewellery, record players, fancy hats or lamps we would greatly appreciate them.

Thank you for your continued support!



## Junk Band

Mrs Roberts is creating a junk band with junk drumming being the starting point. We would appreciate any donations of cleaned out plastic emulsion paint tubs – lids too.

## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 95%, which is below what we expect in school of 97%. I understand this can be a difficult time of year and children can often fall ill, but please only keep the children off school if it is absolutely necessary. It may only seem like a few days here and there, but these few days can have a big impact on the social and academic development in school. If they miss key parts of classroom learning it can be hard for them to full understand work as it progresses, which can lead to children becoming upset and worried about their work and ultimately school. If you need some support with attendance please come and see me and I will help you and your family to ensure your child is attending school as they should and taking part in their learning.

Mr Henderson



## School Photographs

A reminder that Tempest Photography will be in school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October for individual school photographs.

## Census Day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October is census day and Dolce have created a special lunch menu which you can pre-order on SchoolGrid.

## Stobhill Community Centre

Parents are welcome to continue using the community centre car park for the school run as long as you don't use staff or disabled spaces (unless you have a blue badge).

A photograph of three children (two girls and one boy) jumping joyfully with their arms raised in the air. They are positioned in the center of the flyer, overlapping the blue and red diagonal background sections.

**Morpeth**  
**Multi Sport Camp**  
**October 2021 Half Term**  
**Ages 8 -13**

Expect activities like Street Golf,  
Athletics, Dodgeball and lots more!

Mon 25th October - 10am - 12pm  
Fri 29th October - 10am - 12pm  
At The Pavilion MUGA pitch - Carlisle Park

**Only £5 Per session!**  
Booking Essential

To Book Please Contact  
Morpeth Town Council on -  
01670 514314