



MORPETH  
*Stobhillgate*  
FIRST SCHOOL

# October/November Newsletter

## Welcome to the October/November newsletter!

We have had a brilliant term so far and despite the need to reintroduce some Covid19 restrictions, our incredible pupils and staff have achieved so much! At Stobhillgate we have 4 important values: inspiration, excellence, collaboration and empathy and I see these values in the actions of our pupils every day! For instance:

Our Year 4 children have certainly been inspired by the recent arrival of a Golden magpie!

The quality of our children's writing is a fantastic example of excellence! I have been blown away by the improvement since the start of the year. A huge well done to all our incredible writers! Keep it up!

Our children have had lots of opportunities to develop their ability to collaborate in their PE lessons this term. They are really enjoying the Newcastle Foundation coaching and I hope they have told you all about their sessions.

I see empathy every day at Stobhillgate. Our children are kind, considerate and well-mannered and we are extremely proud of them!

Thank you to all parents and carers who took part in our virtual parents' evening. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to chat with you to let you know how your children are doing. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to complete our parent survey, these responses were overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for your collaboration, commitment and support!

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 visa Seesaw or Tapestry.



## Updates from Mr Henderson

### We are getting school dogs!

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you that we will soon be adding some new members to our school community. As of December 2021, we will be welcoming our school dogs who will be within the school to work with our pupils.

After careful consideration, we have chosen cocker spaniels named Monty and George. Monty is 6 years old and George is 2. Both dogs are owned by Mr Henderson and are very well trained.



Some of the many benefits of having a school dog include both cognitive and social development as well as helping to improve emotional and social skills. We will also use our dogs to help children with their reading as they can read aloud to Monty and George to build their confidence. Also, having school dogs can help to build our school community through togetherness and the sense of a family environment.

Please read the full letter [here](#) and it is also very important you complete the Google document to allow your child to spend time with our school dogs.

### Safeguarding – 'The Underwear Rule'

As I hope most of you are aware, I am responsible for Safeguarding in our school and I feel that it is important that we work together as a team to ensure our children are not only safe all of the time, but can also tell someone if they don't feel safe.

The Underwear Rule is a simple way to teach children to stay safe and tell an adult if they are worried, or upset. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more information from the NSPCC about the Underwear Rule.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns, please come and speak to me as I am always here to help.

### Seesaw

Over the last few years we have worked extremely hard in school to develop an exciting, aspirational and engaging curriculum for our children to ensure they can be the best they can be, no matter what their starting points are.

As parents, you are the first educators of our children and as a team, we need to work together to ensure they reach their potential and develop a love of learning. There has been no greater emphasis on this than now as we recover from the impact Covid-19 has had on education.



It was wonderful to see in our most recent parent survey that 92% of you either agree, or strongly agree that we have high expectations for your children. Parts of this, is how we engage and encourage you to work alongside your children at home using Seesaw so you can track what we have been working on in school, but also help your child to progress their learning even more by completing the work set by class teachers every week.

In some classes, there has been a 50% increase in the amount of parents who are now joining in with their child's learning at home. This has had a positive impact on their learning in the classroom. If you cannot access Seesaw and need help to support you child at home, please speak to their class teacher.

### Attendance





## EYFS

In the Early Years we continue to develop our learning environment and this term's focus has been the Reception classroom. Our new creative area has been welcomed with bright eyes and messy hands as the children have taken on the role of artists. It has been a joy to watch them explore different mediums independently and develop their creative skills. Nursery have been keen to get involved, with a focus on mark marking in a variety of ways. A highlight was using mud, water and sticks to create pictures of owls from their core book, 'Owl Babies'.

Our core books have been a great success with 'Owl Babies' and 'Kipper's Toybox' becoming fast favourites. Nursery have enjoyed making nests for the owl babies in the outdoor provision and using props to retell the story. Reception have been retelling the story through story maps and sequencing pictures from the story. We noticed Kipper's shadow in the dark, so we developed our understanding of shadows and how they are made. We went outside to look at our own shadows and created shadows on the wall with torches. This led to stories being created using their hands as puppets and shadows being drawn around to make pictures on the wall.

We are now reading 'The Gingerbread Man' in Nursery, and 'How to Catch a Star' in Reception. Look out for all the fun we have planned on our twitter and Facebook pages!

Boromi has been a huge success so far and we have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the excitement as they take their bags home to play. We look forward to our new selection of play bags coming early next year!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our parent sessions! We look forward to more opportunities to welcome you back into school as soon as it is possible.



## Year 1

Year 1 have had some fun additions to our curriculum this half term. This started with a visit from the Fire Brigade to talk to us about equipment used in modern day fire fighting. This allowed us to make clear comparisons between life today and that of 1666, during the Great Fire of London. Graeme the fire fighter was keen to know what we had learned about in our Great Fire of London unit of work...and we certainly impressed him with the pupil's knowledge!

Our new geography unit for this half term has been a real hit with the children. They have been so engaged in the practical, hands on approach, where we are learning to research, think and evaluate like geographers. This began by mapping the school building and measuring rooms. Then this week we carried out fieldwork around Stobhill estate, conducting traffic surveys, gathering evidence by speaking with the public and by listing buildings and businesses which we have in our locality.

In Art, Year 1 have been turning the clock back to The Stone Age, to learn about cave art. The tranquillity on Monday afternoon in the classroom, during our Art lesson this week was incredible. Using pastels, pens and charcoal, the children were just so enthused and eager to achieve perfection in their sketch books.





## Year 2

Year 2 have settled into the new half term so well and have shown huge improvements all round! In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting numbers, using lots of concrete materials to help us.

We are learning about losing tales in English, and our class text is based on the famous book *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson. The witch loses her hat, then her broom and bumps into a dangerous, disgusting dragon...Year 2 will be using everything they have learnt to write their very own losing tale.

In Science, it's all about living things in their habitats. We know all about different habitats within the UK and that all living things depend on each other to survive. We have drawn our school garden habitat and discovered that while animals eat nuts and fruit from trees, the trees also rely on animals to spread their seeds!

Our trip to Beamish was a complete success and children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They pretended to be Victorians for the day, performing daily duties around the houses to keep them clean and tidy; polishing, emptying bed pans, ironing, lacing shoes and drying clothes in a mangle!

We have been learning all about the United Kingdom in Geography and have been using atlases to locate capital cities in all four countries. With endless singing, helping us to remember the countries, we have had so much fun.



## Year 3

A lot has happened in year 3 since our last newsletter: we have been learning all about writing an instruction text (as our model text, we followed RHS instructions on 'forcing indoor bulbs' – the children will be bring theirs home in early December for some Christmas/New Year colour), we have just finished our addition and subtraction unit and have now moved onto multiplication and division. Please encourage TTRS as much as possible!



Across the broader curriculum, we have been investigating soil permeability and rocks classification as well as beginning a unit on South America and the Amazon rainforest which lends itself nicely to address the extremely important and topical global issue of climate change.

In Physical Education, we are currently putting our fundamental movement skills to good use through net/wall games and dance. Children have been developing their skills in both tennis and badminton as well as practising their Christmas performance line dance. As you can see opposite, we also made time for some fun, Halloween-themed PE games!



## Year 4

It has continued to be a busy half term in Year 4! It was so lovely to speak to parents in our first parents evening of the year and let them know about how well Year 4 have settled in and how they are already setting such an amazing example as the oldest children in our school.

### What's been happening in class?

Before half term, we had lots of Spooktacular fun on our Halloween day.

We have been working hard in Writing lessons and have now completed a fiction and a non-fiction writing unit; children have absolutely blown me away with the outstanding extended pieces of writing that have been produced.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Ancient Greek topic but have now switched to a Geography focus, learning about map skills. We look forward to putting our newly developed skills into practice when we will plan and follow a route in our local area. We have now also hung up our Ukulele's and are learning about exploring Monet in Art lessons.

### What's been happening outside of school?

Miss Owens recently enjoyed a Saturday evening at Whitley Bay Playhouse, watching Mae and Ava in the Morpeth CAST production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat. Great show girls- A standing ovation!

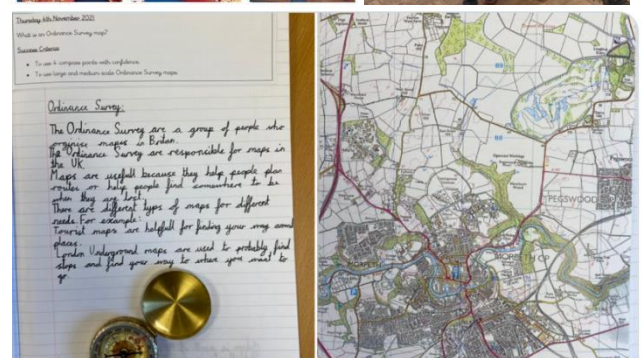
Watch out for Jiya! She has recently achieved a black belt in martial arts!

### Homework continues to impress!

### What's coming up?

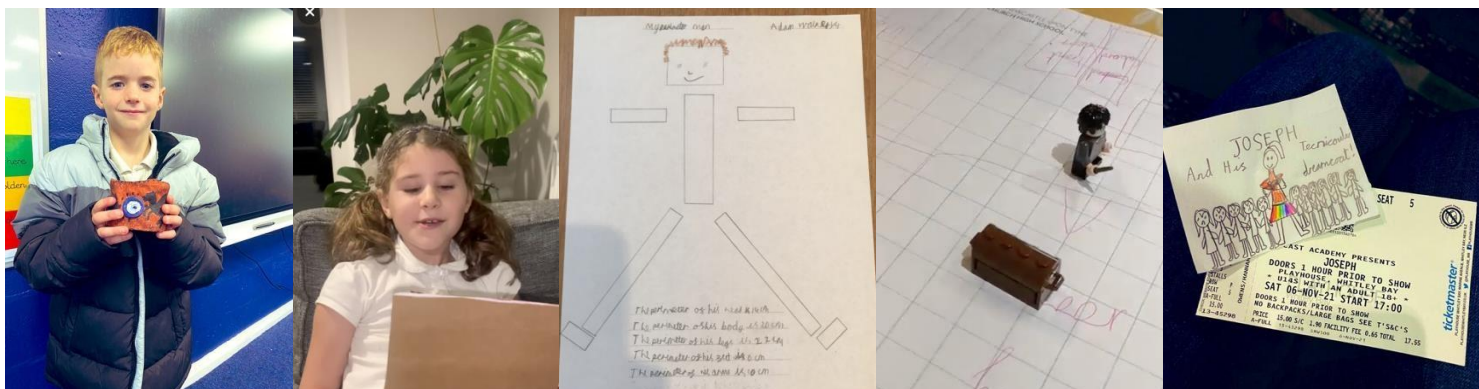
At the end of this half term, we look forward to DT week – This term our focus will be on Mechanical Structures. In Year 4, we will learn about gears and pulleys in order to design and make a final product- a moving Fairground Ride.

Look forward to our Christmas play! Year 4 have the privilege of delivering the speaking parts in our play this year – Rehearsals are well underway in reciprocal reading sessions. Prepare for a performance of hand-jiving, toe-tapping fun!



## Reminders:

- Please record any reading at home into your child's reading record.
- Continue to practice Times Tables Rockstars at home. We have just started our new unit on Multiplication and Division in Maths. Quick recall and good understanding of the multiplication facts will help with fluency within this unit.
- Check Twitter for weekly updates on what is happening in class and within school. @Oswald\_Bear @Stobhillgate



## Climate Change Initiatives

Hi. My name is Sharon Mungall and I'm the new School Business Manager and Climate Change Ambassador for Stobhillgate, I would like to let you know of some of the initiatives we are hoping to implement over the coming weeks/months in school which is in response to the Three Rivers Learning Trust's direction on climate change.

It has been well documented in the media that if we continue on our current trajectory, the biggest impact of climate change will be on our children's futures, therefore I feel that it is important that the children of Stobhillgate have a 'voice' and are involved in the initiatives, and to even make suggestions of their own. I plan to meet with the UNICEF Ambassadors of Stobhillgate before Christmas to listen to their views and suggestions so that they can have an input into changes they would like to see happen.

Some of the initiatives we hopefully plan to implement are:

- Reducing single use plastic in school
- Removing the use of tetrapak milk cartons which are currently not recyclable in our area
- Have recycling bins in every classroom
- Setting up an allotment where the children can plant seeds, care for them, watch them grow, and then potentially help prepare the vegetables to be used for school lunches
- Composting fruit/veg waste
- Create 'Turn Off Light' signs to be placed next to light switches to encourage lights to be switched off when a room is not in use
- Register with [SAS: Plastic Free Schools](#)

The above ideas will be shared with our UNICEF Ambassadors and I'm sure they'll come up with ideas of their own, which I will share with you in our monthly newsletters.





## Easyfundraising

How does it work?

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Our retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you".

Our school Easyfundraising page is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stobhillgatefirstschool/>



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Rag Bag Collection

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Nasal Flu Vaccination (Reception to Y4)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Y1 Visit to Seven Stories

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch / Y4 Christmas Singing at Sandersons Arcade

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - School closes at 3:15pm for Christmas

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - School recommences