



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

December Newsletter

We have finally reached the end of what has been a very busy year! After almost two years of living with coronavirus and the restrictions it brings, I am thankful we have had a superb start to the academic year and our school has remained open for the whole term. The children have been amazing and have achieved so much. Their positive, can-do attitude is an inspiration to us all.

We have had to deal with the disappointment of not being able to invite you all into school to share our traditional Christmas performance. However, the staff and children have worked very hard to perform and record

'Lights, Camel, Action' and I hope you all enjoyed watching it. Let's hope by next year these important events can return. However, we also remain realistic and are watching the news carefully, but we will keep everything crossed for a good start to 2022.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Christmas fundraising this year. Our wonderful 'Friends of Stobhillgate' managed to raise £478 which we will be using to buy camping equipment, so we can take our children on adventures!

I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas and hope you all

enjoy the two-week break and get to spend time with your families.



As we approach the end of 2021, you can take a look at what we have been up to throughout the year on the next page.

January - Started with yet another lockdown! But our fabulous staff and children coped brilliantly. Some children were in school and some were at home! As you can see by the smiles in this photo our children made the best of a challenging situation. You all made us very proud!



February- Even the snow didn't stop us from having Forest School fun!



March - World Book day was a blast and even the Blubber Monster called in to say hello!



April saw the opening of our fabulous new mud kitchen in the Early Years which our children have loved ever since.



May saw the opening of our beautiful new library. Our children now have the chance to regularly visit this brilliant space and borrow from a wide range of fabulous books!



In **June** we started to get out and about again! Year 2 visit Alnwick Gardens and had a fantastic day.



In **July** we spent a lot of time outside enjoying the beautiful weather and getting fit!



Throughout **August** our school underwent a dramatic transformation with the Years 1-4 classrooms undergoing a full refurbishment. The children and staff love their new classrooms



September saw the launch of our allotment project. Mr Elliot has lots of plans for next year. Cabbages? Potatoes? And maybe eventually chickens!



October gave our Year 4 children the chance to visit Abbeyfield First School's new Outdoor Education Centre. We hope to give more of our children this opportunity next year.



November saw a mystery surrounding a sighting of a 'Golden' magpie in Key Stage 2. Did you see it? The children are still looking!



December has been full to the brim with festive joy! From dancing camels to carol singing. Festive merriment has burst every room. And if this wasn't enough our hardworking children have also managed to fit in a Design Technology week, designing and making a wide range of structures.



EYFS

The children in EYFS have had a very special time celebrating Christmas at school. We started the celebrations early with the arrival of our class elf, Jack. We have thoroughly enjoyed looking for him every morning, and will certainly miss him when he returns to the North Pole. Miss Owens gave us a very important job in the school performance and we were delighted to perform our dances to the big boys and girls at Stobhillgate. We hope you enjoyed watching them as much as we enjoyed performing them. However, we weren't happy with just one performance, so we decided to share all the wonderful Christmas carols we have been singing at school. If you haven't seen our beautiful singing then please check Tapestry.

Well done to all the boys and girls in EYFS for their fantastic Christmas performances!

EYFS wish you a very Happy Christmas!!



Year 1

Year 1 have had such a fun filled end of term. We had a wonderful visit to Seven Stories, a national centre for children's literature, in Newcastle. We took part in an interactive performance of 'The Night Before Christmas'. There was laughter and silliness galore!

Back in school, we have made lots of lovely crafts, but we think our baubles are the most impressive. So sparkly! Thank you to all of you who have paid for these. The money raised will go directly improving resources in Year 1.

We have been full of busy with Design Technology (DT) week too. We have made moving pictures books all about the great fire of London. Through this work we have been focused on our school values of collaboration and excellence. We have worked together to make sure our cutting, ruler use, colouring and constructing is of a high standard. Each page of each group book contains elements of movement, including lift the flap parts, sliders and rotation with split pins.

We really enjoyed a festive themed yoga session this week with Debbie. As part of our relaxation at the end of the session we practised how to quickly fall asleep on Christmas Eve, to make sure Santa can visit promptly. We hope you all have a fabulous Christmas time, Year 1 and a well-deserved break.

Happy Christmas from Mrs Roberts and Mr Henderson!



Year 2

Design Technology Week

DT week was all about free-standing structures. We looked at what makes a structure strong and stable, so that it won't fall over. Our project was to make a chair for baby bear! Children planned their design making sure they included all the features of a chair, such as a back rest, seat, equal length legs, and spindles to make the legs more stable. We used wood to create the frame and lollipop sticks for the back and seat. They did an amazing job!

Christmas

In the lead up to Christmas, Year 2 have been practicing their nativity song and dance – 'The Shepherd's Hey'. Their performance was fantastic, and children have enjoyed spending time learning other Christmas songs also. Near the end of term, the festivities continued by making Christmas cards, calendars and of course the marshmallow-filled baubles to sell, which have gone down a treat!

English

Year 2 have just recently completed writing their very own losing tale, which was based on 'The Room on the Broom'. Their version was all about a generous, brave knight who kept losing his precious items. They have also written some lovely Christmas acrostic poems to finish the week off.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year! Mrs Bartram



Year 3

What a busy month ... from sock snowmen to line dancing, Year 3 have had so much fun! We started the month practising our line dance for the Christmas nativity, moved onto building castles in DT week, put up our Christmas tree, made cards, sock snowmen, visited the church for carol singing, ate Christmas dinner and rounded it all off with a good, old Christmas party! Here is a selection of pictures which give you a little insight!

All that leaves me to say is I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year!

Thanks,

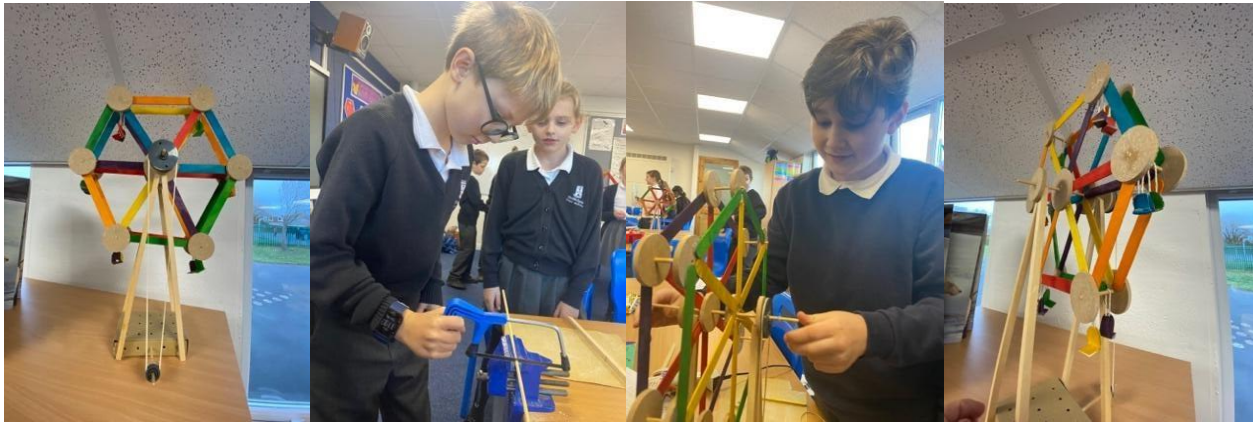
Mr Elliott



Year 4

What an exciting few weeks in the run up to Christmas!

Year 4 have loved designing and making Ferris Wheels as part of their Design Technology week, focussing on mechanical systems; specifically axels and pulleys.



We hope you enjoyed our Christmas Play! Year 4 were really proud to have the responsibility of delivering the main parts in the play this year. I think you can agree that they did a fantastic job. Not seen the play yet? Check it out [here!](#)

This week we have been getting festive! KS2 children walked to St Mary's church on Tuesday afternoon for a private service, delivered by Paul Rusby. We were incredibly proud of all of the children but especially those who delivered readings so beautifully in front of the church. Footage from the service can be watched [here!](#)

Festivities continued into Wednesday afternoon where Year 4 children were spreading Christmas cheer to shoppers in Morpeth. Thank you so much to all family members who attended! We really enjoyed singing for you.

We are very excited for our Christmas party tomorrow!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas. I can't wait to see you all again in the New Year.

Miss Owens



School Updates

Reading for enjoyment

It has been wonderful to see all of the children using our school library to its full potential and taking a wide selection of books home. I hope you have enjoyed reading together. Do not forget to return these books to school after Christmas so they can be changed.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

As we continue to deal with the difficult situation the country is facing, there may come a time when you need some support as your personal circumstances have changed. Due to those changes, it may mean your child is eligible for free school meals. Follow this [link](#) to see if you qualify as your child can benefit in many other ways too. In our local community we also have Stobhill Link that can support too. As always, I am also here in school to help and our conversation would be in the strictest confidence.

Sure Start Children's Centre - Ashington

Sure Start Children's Centres has an aim to ensure that all children get the best possible start in life. They are a focal point across communities in Northumberland, where families with children under five can access services and information they need.

For more information about your local centres click on the links below:

[Central Northumberland website](#)

[Ashington Children's Centre Facebook page](#)

Staying safe during the holidays

During the school holidays the need to keep our children safe and well doesn't stop, so if you have any concerns please call OneCall on 01670 536400. This number is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

School dogs

Monty and George have had a wonderful start to their time in school and one of our Year Two children has been perfecting her dog training as seen on [Twitter](#). If you want your child to spend some time with Monty and George in school, please follow the [link](#) to sign consent.

PE Kit

Quick reminder about PE kit for the new year, please ensure your child has the standard shorts t-shirt and trainers but as well as this, with the weather being very cold at times, could I please ask that children also have tracksuit bottoms and top (these can just be old ones you already have, no need to go out and buy new). Also, as more and more children are forgetting kit, can I ask that PE kits are kept in school for the half-term and that the children take them home for washing at the end of the half-term? The reason I ask this is that it is crucial children have the correct kit so that they can get the most from their physical education lessons. Any questions around this, please ask.

Covid Update

We have almost reached the end of term without a huge rise in cases. However, new regulations are now in force with effect from Tuesday 14th December, where close contacts of anyone with a positive PCR are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device test daily. You will be informed by Track and Trace if this affects your child.

Should your child have any Covid symptoms, please ensure they receive a PCR test. **Results (positive or negative) must be reported to school as a matter of priority.** You can either leave a message on the absence line, ring the office or report via School Gateway.

If your child tests positive for Covid over the holidays, please report this to the school office on Tuesday 4th January (Teacher Training Day).