



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

January Newsletter

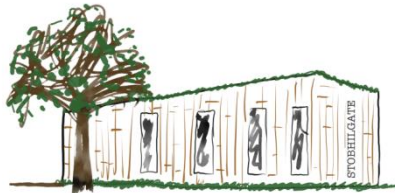
Exciting Times Ahead!

I am over the moon to be able to write to you today with some very exciting news about the future of Stobhillgate First School.

In recent weeks we have received the fantastic news that we have been successful in gaining the funding required to build a **performing arts hub** on our school grounds!

This is an extremely exciting opportunity for our children, staff and the broader community. It will provide our children with further opportunities to take part in high-quality arts activities such as music, dance and drama and do so in a beautiful, state of the art eco-cabin! (Please see the initial sketch).

This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn and grow as



individuals. It is a chance for them to explore their creativity and give them a sense of excitement whilst at school.

We believe that the performing arts hub will not only enhance our school but also the local community by providing a high-quality space for providers to offer a wide range of out of school sessions.

In addition to this, we are also in talks with the NHS and other local providers to use the Hub to

enhance provision for under 4's and their families in the local area. Our ambition is to support children and families from birth and we feel our beautiful new building will be a brilliant way to do so. This will hopefully involve sessions such as breastfeeding clinics, baby massage, mother and baby fitness and much more! The closure of the Morpeth Sure Start Centre and the impact of the pandemic over the last 2 years has affected the services available to parents and young children and we are excited to think that our new project will provide our families with the services they need and deserve.

We look forward to sharing further information and plans with you over the next few months!

EYFS

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new Nursery children to Stobhillgate First School. They are a wonderful addition to our school community and have made a fantastic start to their learning journey.

It has been a busy start to the year and despite the colder weather we have thoroughly enjoyed our Forest School Fridays, where our focus has been 'What changes in winter?'. We have been spotting all the signs of winter around our school and observing the changes since autumn. The small amount of snow which landed at the beginning of term brought a lot of excitement and created a curiosity about ice. We have been learning about what ice is made from, what happens when it melts and investigating what makes the ice melt faster.

In Nursery we have been developing our awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech through reading books; 'Gruffalo's Child' and 'Oi Frog!'. We have been listening to the words, noticing which words sound nice together and finishing familiar rhymes. We have enjoyed creating our own story maps to retell our core stories and the children are becoming confident storytellers. Nursery have focused on numbers 1-3, developing their ability to subitise amounts to 3 and match quantity to numeral.

At the beginning of the term, Reception received a letter from a boy who needed their help to look after a penguin he found at his door. There was a lot of excitement and we have enjoyed researching penguins and making our own penguin fact sheets to share with the boy. We continue to learn new skills in our creative area and have been working with clay to create our own model penguins. As we finish our work about penguins, we are looking forward to starting our next story. Check our Twitter and Facebook pages to see pictures from our most recent 'Book Hook' and see if you can guess which story is it.

We continue to plan our environment developments and will be providing a list of specific resources required, please help where you can.

Thank you for your continued support.



Year 1

We have had a fun packed half term so far in Year 1, enjoying everything from learning to play the glockenspiel in Music to making old fashioned aeroplanes in History. The children have been so engaged and full of awe and wonder.

Our English work recently has been based on the story of The Queen's Knickers. We have been using a news report to learn about recounts, based on when her knickers got mixed up with a picnic hamper. The pupils have found this topic hilarious and their writing progress is clearly demonstrating how much they have enjoyed it.

We have been trying out new strategies in maths with a session of complete independence in each day called 'Purple Zone' and we are embedding a firm understanding of number through our work on the 'Mastering Number Programme.' The children's ability to use and problem solve with numbers up to 20 has been excellent to see recently.

Our history topic is 'The First Flight' where we have been learning about the Wright Brothers. We have used a wide range of sources to investigate as historians, making predictions from quotes, analysing photographs and reading books to discover information. We are very excited to do a test flight with our cardboard planes next week, with Orville and Wilbur Wright!



Year 2

Year 2 have settled into the new term wonderfully and have continued to display such a positive attitude to their learning. In English we began the term with a 'defeating the monster' tale. The children loved reading about Mr Benn's adventure by David McKee, and I loved reading their own Mr Benn adventures too! We have since been learning all about Neil Armstrong's landing on The Moon, which links to our History topic. I am very excited to read the children's diary entries next week.

In Maths we began the term by exploring shapes. The children were fantastic at naming the shapes and their properties, along with accurately finding lines of symmetry. We have since been learning about money; this has definitely engaged the children!

In Science we have been looking at materials and exploring all of their properties. The lessons have been practical and lots of exciting experiments have been successfully carried out. Below are some images from these lessons.



Year 3

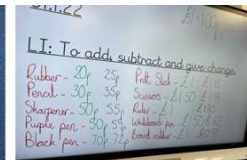
January a challenging month in year 3 but we got through it! We were hit hard with Covid-19 which impacted our usual schedule but, in light of this, the children, both at home and in school, coped admirably with this and made the time count. Also this month, not just in Year 3, but across the school, we began our UNICEF ambassador meetings in which we looked at what we, as a school, can do to help tackle climate change to play our part in helping vulnerable children across the globe survive, grow and thrive.

Curriculum

The New Year brought with it exciting new areas for us to study: money in maths, information texts in English, light in science, The Romans in History and gymnastics in PE. We are just about to finish our current reciprocal reading text 'The Tale of Desperaux' which the children have thoroughly enjoyed and are already looking forward to our next, classic text ... Charlotte's Webb!

Seesaw

It has been great to see all of the interaction with Seesaw and I have particularly enjoyed seeing all of the children's 'forced indoor' bulbs coming into flower! Keep up the good work.



Year 4

Happy New Year! A new year brings new topics!

Year 4 are especially enjoying Science this half term. We have been doing a lot of practical investigations to help us to better understand sound.

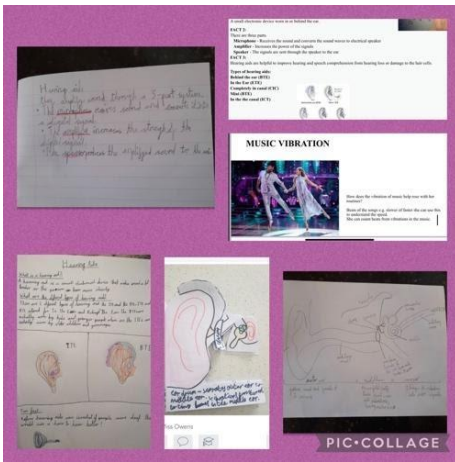
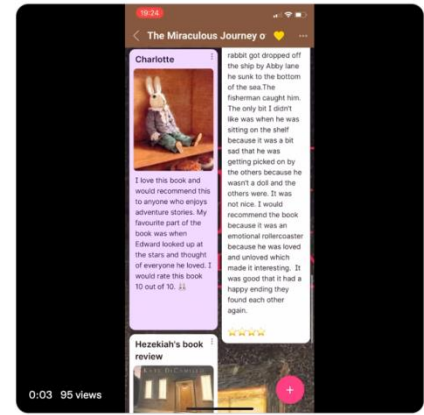
This week we investigated pitch and how pitch can be changed – We loved creating our own panpipes! We found out that pitch is how high or low a sound is and can be changed by changing the size of the vibrating object.

Thank you for the continued efforts at home with homework!

We have finished reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, it scored a resounding 10/10 from Year 4 children. Children's book reviews can be read [here](#). We are now reading *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Phillip Pullman.

In computing we are developing our programming skills. Building upon skills learned in Year 2, Year 4 children will be learning a range of new skills, such as debugging, in order to create a maze game.

Miss Owens @oswald_bear - Jan 20
So pleased my Year 4s have loved this book & much as I do
@KateDiCamillo_ #TheMiraculousJourneyOfEdwardTulane
#ReciprocalReading



Stobhillgate Action on Climate Change

Mr Elliott and Mrs Mungall met recently with the UNICEF Ambassadors to begin the process of introducing some climate change initiatives within school. They discussed what they could do to help the environment, and they made some great suggestions which were:

- To have bins for both general waste and recyclable waste inside and outside of school
- Do litter picks on the school site
- Encourage walk, bike or scoot to school
- Use less resources
- Signs next to light switches to encourage lights to be switched off when the last person leaves the classroom/room.

So, what are we currently doing in school?

- We no longer use tetrapak cartons for school milk which can't be recycled. We now get plastic cartons which are decanted into cups/bottles and then recycled.
- Blue recycling bins have been placed around school to keep recyclable waste separate from general waste.
- The majority of the paper we use is recycled.
- We recently collected unwanted clothing, paired shoes and handbags through the Rag Bag scheme which in turn raised a small amount of money for school.
- Early Years are upcycling lots of pre-used items to create a wonderful environment.
- Mr Elliott has plans in place to create a community allotment - watch this space!

We hope to implement the following plans in the coming weeks:

- Litter picks on the school site
- A walk, bike, scoot campaign
- Create 'Turn Off Lights' signs.

We will meet regularly with the UNICEF Ambassadors to check on our progress and to set new targets.

If you would like to suggest any initiatives which we could maybe adopt in school, please email sharon.mungall@stobhillgate.the3rivers.net.

Cool Milk



Other News

Valentine's Day Fundraiser

On Monday 14th February cones filled with red and white sweets will be available for children to buy for £2 each. All of the money collected will go to Bright Red, a local blood cancer charity based at the Freeman Hospital, ward 33. The sweet cones will be delivered to the classrooms so money can be handed to the class teacher.



Fighting blood cancer
for a brighter future

Dolce School Lunch Price Increase

From Monday 18th April Dolce will be increasing their school lunch prices. Please see the changes to pricing below:

Meal Price	Nursery	Reception – Year 2 (Universal Infant Free School meals)	Year 3 – Year 4
Current	£1.95	£0.00	£2.35
New	£2.05	£0.00	£2.45

Please read this [leaflet](#) if you think you may be eligible for free school meals.

Cool Milk

Parents/Guardians of children over the age of 5 who are not eligible for free school meals will need to visit www.coolmilk.com and select the 'Register your child for milk here' option on the main home page if you would like your child to receive milk.

Road Safety Guides for Parents and Children

Northumberland County Council have purchased road safety books which can be accessed via this link - <https://northumberland.goodeggsafety.com>

Pupil Achievements

We are very proud to see that some of our pupils, past and present, represented the Claire Young Dance Academy and helped raise over £3k for the NHS.

Huge congratulations to some of our fabulous Y4 children who represent Morpeth Rugby Club. Some of them have also joined the Morpeth Swimming Club!

It is great to see so many of our children representing different clubs and achieving so much outside of school. If you would like to share your child's achievements with us to be included in the newsletter and on our Twitter/Facebook page, please send a message to stobhillgate@the3rivers.net



Upcoming dates

- Children's Mental Health Week, Monday 7th February to Friday 11th February – [Parent/Carer Resources](#)
- Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 8th February – [Parent/Carer Resources](#)
- Reception Vision Screening, Tuesday 8th February – If you do not want your Reception child to have a vision screening or if they already attend the hospital eye department, please complete this [form](#).
- School closes for half term, Friday 18th February (3:15pm)
- School recommences, Monday 28th February
- World Book Day, Thursday 3rd March