



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

Easter Newsletter

This has been a very busy half term at Stobhillgate and our children have worked extremely hard and achieved so much!

It has been lovely to see our extra-curricular offer back up and running, including sports club, tennis, dance, judo and steel pans! We look forward to developing this further in the future and welcome any ideas for additional clubs.

Thank you to everyone who supported our bingo event on Wednesday night, it was a real success and raised £302. Thank you to the Friends of Stobhillgate and Mrs Bush who organised the event.

I hope you all have a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 25th of April.

Thank you for all your kind support.



Over the last year, Mr Henderson and I have been lucky enough to take part in the national Behaviour Hub project. This has enabled us to access the best possible training and to visit a wide range of different schools. We believe the behaviour of our children is a real strength, visitors often comment on how calm and purposeful the school is and how polite our children are. We, therefore, embarked upon the Behaviour Hub journey to ensure our school has a consistently outstanding approach to behaviour.

As a result, over the last 2 terms, we have been working hard to develop a new policy that we will begin to trial in the summer term. The new policy focuses on instant praise and sanctions, rather than having to wait until the end of the week (the end of the week is a very long time away for a 4-year-old).

We want to promote outstanding behaviour and intend to use a lot of positive awards. Including the introduction of the new daily class captain!

As a staff, we are very excited about the new policy and we are sure that your children will love it too. I am also looking to establish a working group of parents to discuss the policy and provide feedback. If you are interested please get in touch with the school office.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Stobhillgate First School is now a Picture News Advocate School! You can find out more here - www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/advocates/.



EYFS

In the Early Years we have welcomed the start of Spring with a focus on, "What changes in spring?". In Nursery they have observed the natural changes around them and watched out for new growth in our outdoor environment. In Reception we have focused on; what plants need to grow and naming the different parts of a plant. The children have enjoyed planting their own sunflower seed and we look forward to seeing how much they have grown by July. Don't forget to water them!!

Nursery have focused on two core books; 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'The Odd Egg'. They are becoming fantastic storytellers and they can now independently use the vocabulary they have heard in stories in real life contexts. Nursery have been developing their observational drawing skills and spring flowers have been the perfect form of inspiration. We are so proud of how they have worked to carefully observe and copy what they can see. The flowers have made a beautiful Nursery display and we look forward to welcoming you back soon to see it yourself.

Reception have been reading, 'The Enormous Turnip'. We focused on this story for longer than expected as the children each innovated the story to make it their own, beginning their preparations for Year 1. We look forward to continuing this next term as we begin our investigation on, 'Where Goldilocks went next.' In Maths we have been consolidating our understanding of numbers to 10 and looking at different measurements. The children have been using ten frames to explore number bonds and using their subitising skills to see which pairs add together to make numbers. We thoroughly enjoyed taking Maths outside during our measuring focus which successfully demonstrated how we can use our knowledge and skills outside of the classroom walls.



Year 1

Year 1 have been full of busy again with lots of exciting, practical hands on learning recently. In English we have been embedding our learning in Geography, by using a text all about planet Earth. We have been finding out which features make up an explanation text and have started to design our own imaginary planet to use to demonstrate our writing skills. Mrs Roberts and Mr Henderson have seen amazing improvements to our writing in Year 1 this month and are extremely proud of every single pupil for always trying their best in their written tasks!

In maths we have been finding out about measuring length and weight. We are making excellent progress in explaining our mathematical thinking too, saying how we know what we know, or why something is the way it is. Well done everyone in year 1 for using our maths vocabulary so confidently! Within our maths tasks we have also been developing our ability to work as a team with others, being supportive to peers and achieving a shared goal.

We have been amazing geographers and are very secure in our understanding of oceans of the world and where each continent is. Ask us to sing you one of our geography songs! Our art unit has given us a variety of skills in collage and a good understanding of the artist Paul Klee. This has allowed us to create a final piece of work in the style of Paul Klee, using a building or place of interest we have been to before, as our stimulus. We have had exciting sessions learning to ride our new school bikes with Emma this week too!

We are feeling very ready for our Easter holidays, and know lots about the true meaning of the celebration of Easter through our work in R.E.



Year 2

Wow, what an action-packed half term we have had in year 2! From researching how different animals survive in different habitats, to writing our own 'beating the monster' stories, the children have once again been engaged, focused and enthusiastic towards all of their learning.

In English, we studied the book, Traction Man. This text was very well received by all of the children, and it was wonderful to read their own versions of the story which included lots of amazing vocabulary and detailed illustrations. After the children had completed their own stories, we were very shocked to learn that Traction Man had made an appearance in our classroom, helping to save the class books that were being held hostage by our scissors! They have all produced some fantastic newspaper reports linked to this incident.

In Maths, we have completed our units on multiplication, division and fractions. The children have enjoyed sharing their whole into equal groups, and have become increasingly confident when explaining why this isn't always possible to do with a given number. You may wish to continue to encourage the children to play 'sharing' games at home over the holidays, for example they could help to serve up the evening meal, sharing the food equally across the plates.

For the wider curriculum, we have been exploring the process of recycling different materials in Science. This topic will be concluded this week with an experiment in which we will create our own recycled paper. In Geography we have been looking at hot and cold places, I have been very impressed with the homework the children have produced linked to this also. It is proudly displayed on our wall. In Computing we continued to build our knowledge and understanding of how to create an algorithm through Scratch Jr. The children love this program of learning and have shown resilience, the ability to work in a team and perseverance throughout.

Thank you all for your continued support this half term, and I look forward to seeing everyone after the break!

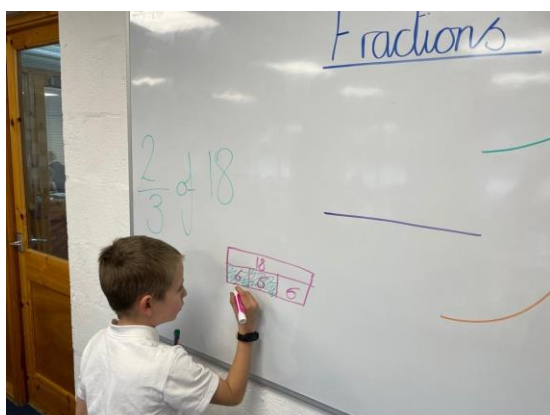


Year 3

This half-term, we were lucky enough to have been paid a visit by Kielder Observatory for a couple of fantastic workshops on light and space. The children were all on amazed by some truly awe-inspiring activities and revelations!

We really brought learning to life in Geography this half-when we created cross-section versions of Earth out of clay clearly showing the layers.

Physical Education takes many forms at Stobhillgate and this half-term we have all thoroughly enjoyed a unit of yoga and are now far more aware of not just the physical benefits (we have found out it is harder than you think), but the positive impact it can have on our mental health too! In maths, we have been focussing on fractions and have become increasingly familiar with bar models and how they allow us to see the 'bigger picture'.



Year 4

Happy Easter from Year 4!

What a fabulous half term it has been – Some better weather and even some snow!

I have been so proud of Year 4 this half term; they have been so enthusiastic and incredibly hard working...We are hitting that point in the year where my lovely Year 4's are slowly transitioning into Year 5s! It was lovely to speak to parents at parents evening to feedback how incredibly lucky I am to have such a brilliant group of children this year.

Our half term began with world book week – check out our artwork, inspired by our week-long study of 'Here I Am' by Patti Kim.

In Geography, we have been learning about Europe, which has been very on topic with the war in Ukraine. Children have been interested to learn more about the Ukraine and the different countries it borders. We have looked at other countries in Europe, investigated trends and anomalies, and the different human and geographical features of different countries.

Varjak Paw, our reciprocal reading text, may have been our favourite yet! We have been so excited to read each day to find out if our predictions were right and if the main character was going to be successful in his adventure! Our book reviews will be available [here](#) at the end of the week.

In Science, we have been learning about the different states of matter – We have loved getting messy learning about reversible changes (melting chocolate!) and we enjoyed our water cycle in a bag experiment which we took home to observe how the earth's water is continually recycled through evaporation and condensation. Did you know that the water that is on our planet now, is the same water that the dinosaurs drank?

We were also lucky to welcome some super science visitors to school – Kielder Observatory visited and delivered a range of awe inspiring space-themed workshops across school.

What next?

The first week back after half term is DT week! We will be designing, making and evaluating textiles in order to make a finished product - A personalised book cover!

Year 4 children then won't have long to wait until our long anticipated residential to Robinwood on the 9th May! (I'm not sure who is more excited!)



Farewell and Goodluck

We are saying farewell to Mrs Jones this term. We are very grateful for all of her contributions to the school and the care and support she has provided our children. We wish her every success on her next adventure.

Forest School

Next term Forest School sessions will resume for children in Year 1 – Year 4. Year 1 and Year 2 children will have Forest School during the first half term. Year 3 and Year 4 children will have Forest School during the second half term. Please make sure your child has their Forest School kit in school on a Friday.

KS1 Forest School	KS2 Forest School
Friday 29 th April	Friday 10 th June
Friday 6 th May	Friday 17 th June
Friday 13 th May	Friday 1 st July
Friday 20 th May	Friday 8 th July
Friday 27 th May	Friday 15 th July

Accordion Lessons

Year 3 and 4 children now have the opportunity to sign up for Accordion Lessons through Music Partnership North. Lessons will take place weekly in school. The cost of lessons is currently £6.25 per lesson for a group of 3-4 students, £8.75 per lesson for a shared group of 2, £12 for an individual 20 minute lesson and £17.50 per lesson for an individual 30 minute lesson. Instruments can be loaned from MPN and hire is free.

Please register online at <https://live.paritor.com/p/2302>.

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.

Pupil Achievements

Some of our pupils had their karate grading on Sunday with Sensei Ian Willis. They were amazing and all three were awarded full orange belts! Well done boys and a big well done to Megan who also received a full orange belt.



Spring/Summer Term 2022 Dates

April	
Friday 8th April	School closes at 3:15pm for Easter
Monday 25th April	School Recommences
Thursday 28th April	Year 2 visit to Northumberland College Zoo
May	
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday 9th May - Wednesday 11th May	Year 4 Visit to Robinwood
Monday 9th May - Wednesday 11th May	Year 2 and Year 3 Learn to Ride (The Cycle Partnership)
Friday 13th May	Year 4 Bikeability (The Cycle partnership)
Thursday 19th May	Census Day - Special Lunch Menu
Friday 27th May	Jubilee Day Class Photographs School closes at 3:15pm for half-term
June	
Monday 6th June	School Recommences
Thursday 9th June	Year 4 visit to Glendale Children's Countryside Day
Friday 10th June	Special Lunch Menu
Friday 24th June	Teacher Training Day - School Closed
Thursday 30th June	Year 4 visit to Brinkburn Priory
July	
Wednesday 6th July	Sports Day
Thursday 21st July	School closes at 3:15pm for summer
September	
Tuesday 6th September	School Recommences

Dates may be subject to change later

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES
SEPTEMBER 2022 TO JULY 2023**

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date School will Close</u>	<u>Date School will Reassemble</u>
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 July 2022	Tuesday 6 September 2022
Teacher Day	Monday 5 September 2022	
October Mid-Term 2022	Thursday 20 October 2022	Monday 31 October 2022
Teacher Day	Friday 21 October 2022	
Christmas / New Year 22/23	Friday 23 December 2022	Tuesday 10 January 2023
Teacher Day	Monday 9 January 2023	
Spring Mid-Term 2023	Friday 17 February 2023	Monday 27 February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31 March 2023	Monday 17 April 2023
May Day	Monday 1 May 2023	
Summer Mid-Term 2023	Friday 26 May 2023	Monday 5 June 2023
Teacher Day	Friday 23 June 2023	
Summer 2023	Friday 21 July 2023	Tuesday 5 September 2023

These are the most up-to-date we have but may be subject to change later.