



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

September Newsletter

Welcome to our September newsletter. The start of the academic year has been action packed and our children have settled well into school life.

Reading at Stobhillgate

As I am sure you will agree reading is extremely important. Being a confident, fluent reader allows our children to succeed in all subjects and will support them as they move through their academic studies and future careers. Over the last few years we have enhanced our reading provision by creating a new school library, introducing a new home reading approach (Accelerated Reader) and have invested in an exciting new range of books that the children study in class. All these approaches have raised the profile of reading across the school and this has resulted in some impressive results, both in academic attainment but also in how much children now love reading! This has certainly been evident over the last month with the library always full of children returning and choosing books!

Please encourage your children to read as much as possible, this will make a huge difference! If any parents/carers are interested in becoming reading helpers please get in touch with the school office.



Calling all future Stobhillgate pupils!

It is that time again when we open our doors to potential pupils and parents. If you know of anyone, who is interested in Stobhillgate First School please encourage them to give the school a call to arrange a 1 to 1 visit with myself. This is a brilliant opportunity to really get to know the school and find out what life at Stobhillgate is really like. Visitors are always impressed with the calm and purposeful atmosphere and the outstanding behaviour of our children. This makes me very proud.

We currently have places available in year groups throughout school and new pupils can start at any time! If you know of any families who are new to the area or are just interested in school please ask them to give us a call. We would love to meet them.

Finally, I would like to let you know that we are always here if you need to talk. We are a small school and pride ourselves on being a family. If you have any concerns please do get in touch as I am sure we can help.

Thank you so much for your brilliant support.

Regards
Glen Whitehead
Head Teacher

EYFS

We have had a successful 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 first term has been the visit from Mrs Turnbull's seven boxer puppies. The children enjoyed welcoming them into the classroom and were all very sensible and gentle. The puppies were very excited to meet all the children but soon got tired and enjoyed a sleep in the laps of all the Nursery and Reception children. It was a wonderful experience and we were so proud of how well everyone behaved.



Everyone has been thoroughly enjoying Forest Friday, where the children have been learning about owls, apples and 'What changes in autumn.' We have been spotting signs of autumn and collecting fallen leaves to create our pictures using natural resources. We mixed paint together to create colours that matched the autumn leaves and made observational drawings of apples after learning so much about them. Everyone's favourite part of Forest Friday is sitting on the logs, sharing stories and eating biscuits, it has become a special Friday treat!

Nursery 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 our families, who lives in our houses and where we live. We are now learning about, 'People Who Help Us', in school and outside of school. We look forward to a visit from the police and a nurse in the coming weeks.

Reception have started reading, 'Pumpkin Soup', and we have many exciting things planned for this story. We will begin by making our own pumpkin soup, as the weather gets colder this will be a warming treat for everyone. We look forward to creating our first Reception story maps and retelling the story to our peers.



Finally, the children in Reception have a very exciting opportunity to take part in Boromi.

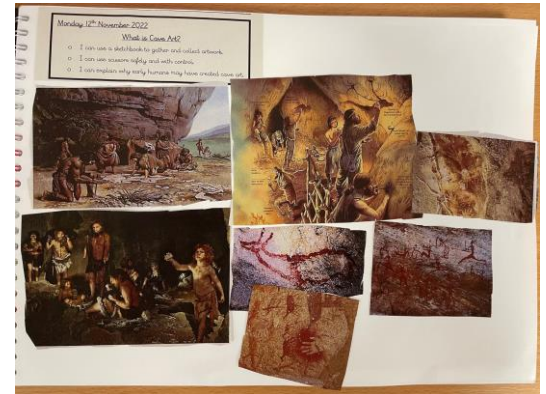
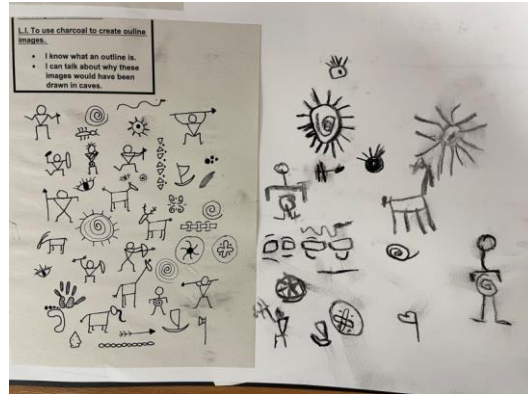
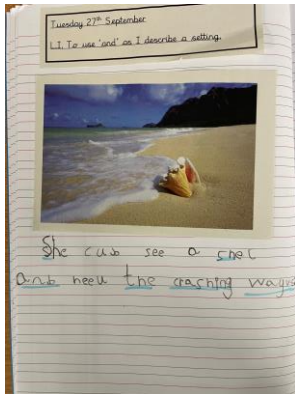
"Boromi is an award-winning community of school play libraries on a shared mission to empower every parent to support and nurture the early development of their child through powerful, purposeful play together at home, where it matters most." - Boromi

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

We have been very busy getting to grips with the Year 1 expectations and have been working really really hard. Some of our highlights this month have been learning about early humans in Art and how they formed images inside their caves. We have been using charcoal to make hunter gatherer images and printing using our hands in various ways. In Geography we have been exploring our immediate environment to start our topic 'Our Local Area'. We have used and made maps of the classroom, school, outdoor space of school and of Stobhill estate. In English we have been learning the opening to the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Henderson are so pleased with the progress we have already shown; especially with how well we are using our new handwriting lines in our English books.



Year 2

Let me begin by saying how proud I am of all the children in Year 2; they have all started the year with such positive attitudes towards all of their learning. What superstars they all are!

In English, we began the term with a unit on poetry. The children really enjoyed learning Michael Rosen's poem *Help*, and I really loved reading their own version of this poem too. We are currently learning an Australian classic by Mem Fox, called *Possum Magic*. This is a delightful tale about two possums who travel all around Australia in search of human food. We will be writing our own version of the story, set in the UK. In the lead up to writing our own version of the story, we have enjoyed trying different foods from both Australia and England, and we have loved creating our own settings and characters.

In Maths, we have been working hard to master our understanding of place value, working in both tens and ones with numbers up to 100. We have represented these numbers in many different ways, using a variety of manipulatives. We particularly enjoyed using the sticks from the forest school area to make groups of 10, consolidating our understanding of adding and subtracting from a multiple of 10 further.

For the wider curriculum, we have been studying the work of Georgia O'Keeffe in Art. The children have loved looking closely at flowers, and painting these with precision and detail. In Science, we have been learning all about how animals, including humans. We have looked at how they change as they grow, what they need to survive and why a balanced diet and exercise are important.

Thank you all for your support this half term, it has been lovely getting to know you all, and I look forward to our year ahead!



Year 3

What a brilliant start to Year 3 the children have had! They have settled well into their new routines and have all helped me settle into mine too. 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. In maths, we have completed our first unit of addition and subtraction and have now moved onto recognising place value in numbers to 1000.

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 even been lucky enough to have been paid a visit by Mrs Turnbull's boxer puppies, very exciting!

NUFC Foundation

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



Year 4

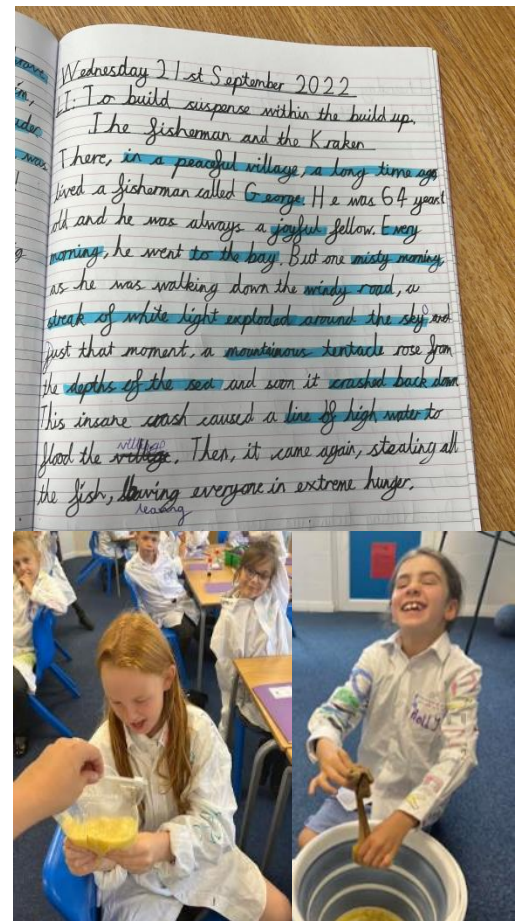
Our new Year 4s have settled back into school brilliantly and as the oldest children in school, are setting the perfect example to our younger children!

At the start of term, a dragon called Smok showed up and started causing problems! We have been on many an adventure since; our story writing taking us to far and distant lands where we fortunately have been able to defeat the monster!

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 mirrored at home: engagement with homework on Seesaw has been fantastic! Thank you parents for your support with this.

Our UNICEF Ambassadors for Year 4 are Ella-Mae and Hector – They are the perfect candidates to represent our class and make a positive change in school. They are super enthusiastic and already have lots of fantastic ideas!



How do we keep our children safe?

Children thrive in an environment where they feel safe and secure and this is exactly what we provide for them in school. Not only do we ensure they are safe and cared for, but we also work hard to teach them how to help themselves stay safe through our well planned and progressive curriculum. As an example, children learn how to recognise and be part of a respectful friendship and how we should treat each other, how to stay healthy and how to report anything they may be concerned about. You can find our [Safeguarding Policy](#) on our school website.

If you are ever concerned about the safety, or welfare of a child in school, please speak to a member of our Safeguarding team:

Mr Henderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Whitehead – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Gentry - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

School attendance

Although illness cannot be avoided, it is important to ensure your child is in school every day and arrives during our soft opening time of 08:50 – 09:00. This allows your child to have a calm start to the day and not miss any of their learning time. We have high expectations in everything we do in school and attendance is no different. We aim to have everyone with an attendance of at least 96% and you will be pleased to hear that as an average across school we are currently at 98%. Well done everybody.

If you have any concern about attendance, or punctuality, please speak to Mr Henderson who will be happy to help.

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98% - 100%	Excellent	0 - 4	Less than 1
96% - 98%	Good	5 - 9	1 to 2
93% - 96%	Satisfactory	10 - 13	2 to 3
90% - 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 - 28	3 to 6
Below 90%	Persistent Absentee	More than 29	More than 6

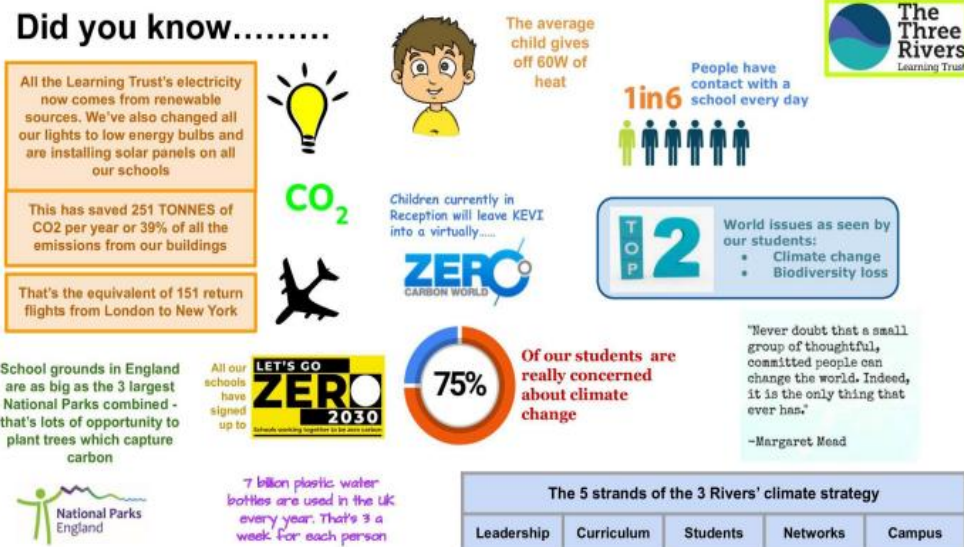
Diary Dates

Tempest Photography will be coming into school on Tuesday 4th October to take individual school photos.

There will be a special 'Into The Wild' lunch menu on Thursday 6th October.

School will close at 3:15pm on Thursday 20th October for half term. Friday 21st October is a Training Day.

School will recommence on Monday 31st October. Look out for more information about our Halloween Day.



Other News

Children's Health Services

Children's Health Services have a fantastic range of services and information available to allow easy access to public health for parents, carers and young people. They have recently launched a Facebook page (Growing Healthy 0-25 Northumberland) where they share a range of public health information using reputable, evidence based sites and NHS approved messages as well as signposting to free local services.

Please use the QR codes below to have a look as to what is available!



Android app



Apple App



Facebook App




CDA
Claire Young Dance Academy

07531904706

WWW.CLAIRESDANCEACADEMY.COM



22-24 BRIDGE STREET, MORPETH
NE61 1NL

CLAIRESDANCEACADEMY@HOTMAIL.COM

 CDA - CLAIRE YOUNG DANCE ACADEMY

 @CLAIRE_YOUNGDANCEACADEMY

Tiny Tiptoes Dance Class

Join the fun!
Limited spaces book now

ONLY £5-£6!



Nursery and Reception (4-4:45) and
Years 1 and 2 (4:45-5.45)
Wednesdays at Stannington Village Hall

Fun based class, designed to grow skills such as confidence, listening and coordination through ballet, tap and modern dances and small performances for friends and family.

Our positive, community atmosphere helps children to build friendships and parents are encouraged to stay to support their child.
Teachers are DBS checked.

**MESSAGE TINYTIPTOESDANCECLASS ON FACEBOOK OR EMAIL
TINYTIPTOESDANCECLASS@GMAIL.COM**



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and teachers with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on some of the many issues which are parents' online safety. For more information, please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com or follow us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

10 tips for parents and carers

HOW TO BE GREEN WITH YOUR TECH

Right now, humans aren't living sustainably; we're taking too many resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, it's the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper – often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

So what can we do with those cupboards and drawers full of old phones and unwanted computers?

Reuse, recycle, donate or sell them!

- 1 DONATE THEM TO CHARITY**
There are lots of charities that recycle old tech. Some are based in the UK or in developing nations. If your old products are still working, it is a great option – use them first, then donate them. Search online for your nearest place that does this.
- 2 REMEMBER THE BATTERIES**
Lithium-ion batteries can be recycled – even the old ones. Choose a box at home or school to keep used batteries in, and then take them to a designated place. Batteries can be deadly if eaten by small children or pets.
- 3 USE YOUR ONLINE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE**
If you're recycling, selling or donating old tech, make sure that all your personal data is removed. Use a secure method to delete data, or use a secure phone wipe app. If you have a smart TV, make sure it's connected online.
- 4 REUSE THEM**
Old tech can be used as webcams, security cameras, baby monitors or pet cams. There are lots of ways to reuse old tech. If you have an old TV, you could use it as a monitor, or a new computer – you could use an old TV as a monitor.
- 5 TURN IT INTO SOMETHING NEW**
If you have an unwanted smartphone, it's quite easy to create a new computer – you could use an old TV as a monitor, or a new computer – you could use an old TV as a monitor.



- 6 RETURN THEM**
Return devices to the manufacturer or retailer you bought them from. Some manufacturers take responsibility for their products and accept them back, so return and redistribute. If they don't, you could contact them. If you have a smart TV, make sure it's connected online.
- 7 SUPPORT SCIENCE**
Let your old devices help modern research. Scientists currently investigate topics like far-off star systems, cancer treatment and earthquakes. They will use your old devices to connect it to a network so that it can boost scientists' research.
- 8 SELL THEM**
This is also a great option as it means that your old devices can be reused. On top of that, you could also donate some of the money you make to an environmental charity.
- 9 RESEARCH DISPOSAL METHODS**
If your device is beyond repair, or you are unsure how to dispose of it, get rid of it safely through a specialist tech disposal company. Check that your device won't be shipped off to another country for processing.
- 10 KEEP THINKING**
There's no such thing as a free lunch, so to help our planet if you come up with a better idea than ours, contact National Online Safety and tell us.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Meet Our Expert
Neil Atkin teaches scientific literacy through his non-profit organisation, Rubbish Science, which engages people in working together to live more sustainably and creatively. He has a range of environmental activities you may like to try on their website www.rubbishscience.com.

Starts
Thursday 6th
October

Stobhill Link

HOMEWORK CLUB

Thursdays 4pm - 5.30pm

A quiet space to do your homework with the help of a qualified teacher.

Access to computers and internet.

Parents and carers welcome.

Book weekly.

37 Shields Road, Morpeth

01670 519 575

info@ncenterprise.org.uk





VISIT OUR SCHOOL

We are a small school with a big heart and passionate about creating innovative learning experiences for all.

We offer a well-balanced and stimulating curriculum that encourages children to develop a positive attitude to their learning. Teaching and learning is engaging, relevant and responsive to current events, bringing the world into the classroom and taking the classroom out into the world.

To find out more about school places and to arrange a visit

Call: 01670 513382

Email: stobhillgate@the3rivers.net

Visit: www.stobhillgate.the3rivers.net

Part of The Three Rivers Learning Trust

**BRAND NEW
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CREATIVE HUB
OPENING SOON**



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