



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

November Newsletter

Welcome to the November edition of the Stobhillgate First School newsletter.

Thank you very much to the parents and carers who took the time to complete our parent survey, it is very much appreciated. We are over the moon with the feedback.

- **100% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school.**
- **100% would recommend Stobhillgate to another parent.**

With that in mind, if you do have any family or friends who would like to join Stobhillgate First School, please encourage them to give the school a call. We have places available in all year groups and can accept children at any point throughout the year. There is no requirement to live in our catchment area.

As a school, we are extremely proud of how far our school has come in since our last Ofsted inspection and have therefore taken the decision to invite Ofsted to conduct an inspection at the earliest convenience. We believe Stobhillgate First School is a fantastic school and we want to make sure it has the external validation that the school and its community deserves.

We have always known that the behaviour of our pupils is brilliant. However, we were extremely pleased and proud to hear this from an important visitor. Every month we receive a visit from our School Development Partner, Mrs Warner. This month Mrs Warner focussed on behaviour and attitudes. This involved visiting lessons, talking to staff and carrying out pupil voice interviews with Year 3 and Year 4. She concluded that the behaviour and conduct of pupils are exemplary; pupils are polite, courteous and respectful towards others;

relationships between staff and pupils are a strength and leaders and staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and conduct and apply the policy consistently and fairly. This is a true reflection of our fabulous children, they have a brilliant attitude and make Stobhillgate a fantastic place to be. Well done everyone!

Life at school has been extremely busy with a wide range of fun and exciting events! We all got active for Children in Need by taking part in a groovy danceathon and raised almost £500; Year 2 visited Beamish and Year 3 visited St James' Park and also experienced a live opera performance! The fun continues as we move into December with Year 4 visiting the Northern Stage theatre to watch 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' and lots of Christmas rehearsals, performances and carol singing!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Glen Whitehead

Excellence Starts Here

As part of our new values-inspired corridor display, we are gathering inspirational stories of past Stobhillgate pupils who have interesting careers. If you or a friend or family member attending Stobhillgate would like to share your story, please get in touch. The below example shares the story of Daniel Dixon, who attended Stobhillgate between 2005-2011 and is now a triathlete who recently competed at the commonwealth games.



Alumni Wall of Fame



Profile

Name
Daniel Dixon

Years at Stobhillgate
2005 - 2011

Profession
Triathlete

About

Growing up I was always sporty, my Dad used to race IRONMAN which was my first time hearing about Triathlon. At age 10, I attended a local event which gave me the bug for more.

As I grew, swimming, cycling & running became integral parts of my life. They had a huge impact on my personal and professional development. After winning my first title, age 12, I kept pushing further within the sport, winning every British Title from 11yrs old to the Senior title in 2021.

Through 2021 and 2022, I have had some of my biggest moments achieving podiums at both the Junior and U23 European Triathlon Championships along with the biggest honour of my career, representing Team England at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

I'm very much at the start of my professional career, but each day I get closer and closer to my ultimate goal of becoming an Olympic Champion.



It's nice to look back at my development and I credit much of that to my childhood. My time at Stobhillgate shaped me, giving me the ability to grow especially within physical activity and creativity. Something I will always be grateful for.

EYFS

In the Early Years our learning is focused around carefully chosen core books, the children develop a deep understanding of these stories. In Nursery the children have been reading, 'Owl Babies', they enjoy joining in with the repeated refrains in the story and are quickly becoming storytellers. They have enjoyed making their own story maps to retell the story independently and using mud to create their own owl artwork. This week, Nursery decorated their own Gingerbread Men as part of their introduction to their latest core book, 'The Gingerbread Man'. Reception have read 'Kipper's Toybox' and have begun a new story, 'How to Catch a Star'. They enjoyed exploring ways to catch a star that had landed in our classroom.

Nursery have been matching identical pairs and sorting objects by type, colour and size. They have enjoyed playing simple games of pairs in small groups, matching and sorting socks, applying their new knowledge in the outdoor classroom when tidying up and sorting the builders yard. The Reception children have been learning to subitise numbers to 5, subitising is looking at a group and knowing how many there are without counting. They have been concentrating on numbers 1-5 and developing a deep understanding of what they are made of and what they look like in different contexts. Reception have also enjoyed a focus on shapes and created their own version of Kandisky's artwork.

In Forest School we have been focused on the question, 'What changes in autumn?'. Each week we have focused on different aspects of autumn; apples, mushrooms, spiderwebs, leaves and sticks. The children have really enjoyed these sessions and have continued to develop their understanding through independent exploration in the provision throughout the following week.

On Tuesday afternoons we have started a carousel of activities. The children have a balance bike session, dance lesson and a focused exploration in the mud kitchen. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this, especially working with Mr Elliott and Miss Kinahan to learn new skills on the bikes. They are excited to show off their new dance skills at the Christmas performance and we hope to see you all there!



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been hard at work with our longest text yet in English...The Rainbow Fish. We have been exploring how adjectives create characterisation and how the character can change from the start to end of a story. This week we have rehearsed our texts aloud working collaboratively with our friends, before setting off writing our full story!

In Maths we have been challenged by our addition and subtraction work where we have been learning about writing 8 number sentences that represent a part, whole model.

This term we have started our History work learning about the great fire of London. We have used paintings and diary entries as our sources as we have uncovered what London was like in 1666 and what happened during the fire. We have used this knowledge to create a Great Fire on London dance in P.E. too!

We finished off our Art unit 'Cave Art' by creating a final piece of work, made to look like a cave wall. We loved bringing together the paint, sand, colour mixing and charcoal drawings that we had been exploring individually to make one final creation.

We are now hard at work preparing our Christmas performance 'The Night Before Christmas' and can't wait to share it with our grown ups at the end of term!



Year 2

We have had a very busy few months in Year 2! The highlight has definitely been our recent trip to Beamish, where the children were impeccably behaved and represented our school wonderfully.

In writing, we began this half-term exploring the story *Grandad's Island* by Benji Davies. This is a journey tale about a boy and his Grandad, who make their way to a deserted island which is full of beauty. The children wrote their own version of this story, starting in their own homes and travelling to a destination of their own choice. The end products have been a joy to read!

In History we have been investigating how homes have changed over the last 500 years. We started by looking at what type of homes people live in today. We went on a virtual tour of Morpeth using Google Maps. We then found out all about what homes were like in Tudor and Victorian times. Why not ask your children about wattle and daub or sanitation, I'm sure you'll be impressed.

We are currently learning how to write a recount of our trip to Beamish. We have thought about the main events of the day, and are now going to include our toolkit features into an accurate, sequenced and detailed recount of the day.



In our maths lessons, we began the half term by working hard to solve addition and subtraction problems. We used our prior knowledge of place value to help us to identify what we knew and what we needed to find out. The children learnt a range of strategies to solve the problems, for example, use of a number line, part – whole model and a ones and tens place value chart. Although the learning was a little tricky at times, each and every child in year 2 persevered and gave 100% to their learning!

We have recently started a new unit of shape. The children are really enjoying building on their learning from year 1, and I am so delighted to see their enthusiasm in the lessons.

In History, we have been learning all about

Finally, I hope to see you all at the KS1 performance. The children have been working extremely hard to learn all of their lines and the songs, and I have no doubt that they will be brilliant!

Year 3

Autumn 2 has been jam-packed in year 3! We've been very busy with not just our English, maths and foundation subjects, but have had some brilliant additional opportunities come our way which is shown in some of the pictures here. St James' Park visit (we also visited the Hancock museum on the same day for an Egyptian opera), introductory assembly to the harp and accordion as well as England vs Iran, within which, we had plenty of goals to celebrate!

Our maths learning has consisted primarily of multiplication and division where we have recapped the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and have begun to work with the 3, 4 and 8s. In English so far, we have written a losing story and are now in the process of writing a newspaper article. Across the foundation subjects, we have studied, rocks, South America, dance, keeping ourselves safe and much more!



PIC-COLLAGE

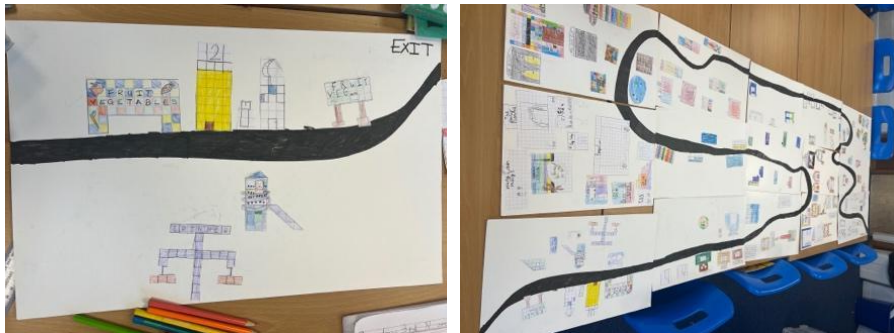
Year 4

Autumn term has continued to be a busy but exciting one in Year 4. We even gained a new member of our class ... A huge Stobhillgate welcome to Amelie – It's like you've always been a part of the family!

A definite highlight of this half term was DT Week where we learned about structures and mechanical systems and built our own fairground rides. We explored how axles work and how they can be used to make a moving toy.



This linked perfectly to our maths learning in this week, where we were learning about area! We worked in partners to create individual parts of the amusement park, calculating the area of each attraction. At the end of the week, we joined our individual sections of the fairground together to reveal the finished theme park!



We have been young scientists, further developing our working scientifically skills set. We put our "classifying" skills to the test in a recent science lesson. Did you know that there are so many living things on our Earth that scientists need to classify them into groups? Year 4 practiced this skill by creating branching diagrams to classify sweets! We then went onto classifying a range of living things.



We took a trip to Collingwood to see an #AutismPositive band called Aukestra. Find out more about the band [here](#). We had a brilliant time listening to their live music performance and were dancing away in the aisles!

We look forward to lots of exciting Christmas activities and trips in the coming weeks – Christmas performances, Christmas carolling and a trip to the theatre!

Before and After School Club

Our before and after school clubs are becoming very popular with our children thanks to the new structured sessions delivered by the BASC staff. The children have loved creating displays, some of which can be seen below.

We are, however, getting increasingly more children being brought to the clubs who haven't been booked in. So that we can adhere to the correct staffing ratios, please could you ensure that you book your child into before and/or after school club for every session you would like them to attend via the MCAS app. MCAS is set up so that your accounts need to be in credit to be able to book places and has a minimum amount of one session, so you don't need to pay over and above what you need. (If you pay by childcare vouchers, please contact the office to book). If you contact the office to book your child in, we will check your child's balances and should they be in arrears, we will bring this to your attention.

Thank you so much for your cooperation with this.



School Attendance

At Stobhillgate First School, we take pride in the relationships we develop with parents and the support we put in place if a child needs some extra attention to make academic progress. We take the same approach to attendance and if it becomes evident that you may need support in order to achieve the high expectations we have for attendance, we will contact you to see how we can help ensure your child is in school as much as possible.

Research shows that students who achieve less than 96% attendance, statistically will perform less well at school. The table below shows the impact of not attending school regularly.

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98 – 100%	Excellent	0 to 4	Less than 1
96 – 98%	Good	5 to 9	1 to 2
94 – 95%	Concerning	10 to 13	2 to 3
91 – 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 to 28	3 to 6
90%	Persistent Absence	More than 29	More than 6

One key improvement we have made to our attendance policy, which can be found on our website, is how we celebrate attendance in school. We have talked to the children about this and they are excited about these celebrations this half term. The following ideas will take place every half term:

- All children with 98% and above will go into a draw to win a prize
- There will also be a prize for the most improved attendance
- The class with the highest attendance gets to have a movie afternoon with hot chocolate and a snack!

Year Three are currently in the lead and Mr Elliott and the rest of his class are getting very competitive to hold onto that top spot!

Whole school – 95.88%

Year 3 – 96.59%

Year 1 – 96.13%

Year 4 – 96.13%

Year 2 – 95.49%

Reception – 94.26%

Some of you may also have noticed this month we carried out a 'late gate' with our Educational Welfare Officer with the aim of improving punctuality. This was very successful as a number of days that week we had everyone on time for school. Remember our classroom doors open at 08:50 and close at 09:00. After that, children will have to enter school via the school office.

Towards the end of December we will also be carrying out a 'count me in' week alongside our Educational Welfare Officer. The focus of this initiative will be to ensure we have the highest possible attendance in school and also children are in their classrooms on time. As a way to support families who maybe finding attendance difficult, we may conduct some home visits so we can further highlight the support available to families.

If you would like any further support, or wish to discuss attendance, please speak to Mr Henderson.

Pupil Premium

As we all know, Christmas can be an expensive time of year which can add undue stresses onto families, especially as the cost of living continues to increase. As a school we are here to support you with any difficulties you might be having and if we can't help directly, we will signpost you to other support networks. Any support you do seek will of course be help in the strictest confidence.

Please speak to Mr Henderson if this is something you would like to discuss.

We are very lucky to have a number of support networks in our local community like:

- Stobhillgate Community Centre and Calmer Therapy. They often host food banks supported by local super markets and The Bread and Butter Thing.
- Stobhill Link who can support with a wide range of things like uniform, winter coats and they even have a homework club where the children can go to work.

If your personal circumstances have changed you may be eligible to apply for free school meals. Follow this [link](#) for more details. Some of the benefits of applying include:

- Your child will immediately become eligible for free school milk.
- You may get help with the cost of educational visits.
- You will get help with the cost of other activities such as music tuition.
- If your circumstances do not change, your child will automatically receive traditional free school meals when they move into Year 3 without you needing to do anything, saving you over £350 a year on meals.
- As described above, school will receive Pupil Premium income for every child who is registered for 'traditional' free school meals and will have more money to spend on helping your child to achieve their potential.
- All of these benefits to you and school apply even if your child would prefer to bring a packed lunch - they just need to be registered for 'traditional' free school meals.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 8th December

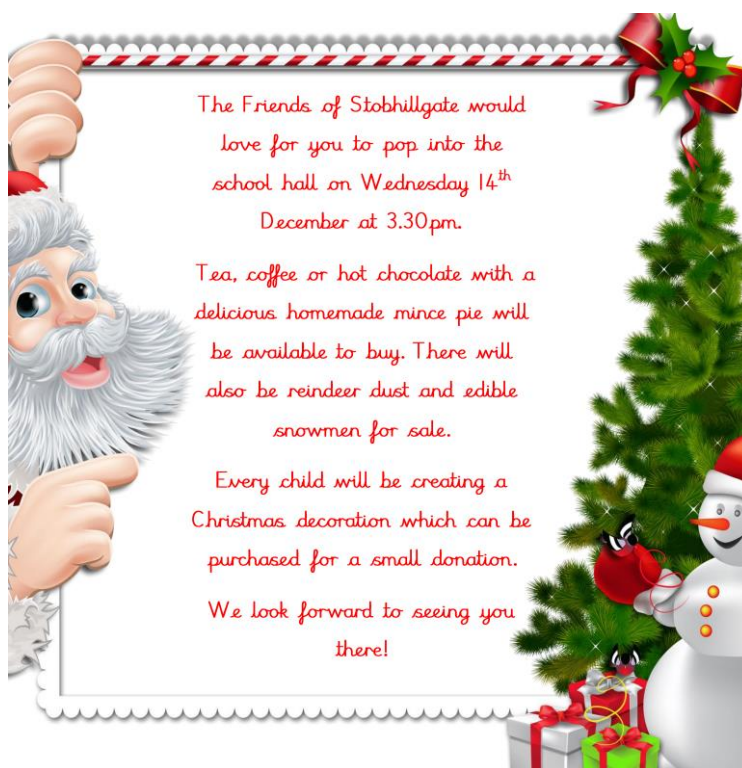
Children can come to school in their Christmas jumpers to help raise awareness for Save the Children. A donation of silver coin would be greatly appreciated.

Santa Dash – Friday 9th December

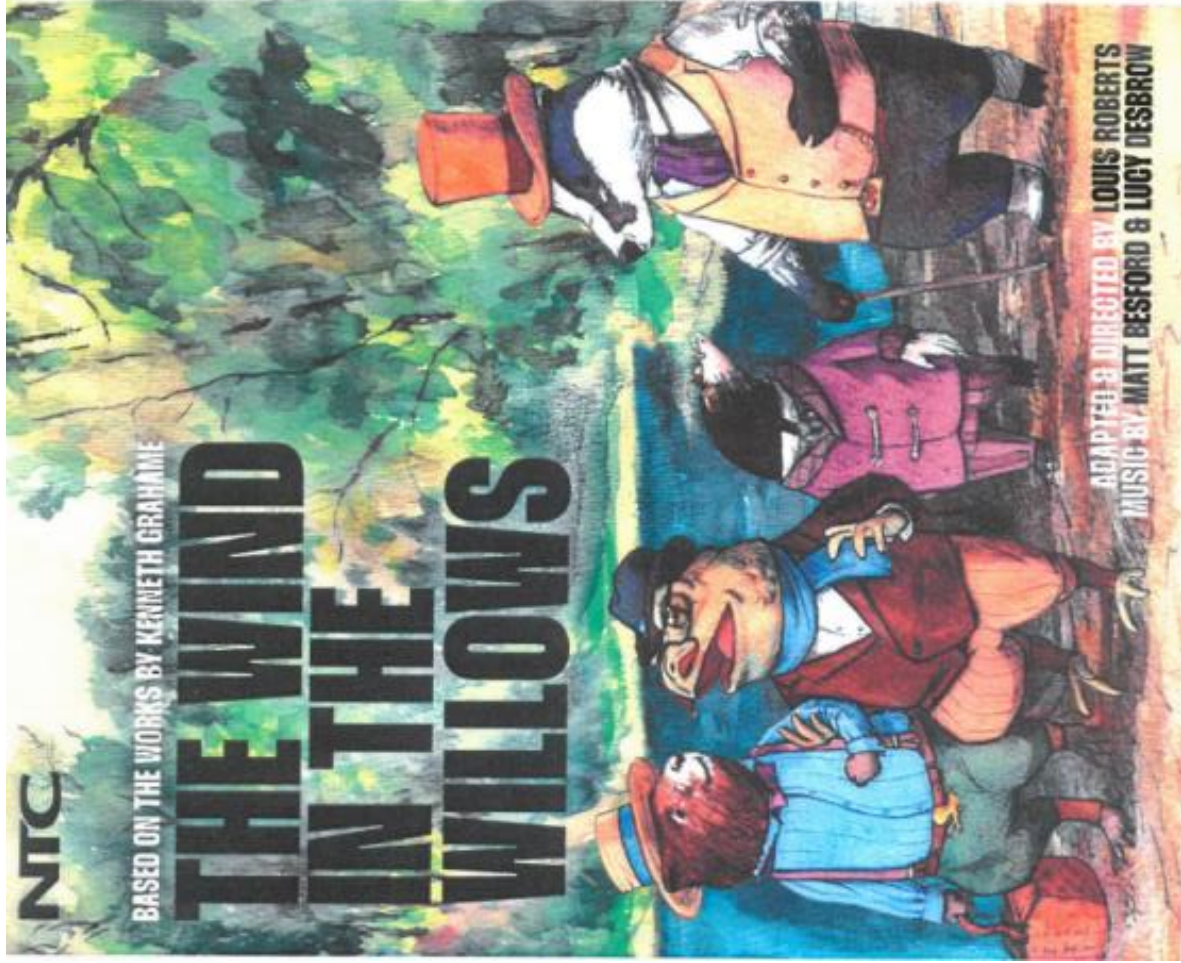
We are teaming up with SGO's around the Nation to bring the Santa Dash to our school on the Friday 9th December. Please make sure children come to school in trainers and a Santa hat if they have one. They will be walking, running or skipping for 1 mile. Have fun, be active, be Merry!



The Friends of Stobhillgate Christmas Fair – Wednesday 14th December



December	
Thursday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 9 th December	Santa Dash
Monday 12 th December	KS2 Performance (09:15) KS1 Performance (14:00)
Tuesday 13 th December	KS1 Performance (09:15) KS2 Performance (14:00)
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch The Friends of Stobhillgate Christmas Fair (15:30)
Thursday 15 th December	EYFS Performance (09:15)
Friday 16 th December	EYFS Performance (09:15)
Monday 19 th December	KS1 + KS2 Christmas Parties
Tuesday 20 th December	EYFS Christmas Party Y3/4 Christmas at St Mary's
Wednesday 21 st December	Y4 Visit to Northern Stage
Thursday 22 nd December	Y3/4 Carols at Sanderson Arcade (13:30)
Friday 23 rd December	School closes at 15:15 for Christmas
January	
Monday 9 th January	Training Day – School Closed
Tuesday 10 th January	School recommences



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
 New Life Christian Church
 Dacre Street, Morpeth

Northumberland County Council
 The Joicey Trust
 Thursday 8th December 2022
 At 7pm

Registered in England & Wales: 1448366 | Registered Charity No: 309525
 Tickets £5 each – also available on door
 Further info – gmt.net

Community Foundation
 Charity No: 0143050866
 www.licessound.co.uk
 Non refundable advance tickets



Support group for parents of autistic children



Every Thursday
 10am - 11.30am



Online

Our sessions are free for any adult who lives or works in Northumberland. If you'd like to come along, email or call us:



nrc@mentalhealthconcern.org



07866053717

Find out about our wellbeing support here:



northumberlandrecoverycollege.co.uk