



MORPETH  
*Stobhillgate*  
FIRST SCHOOL

# December Newsletter

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

The last few weeks have been full of festive joy at school. We hope that this newsletter gives you a snapshot of all the fun things that have been going on. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term. We are looking forward to welcoming you back for an exciting, fun filled new year. From all of us here at Stobhillgate, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We supported Save the Children in our Christmas Jumper day!

## Festive fun...

Kirstine from the Mustard Tree Trust visited us to remind us of the characters in the Christmas story with a Christmas in a Box workshop.



We enjoyed our Christmas dinner in school, it was incredibly tasty and we enjoyed sharing Christmassy jokes!

We danced and played lots of festive games at our KS2 Christmas party

Key Stage 2, together with Year 4 children from Abbeyfields First School, visited St Marys church on Tuesday for a carol service. Well done to all children for their beautiful singing and especially Lauren (Y3) and Layton (Y4) who read very clearly during the service.



On Wednesday, Year 4 took a trip to Newcastle to see a performance of The Sorcerer's Apprentice at the Northern Stage. Afterwards, we



walked along Northumberland Street to visit this year's Fenwick's Christmas Window. This year, Fenwick's teamed up with award-winning children's author and illustrator Lauren Child to bring a beloved children's book character to life. The magical scenes follow Clarice Bean as she desperately tries to save her family's Christmas and stop the festive spirit from completely floating away.



On Thursday, KS2 visited Sandersons Arcade to spread Christmas cheer to shoppers in Morpeth. We had a lot of fun singing loud for all to hear and are certainly feeling very festive! Thank you to those parents/carers who walked down with us and to those that joined us to sing! We hope you're now feeling festive too!



## EYFS

The children in EYFS have had a very special time celebrating Christmas at school. The celebrations started early with the arrival of our class elves. The children have thoroughly enjoyed looking for them every morning, and will certainly miss the elves when they return to the North Pole.

The children across Early Years spent a lot of time preparing for our special Nativity performance. It was especially exciting this year as we were finally able to welcome parents and carers to watch the performance live. I am incredibly proud of how hard all the children have worked and they certainly put on an excellent show. Well done to all the boys and girls in EYFS for their fantastic Christmas performance!

It has been a super end to the year with a Christmas party, Christmas dinner, a special Christmas yoga session, cookie decorating and making Christmas decorations.

EYFS wish you a very Happy Christmas!!



## Year 1

In maths this half term we have been learning all about both 2D and 3D shapes. We started by identifying and naming 3D shapes including cubes, cuboids, spheres, pyramids and cones. Then we moved on to 2D shapes and we are now all able to recognise and name those too. The children worked very hard on their shape work as much of the vocabulary they have been introduced was new to them.

We finished our topic on shape by creating patterns using both 2D and 3D shapes. This allowed the children to apply all of the knowledge they had built up and apply it in a creative way.

If you want to do a little extra maths at home, you should try downloading the [White Rose 1 minute maths app](#). It is very easy to use and the children can do most of it independently.



In our English lessons this half term we have been using the book 'Rainbow Fish' to write both a story and an information text. Using our Talk4Writing approach to writing we learnt the story about Rainbow Fish and then turned this into our own version which had new characters involved like bears, bats, unicorns and toucans! The children were building upon their knowledge of capital letters, full stops and using finger spaces. They also added to their writing skills using adjectives and using a question mark.

While writing our non-fiction text we were explaining all about Rainbow Fish and the needs that he has. This included information about his appearance, habitat and diet. The children developed their writing skills by using different headings, adjectives and an exclamation mark.

Science has been very exciting this term as the children have been learning all about animals. Most recently we have been focusing on learning the key features of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and birds. As the year develops we will be carrying out more science investigations associated with different materials and in the summer we will learn about plants.

We have also had a wide variety of PE lessons this term which have included yoga, target games and dancing that was focused around the great fire of London. Not only did we improve our agility, balance and coordination during yoga, but the children also worked hard to improve their flexibility and strength. Some of the children found yoga a lot more challenging than they first thought.



Most recently, we have been focusing on our target hitting skills and introducing a more competitive side to PE. We have been aiming at and hitting the target using footballs, tennis rackets, hockey sticks and also using our arm to throw balls. As our skills have developed we have also introduced the children to some competitive games between each other where they need to use the new skills they have learnt to try and win.



## Year 2

Wow, what a busy and fun-filled term we have had!

We have ended this term on the biggest high, as we received an official letter from the Royal Chef this week. In Autumn 1, we made some Scones and wrote a recipe for these. I then photocopied the children's work and posted it to Buckingham Palace. On Monday morning, we were delighted to receive a reply, in which the writing and illustrations of the children were much admired!



In the build up to Christmas we have participated in lots of exciting activities in school.

I am very proud of all of the children for standing up and saying their lines so clearly in our Christmas performance. Thank you for helping your child to learn the lines and songs at home too.

The KS1 dance was a great success this week. The children looked great in their party clothes, and they loved playing party games and throwing some moves on the dance floor!



To complete the week, we worked together to make gingerbread houses. Never one to miss an opportunity, the children then wrote instructions on how to do this afterwards.



Thank you all for your continued support this term. I wish you all a lovely break and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

### Year 3

Season's greeting from all of us in Year 3! December has been a fun-filled month for all of us as I'm sure you've heard and can see from the pictures! From a Santa dash to snow angels, Christmas parties, nativities, carol singing and everything in between. We even managed to squeeze some non-fiction, newspaper report writing in as well as finishing off our first multiplication unit in maths!

We've also been super crafty ... we started by making sock snowmen to sell at our Christmas fair to raise funds for school. We have also been busy making our Christmas cards for the children to take home which I have no doubt you will love. A big thanks to Lilly-Anna who took her craftiness one step further by making every one of her classmates a gingerbread cookie and made all of the staff some delicious Christmas cake!

All that leaves is for us to say that we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year!



### Year 4

December has been a very busy but incredibly fun month in Year 4.

#### In class...

We have continued to work hard in all subjects but have especially enjoyed our writing unit focussing on recounts. We have learned how to be news reporters, writing some excellent news articles. We look forward to collaborating with Collingwood in the New Year, using their media suite facilities to record our finished articles.

I seems that Christmas has come early for citizens of Morpeth when a man in a red suit, thought to be santa, was spotted in cuplistle park in the afternoon of

Christmas disaster! You will not be seeing any sprouts on your plate this christmas, A spillage caused over a million brussell sprouts to tip out of a large lorry last week in London. Many people were hired for cleanup but it <sup>did</sup> ~~was~~ still take five days to clear. Read on to find out more.



### Leaderboards...

Congratulations to Keilani who is currently top of our reading leaderboard for most books read and quizzed! Keilani has achieved the top spot this half term because of her dedication to reading both in school and at home!

Congratulations to Jacob and Alexander who have achieved Rock Legend status on our Times Tables Rockstar leaderboard. In Year 4, children should be regularly testing their times table knowledge up to 12x12 in preparation for the Multiplication Check in Summer term.

### Illuminated Sheep Project

A huge thank you to Alex from the Illuminated Sheep Project. Alex visited Stobhillgate and delivered workshops to children in Key Stage 2. Year 4 enjoyed learning about the Anglo-Saxons, how paper was made and how books were traditionally created. Children also learned about the art of leather printing and were thrilled to come away with a leather bracelet keepsake which had their own personal designs stamped in!

***"I really enjoyed printing the different shapes on our bracelet!"  
Lucy, Year 4***

***"I really enjoyed the writing activity, where I wrote my name in  
Anglo-Saxon." Alexander, Year 4***

***"It was really fun learning about how paper was made." - Layton,  
Year 4***

***"It was interesting learning about the discoveries in the past. I  
really liked feeling the different textures of the books." - Hector,  
Year 4.***

***"I really liked the different designs they made on paper and how  
they created them." - Georgia, Year 3.***

***"I liked when we used the tools. We used a wooden hammer to  
create the designs on the bracelets." - Lily, Year 3***

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and I can't wait to see you all again in the new year!



### **Pupil Achievement**



Seren was very proud to represent Stobhillgate in the northern round of the BSGA trampolining school championships. She finished in 8th place and it was only her second trampolining competition. Well done Seren!

Well done to Megan and Theo who have recently been awarded their YELLOW belt in Karate! An excellent achievement!



## Before and After School Club

Mrs Neary would like to thank all of the children who attend before and after school club for making her feel so welcome. She is looking forward to seeing what the next term will bring and hopes you all have a lovely Christmas.

## School Lunches

Did you know that purchasing a school lunch prepared by [Dolce](#) can save you on average £322 per year?

Not only are the lunches full of nutritional goodness, but some of our school funding is also determined by the number of meals taken by children, especially those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. All children in these three year groups are eligible to receive a free school lunch as part of the government's universal infant free school meal scheme.

Also, children across the school who are entitled to means tested free school meals (FSM) also benefit from a free school lunch. If you think your child may be eligible for means tested free school meals, please apply online by clicking [HERE](#). If your child is currently entitled to FSM but prefers to have a packed lunch, why not order them a school lunch to try, but also bring in their packed lunch - just in case!

The current cost of pupil lunches is £2.05 for Nursery children, and £2.45 for those in Years 3 and 4.

For more information, please contact the school office on 01670 513382 or email [stobhillgate@the3rivers.net](mailto:stobhillgate@the3rivers.net).

**Dolce have created a [special lunch menu](#) for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January which you can now preorder on SchoolGrid.**

## Easyfundraising

You can help raise money for the school when you shop online. To find out more information visit

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stobhillgatefirstschool/>

## St Aidan's Church

Christmas Eve (4pm) - Crib Service

Christmas Eve (6pm) - Carol Service



**DID YOU KNOW...**

ON AVERAGE YOU COULD  
SAVE £322 PER YEAR BY OPTING FOR  
*A Hot School Meal\**

Research shows\* that to create a packed lunch of the same nutritional standard as a hot school meal, the supermarket cost is often...

SUPERMARKET PACKED LUNCH	HOT SCHOOL MEALS
74% MORE EXPENSIVE per week	AVERAGE WEEKLY COST

**WITH A DOLCE HOT SCHOOL MEAL:**

- All meals are cooked fresh from locally produced raw ingredients in line with the highest ethical animal welfare standards.
- All meals are delivered in a Covid safe way.

If you are interested in switching to a cheaper, nutritious and convenient school meal, please contact your school office, or call Dolce's friendly Customer Care team on 0842 707709.

You can find more information on our website [www.dolce.co.uk](http://www.dolce.co.uk).

Find us on [@Dolces\\_Catering](#) [@dolce\\_schools\\_catering](#)

**dolce** schools: catering *Experience* OF A LUNCHTIME

\*Source: School Health UK