



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

January Newsletter

Hello and welcome to January's newsletter. This month has been action-packed and full of exciting activities inside and outside the classroom, from forest school to sign singing and much more!

Over the last few months, we have had lots of new pupils joining us at Stobhillgate. Since September we have had 13 new children join our school! It is brilliant to see so many new families joining our Stobhillgate community. If you know of anyone considering joining Stobhillgate please encourage them to get in touch with us, as soon as possible, as some classes are very nearly full.

Thank you so much to Mrs Haddon who is now a reading helper in school, it is much appreciated. If any other parents/carers would be interested in becoming reading helpers please get in touch with the school office. This is a very important job as it helps us to improve our children's reading skills!

We can now share the exciting news that our Year 4 pupils will, this year, take part in an Opera North project. Pupils will learn music from

a new commission piece 'The Water Diviner's Tale' written by award-winning film composer Rachel Portman and focusing on the theme of climate change. The Water Diviner's Tale has been specially written for children's voices and it will take pupils on a thought-provoking exploration of what is happening to our world as a result of climate change.

The children will take part in two vocal workshops, delivered in-school by Opera North Education choral delivery staff and the project will culminate in a final public performance for parents/friends at Alnwick Playhouse on Tuesday 4th July 2023. This performance will involve other local schools and will be accompanied by professional singers, a narrator in character as The Water Diviner and members of the Orchestra of Opera North. This is an amazing opportunity for our children and I'm sure they will love taking part.

**OPERA
NORTH**

Can we please remind all parents and carers of the importance of uniform. Although the vast majority of our children come to school in full uniform every single day we have noticed some children coming to school with coloured trainers, jewellery and leggings. Can we please make sure that we all adhere to the uniform policy. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school or catch Mr Whitehead or Mr Henderson in the schoolyard at the start or end of the school day.

It won't be long until this year's World Book Day. This year at Stobhillgate we will celebrate World Book Day on **Wednesday 1st March**. We ask that the children come to school in their cosy pyjamas to promote the importance of reading before bed! We ask that children make a donation of a silver coin towards our school book fund.

We would like to congratulate Miss Owens who has passed the National Professional Qualification in Leading Teaching. This is a brilliant achievement for Miss Owens who has worked extremely hard on this qualification over the last few years. During this qualification, Miss Owens

developed our Science curriculum. This has had a massive impact on teaching and learning in Science and our children our loving being taught by Miss Owens as she is very passionate about her subject. Well done Miss Owens, congratulations!

If your child is thinking about moving to school lunches why not have a look at our school menu? Dolce has added lots of exciting new meals to the menu which the children and staff have enjoyed. I'm sure that your children

will love the meals available. Why not give them a try?

Thank you to Barrett Homes who recently donated a class set of high-vis vests. These will be helpful when we take the children out on trips. Thank you.



Online Safety

With 'Safer Internet Day' just around the corner, it is a good time to raise awareness of online safety and what we do in school to keep our children safe, what you can do at home and where to seek advice should you need it.

In school, we cover this mainly through our PSHE lessons but also have 'theme days' within our academic calendar such as 'Safer Internet Day' which really allow us to emphasise the importance of online safety children to our children.

For many of us, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet and for them there isn't a difference; online life and offline life is just life. Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed. It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.



Need advice about online safety?

NSPCC

If you're stuck, not sure what to do, or if you're worried about your child, you can also contact our trained [helpline counsellors](#) on 0808 800 5000.

ChildLine also has lots of information about [online and mobile safety](#) that will help you and your child

EYFS

It has been an exciting start to the New Year in the Early Years. We welcomed some new students to our Nursery and they have been a wonderful addition to our Nursery class. We hope they are enjoying their first term at Stobhillgate as much as we enjoy having them.

Nursery have been enjoying reading, 'Each Peach Pear Plum'. They have enjoyed singing nursery rhymes and making story maps to retell the story. This week, they had an uninvited visitor to their nursery classroom. They found big muddy pawprints and a big mess in their kitchen. A tiger had visited and eaten all their biscuits and fruit and drank all the milk. It was a very exciting morning and the children are excited for what is to come as they read, 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. In Maths they have just started exploring measuring height, the children have been learning the language related to this and are ordering objects from tallest to shortest.



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. The children enjoyed learning all about penguins and where they live. They now know there are lots of different species of penguins and some of their names. They enjoyed ordering the different types by height and using cubes to measure each one. Reception have just begun reading their next core book, 'Handa's Surprise'. They have been creating some fantastic observational drawings of pineapples from the fruit basket that arrived in our classroom and mixing paint to recreate their own versions of Handa's fruit basket. In Maths the children have been learning about weighing, using scales to see which object is heavier and lighter.



Forest School has focused on winter and the changes it brings. 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. The children have explored winter trees and what they look like in comparison to a tree in summer. We have picked a tree in the playground to observe over the year and record the changes.



Year 1

In our English lessons this half term we have been writing our own version of Hansel and Gretel. The children have continued to practice their capital letters, full stops, handwriting and using an exclamation mark. While writing our own version, the children have been trying to build up the suspense in their story using their setting and sound effects. Here are just two wonderful examples:

'One icy night, the cruel dad left Jacob and Sophia in a cave all alone. Bats squeaked. A skeleton flickered quickly past them. The children screamed! Suddenly, they spotted a cottage made from chocolate.'

Jenny, Year One.

'One cold, rainy night, the bad dad left Holly and Tom in the flooded sewers. Water dripped. Rats squeaked. A shadow flickered past them. Holly and Tom screamed with shock! Suddenly, they saw a house made from ice-cream.'

Tom, Year One.

In PE this half term we have been improving our gymnastics which has included stepping and turning gracefully, holding a strong balancing position, travelling across gym equipment elegantly and performing different sequences of movement. As the weeks have been progressing, I can already see the children's confidence increasing. We definitely have some budding gymnasts in school.

As we come to the end of our 'Animals and Humans' unit of work in science we finished by looking at the different and similarities between, carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. One of the exciting ways in which we did this, was to closely observe the skull and jaw of an unknown animal. Using our scientific knowledge developed so far, we were able to decide that it was from a deer and not a fox because of the shape of its teeth. This also helped us work out that it is a herbivore.

In art recently, we have been studying the artist Paul Klee. The children have explored how he created his works of art, the different shapes he uses and the images he created. Our up and coming artists in Year One have also started to create some art work in the style of Paul Klee.

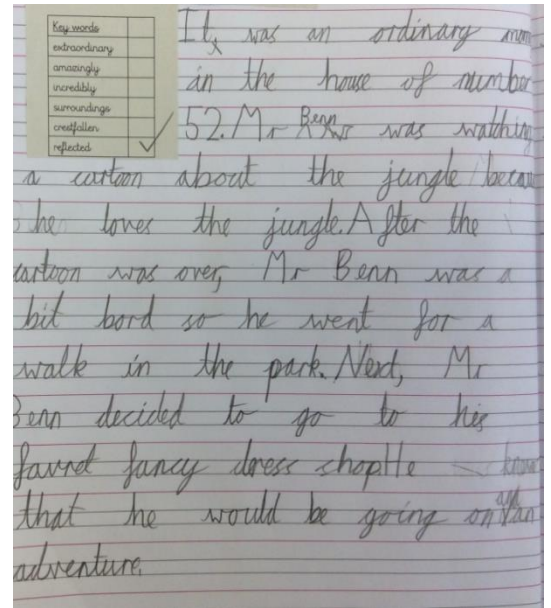


Year 2

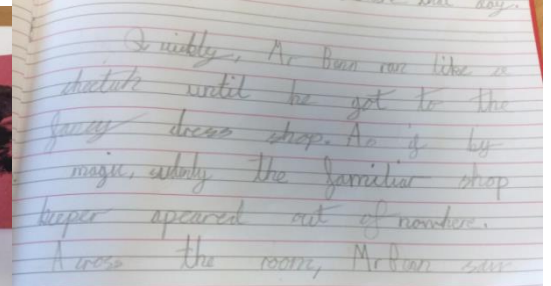
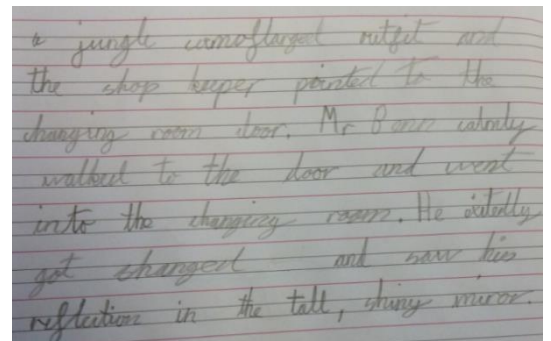
In English this half term, we have been studying the text 'Mr Benn the Red Knight'. Throughout this unit of work, we have been exploring how we can include interesting sentence starters, powerful adjectives and adverbs, and some similes into our writing. The children loved designing their own setting, which inspired some beautiful and powerful vocabulary, before writing their own losing tale. The finished products were a

joy to read, and the children successfully included all of our toolkit features. Below is an example of some of the very high quality work which was produced.

In Maths this half term, we have been learning all about money. Building on their learning from Year 1, the children have worked hard to accurately identify notes and coins, find the correct change, and to solve tricky word problems. The children are now becoming increasingly confident when working out the value of different objects and finding change; however you may wish to continue to help your child build on this knowledge by playing simple 'shop' games at home.



In Art we have been completing a unit of printmaking. We have been exploring the 'positive and negative' space, and using natural objects as printing plates. Inspired by the work of William Morris, we have used fruit and vegetables as our tools, and created repeated patterns. In our final lesson we created a collagraph, using cardboard, string, tissue paper and paint. The children have loved experimenting with the different techniques, and have been very focused throughout all of the lessons. Do ask your child what we mean by 'positive and negative' space in Art!

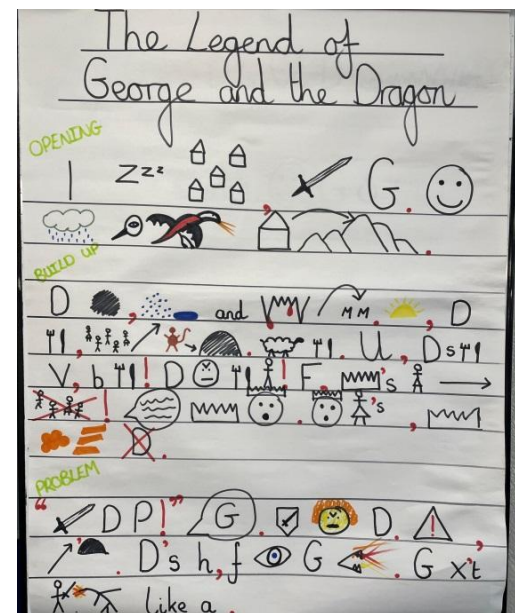


Year 3

It has been an exciting start to 2023 for us here in Year 3! We have really hit the ground running and are back into the swing of our learning. From multiplication and division in maths to defeating the monster tales and even a live lesson from the RHS!

Our model text this month has been 'George and the Dragon'. We have focussed our 5 part story structure, the inclusion of dramatic speech and the writing of writing different plots and paragraph types.

The children across the key stage enjoyed a live lesson from the RHS which was very informative and told us all about plant adaptations in different environments.



The school hall has been used, not just used for gymnastics, but also maths! The concrete approach to division with remainders really helped the learning come to life and stick!



Year 4

In writing lessons, we have been focussing on how to develop excellent character descriptions. Below is an example of a 'toolkit' lesson, where we focus on key writing techniques. In this lesson, the focus was on effective use of powerful adjectives within sentences of three. We even managed to extend our sentences with similes!

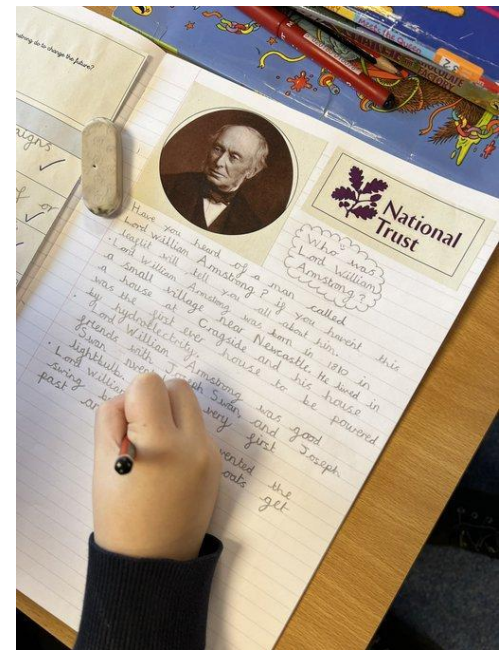


We are really enjoying our History unit this term – Famous Names from the North East.

Children are thoroughly enjoying learning about our local history; studying the life and works of engineer Lord William Armstrong, his friend and inventor of the lightbulb; Joseph Swan as well as suffragette Emily Davison.

Next half term, children will visit the Emily Davison Statue and her grave at St Mary's church as part of International Women's Day.

Year 4 have been lucky to be the first class to have forest school lessons this year. We are working very hard towards our badge by demonstrating skills such as the clove hitch knot and sheer lashing to build dens.



We were also fortunate to catch up with our friends at Linda Community School in Zambia via video link. John, a trustee from the Zambezi Sunrise Trust, delivered our letters and will be returning with letters from Zambia and a special assembly just before half term!

Before and After School Club

The children have been very busy in the Before and After School Club this half term. They created a display for Chinese New Year and made hearts for the Morpeth Co-op Funeral Care branch.



Chinese New Year

A big thank you to Lip Lee who came into school and delivered an assembly and craft sessions for the children to learn about Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. The children made masks, dragons and zodiac animals. Key Stage 2 even had a go at origami.



Upcoming Diary Dates

February	
Friday 17th	School closes at 15:15 for half term
Monday 27th	School recommences
March	
Wednesday 1st	World Book Day
Thursday 2nd	Year 2 visit to Northumberland College Zoo
Tuesday 7th	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 8th	Parent Consultations
Friday 17th	Red Nose Day
Friday 31st	School closes at 15:15 for Easter

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Theo who achieved player of the week at football!



Community News

Please click [here](#) to see all the session on offer with Family Hubs in Northumberland.

