



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

February Newsletter

We have had an extremely exciting start to the half-term including an opera workshop; World Book Day; a visit to a zoo and we have even managed to fit in in a DT week. I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and finding out about all the fun things that have been taking place!

Staffing Changes!

We want to share with you some exciting news about Mr Elliot. Mr Elliot will leave us at the end of April to become Assistant Head Teacher of Collingwood School and Media Arts College. He will lead on

behaviour, attitudes and attendance. Over the last few years, Mr Elliot has studied towards a National Professional Qualification of Senior Leadership and is now really for the next step in his career. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Elliot, we are all incredibly proud of him and know he will do a brilliant job. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in the future! We will soon recruit a new teacher who will work in Y3 for the remainder of the academic year.

Additionally, Mrs Turnbull will be leaving us on 10th March

to spend more time with her family and pursue different career opportunities. We are currently in the process of advertising for her replacement and we will let you know the outcome once the process is complete. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Turnbull all the very best for the future as she moves on from Stobhillgate.

Finally, Mrs Roberts will soon start to work full time in Year 1. This will give Mr Henderson the opportunity to work in a broader range of year groups across the school which he is very excited about!

EYFS

The beginning of the new term has been a busy one in the Early Years unit!

Nursery began the week with a new story to read, Hairy McClary. They loved sharing pictures and talking of their pets at home as part of their book hook. Thank you to everyone who participated in this, we appreciate all the support from home! As it is 'Design Technology' week across the whole school, Nursery decided to focus their creations around their new story and made different animals and pets using coloured card, pencils and split pins. They have been very proud of their achievements and enjoyed coming to show Reception their finished products.

Reception have been learning about sliding mechanisms for 'Design Technology' week and decided to get in the Easter spirit early by making their own sliding chicks. They began by exploring simple sliding mechanisms in books from our library. Then they designed their chick and egg, ready to begin the making process. When it came to creating their designs the cutting out was difficult but everyone persevered to create their chick sliding out of its egg.



On Wednesday we enjoyed celebrating World Book Day in our pyjamas. We read a new story called, Bloom, visited the library for some quiet reading time and enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits.



Year 1

We have had a wonderful time in Year 1 this week celebrating World Book Day and carrying out our second Design Technology (DT) project of the year.

In DT we have been designing and making a freestanding structure. We decided to make a home for Beegu (an alien from one of our classroom stories) and have been busy learning how to construct effectively and how structures need large flat bases to support them to make them sturdy.

For World Book Day we began by exploring the text Bloom, by making our own versions of the story in pictures. We talked about the importance of bedtime stories and decided we could tell a bedtime story using our little book of 'Bloom' ourselves at home. Next we thought about how the little girl in the book showed kindness and when she did the flower bloomed. We talked about kind words we can say to build friendships with our peers. We wrote kindness leaves and attached them to a huge stem. Once all the leaves were attached we saw the flower bloom, by adding on huge pink petals. In the afternoon, we collaged our own pink flowers and discussed who we might give this to, showing that we love them and to say thank you for their kindness towards us.

We have loved spending time with so many stories and having so much time to explore the enjoyment of books. The children in Year 1 are very keen to build more bedtime stories and independent reading into their routine every night from now on and we are confident you will support them in this love for reading.



Year 2

We love World Book Day!

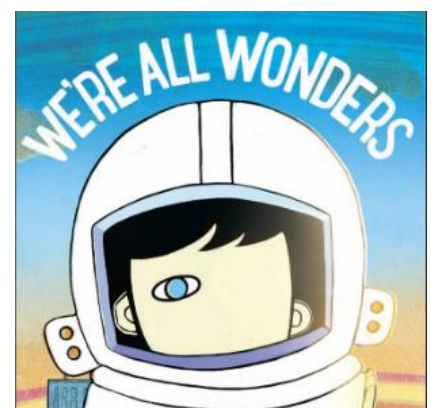
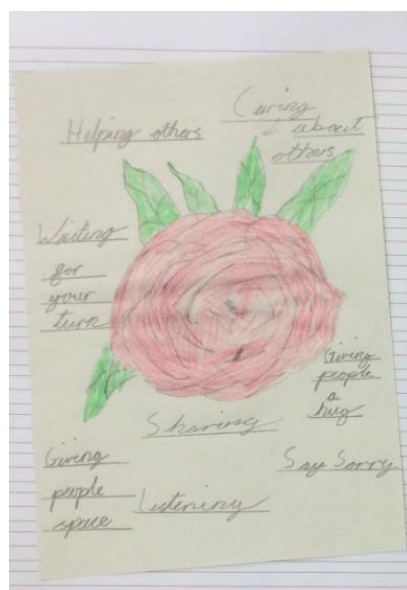
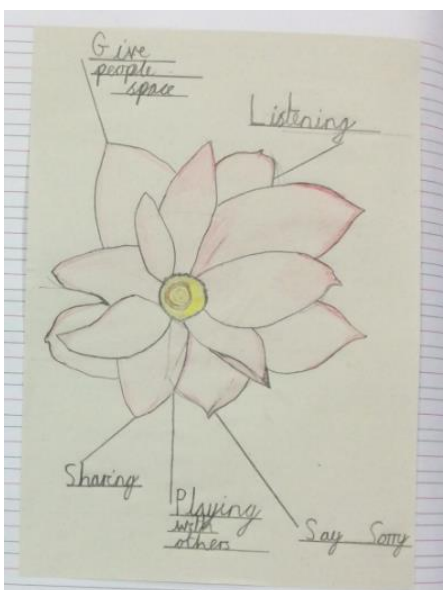
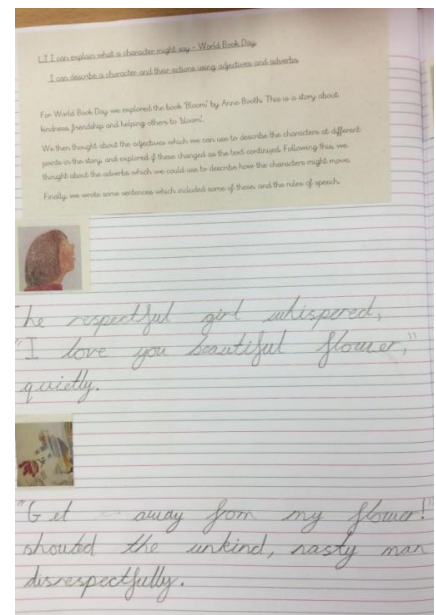
In Year 2, we began the day with 'guess the shelfie'. The children had to work out which teacher the books in an image belonged to. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to work in pairs and share their ideas and reasoning. They were all successful in working out who the different teachers were and worked wonderfully in collaboration.

Next, we read our World Book Day text 'Bloom', and explored the theme of kindness which runs throughout it. We then acted out and recorded what the two main characters may have said at different points in the story, and how they may have said it.

Following this, we visited the school library and shared the story 'We're all Wonders' where we continued to explore how important it is to be kind and accepting of others.

After lunch, we joined the rest of the school in 'drop and read'. We each enjoyed reading our own story independently.

Finally, we took inspiration from the amazing illustrations by Robyn Wilson-Owen. We worked hard to draw some intricate and detailed flowers. We then had a class discussion about ways in which we can be kind to others, and recorded some of these ways around our flower.



Year 3

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year, we read the book 'Bloom' which was not only a great read; it carried a very powerful message. We learnt that being kind to others is very important and that it affects others too. It's nice to be nice and 'Share the spotlight' as Fae told us.



DT Week

Designing pneumatic toys for Year 1 pupils has been our focus this time around. We have looked at moving objects with air through the inflation of balloons and also using syringes and plastic tubing. We used thumbnail sketches to record our early, rough ideas and then moved onto more detailed exploded diagrams to show our design, how it fits together and what materials we need to make it. We came up with some very inventive ideas!



Forest School

Our forest school lessons got off to a great start this week. Mrs Bush talked the children through clove hitch knots, natural shelters and building shelters which included tarps. We also managed to squeeze in a game of 'The Floor is Lava' and end with a campfire where the children recapped the safety rules of how to act around a fire. The children are now on their way to earning their first Forest School badge!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy but fun week kicking off the new half term!

DT Week

It has been DT week in school this week and Year 4's focus has been on electrical systems; their end product being to create a torch!

We began the week experimenting with circuits, exploring how we could make a bulb light up and how we might be able to create a switch which would allow us to turn the bulb on and off. We then looked at evaluating lots of existing products, noting down features that we liked and features that may or may not be appropriate for different users- "Not portable", "Can't adjust the light", "Not colourful enough".

We were then introduced to 3 of Miss Owens' friends and were given a character profile for each. We considered what each person might need from a torch and produced design criteria to make a torch fit for our chosen audience – A soldier, a plumber, or a geologist!

We then used our designs to make a finished product – A working torch, including a switch!

The Schools Big Sing

Our Year 4's have the exciting opportunity to perform as part of the School's Big Sing this year!

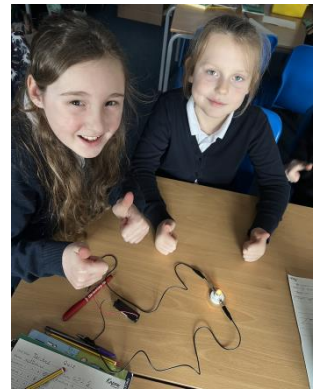
We were visited by Opera North on Tuesday; following a CPD session for teachers, and with the support of the Opera North Choral team and accompanying resources, children will learn the songs in school and join the Orchestra of Opera North (and professional singers) in a semi-staged production of The Water Diviner's Tale at Alnwick Playhouse in July.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Wednesday.

We started our day by watching a live reading of Tyger, SF Said's new book. SF Said is the author of Varjak Paw, a book which we really enjoyed reading in reciprocal reading lessons at the beginning of the year. Some children in class are very keen to use their World Book Day token towards buying the new book! After just one chapter, we were totally hooked!

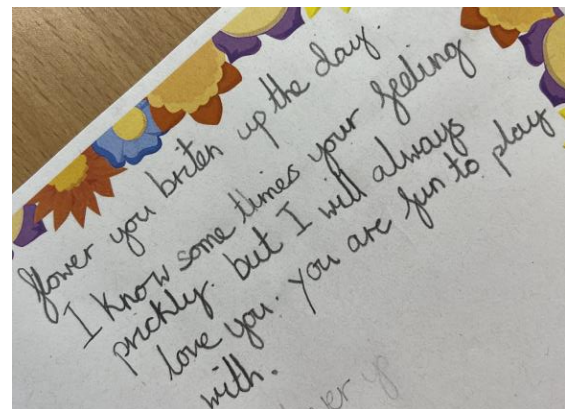
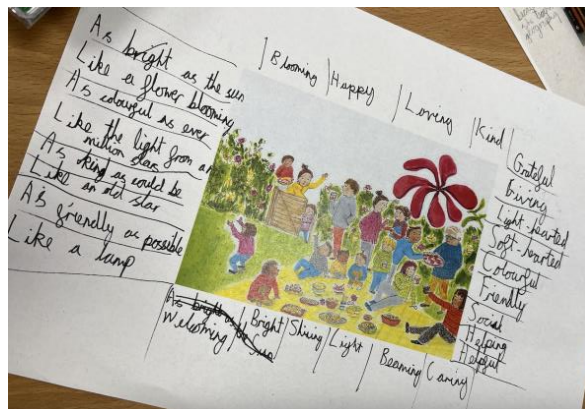
Our whole school text for this year's World Book Day was called Bloom by Anne Booth. We read the story, unpicking key themes and making predictions throughout.



We then plotted the emotion of the old man from the beginning to the end of the story. At first, he was lonely, unkind and very unhappy. At the end of the story, with some help from a little girl he becomes happier, friendlier and much more welcoming. We explored the reasons for why the man may be feeling the way he was. My favourite comment of the day was: "We can tell the girl is nice because she shows kindness to the old man even though he was cruel to her. It is important to be kind because no one knows what's going on inside."

The story focusses around a flower and the environment in which it needs in order to grow. We discussed what we need in order to "bloom" and created our own flower, unique to us. Around it, we wrote positive affirmations to ourselves.

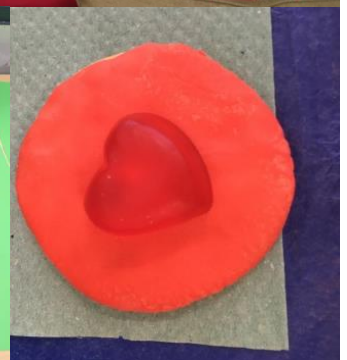
We sequenced the events of the story. Then rewrote the story "Bloom", changing it from a picture book into more of a narrative. In Year 4, we have developed a lot of writing techniques that we can use to hook and engage the reader. Watch this space, we have a few budding authors in the making!



BASC

The children in Before and After School Club created an amazing valentines display. They have been trying new craft ideas and decorated some heart biscuits.

Before and After School Club can be booked through the My Child at School App.

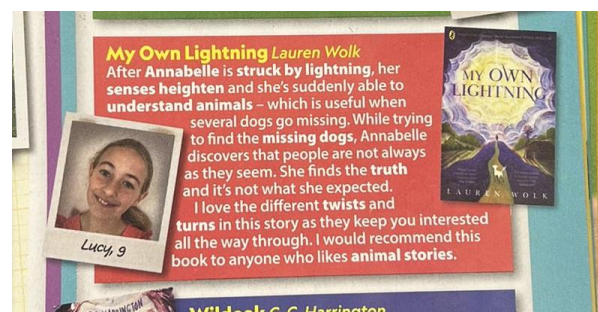


Pupil Achievement

A big well done to Seren who competed in the Regional Qualifier trampolining competition and came in first place! Earlier in February she also competed in the North Grade 5 Gymnastics competition representing Wansbeck Gymnastics and Trampoline Club and came 3rd on bars and 6th overall.

Congratulations to John, the man of the match for Morpeth Town Juniors!

Lucy wrote a book review and got her photo published in the latest edition of National Geographic Kids. Well done Lucy!



Upcoming Diary Dates

March	
Tuesday 7th	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 8th	Parent Consultations
Friday 17th	Red Nose Day
Thursday 22nd	Year 3 Visit to Housesteads Roman Fort (a letter will be sent home soon)
Friday 31st	School closes at 15:15 for Easter
April	
Monday 17th	School recommences
Wednesday 26th	Year 4 leave for Robinwood
Friday 28th	Year 4 return from Robinwood
May	
Monday 1st	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 8th	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Friday 26th May	Class Photos School closes at 15:15 for half term

Community News

Our School Uniform Bank at Stobhill Link is very well used. We collect and give out good quality pre-loved school uniform for the Morpeth Schools: saving people money and preventing waste.

We are very short of **Stobhillgate tops – polos, jumpers and cardigans** - and would be grateful for any donations. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm including the school holidays.

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