



MORPETH  
*Stobhillgate*  
FIRST SCHOOL

# May Newsletter

Welcome to our May newsletter! This month's edition is packed with exciting updates on what has been going on in school life. I would like to, congratulate Mr Henderson and the Year 4 football team who are currently on a winning streak! The team celebrated a 2-1 win away at Abbeyfields last week and a 4-1 win against St Roberts yesterday. I was blown away by their teamwork, work ethic, skill and sportsmanship. Keep up the good work!

On Monday 15th, our school choir put their brilliant weekly rehearsals and extra lunchtime rehearsals into play as they performed in Morpeth's One Big Performance at Newminster Middle School.

There were many other schools performing too throughout the day - singing and instrumental groups. It was a wonderful event. When it was our choir's

turn, we absolutely lifted the roof and the children absolutely shone like diamonds....which was one of our fantastic songs on the day! Well done to each and every one of you for being beyond amazing!

Can I once again congratulate Mrs MacAndrews on her new Deputy Head Teacher job, it is very much well deserved and I know she will do a brilliant job. As a result of this appointment, we will be now advertising for a new teacher to join our team in

September.

As usual, the final half-term of the year is going to be action-packed! Sports days, concerts, transition events, operas and much more! We are just waiting for a few dates to be confirmed and we will share all these dates and times with you on the first week back.

I hope you have a lovely half-term and let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Many thanks

Glen Whitehead





## EYFS

The children in Early Years have been enjoying spending more time outdoors, especially in our builders yard. The children have enjoyed using the new tools to plan, design and build, all while working collaboratively with their friends. In the Mud Kitchen we have designed new menus, cooked a range of recipes and served them to our friends. We found lots of bugs and insects all around the Mud kitchen too!

This half term in literacy, both Nursery and Reception have had traditional tales as their core texts. In Nursery this was Jack and the Beanstalk. The children found a beanstalk growing in their classroom and found that it had started to grow from a seed. During Forest Friday's they continued to explore and investigate seeds, planting their own beans to grow at home.

Reception have been focusing on the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bear, thinking about where Goldilocks went after she ran away from the Three Bears Cottage. They made wanted posters and created their own map of Fairytale land to help them track Goldilocks down. On Forest Fridays, Reception has investigated how some of our food grows. They looked inside different fruits and vegetables to find seeds and compared these. They then planted different vegetables in the Reception garden and they are currently looking after them daily to see if they grow into vegetables.



## Year 1

Year 1 have been busy with some wonderful work in the last few weeks. We have been outdoors creating temporary sculptures, inspired by our work on Andy Goldsworthy. Check out some of the wonderful uses of nature to create swirls and circles.

In English we have been learning about warning stories. Our text warns the characters to not go near the river, in Carlisle Park. But they don't listen and get into danger!! The children have created wonderful actions and expression to compliment the story map and their writing has been developing with the use of adjectives, including superlative and comparative adjectives.

In Maths we have been getting to grips with the basics of multiplication, by learning to count and group in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have enjoyed making kites and arrays with toys to help us in this unit of work.

In Science we have been experimenting with parts of plants. Our plants had a part taken away and we have been observing them closely over the past 2 weeks so see if it can survive without it - roots, stem, leaves, flower. Sadly some of our plants have not made it, but we have also had some surprising results too!

In Geography we have had a rubber duck race in our Year 1 garden with water and gutters. This helped us to embed our new river vocabulary really well!



## Year 2

I would like to start by saying how very proud I am of each and every child in Year 2. They have worked exceptionally hard all year; however I was blown away by how focused, determined and calm they were as we completed the SATs over the last few weeks. What a class full of super stars I have!

In the classroom, we have been writing warning tales in English. We have used the model text 'Man Mountain' and created our own setting descriptions. After the break we will be using these to write our very own 'warning tale'. In maths, we have completed our unit on fractions. The children have loved sharing the whole into the different groups, and can now confidently identify the numerator, vinculum and denominator. After the holiday we will be starting our next unit on time. If you are able, it would be really helpful to start referring to the time on any clocks that you have around your house.



During DT week Year 2 worked hard to design, make and review a 'healthy' wrap. The children selected healthy fillings for their wrap to ensure a balanced diet and then made these two be shared with the rest of the school as part of King Charles' Coronation.

We were successful in winning the attendance award this half term, so we enjoyed eating croissants and watching a movie on Wednesday afternoon. This was a perfect treat to end a very busy and hardworking half term! I hope you have a lovely week off, and I look forward to welcoming the children back for our final half term!



### **Year 3**

It has been wonderful to get to know the children in Class 3. What a gorgeous bunch of little humans! I'm learning new things each day about each child in my class and they have welcomed me with kindness to the Stobhillgate team - Mrs Carter.

Year Three has had a fabulous half-term. By far the most exciting thing has been our day celebrating the King's coronation where the whole school made a feast of food and smoothies to have together for a picnic after our march around the field and singing the national anthem. Our class made pizza! Everyone made one and I was extremely proud of their organisation, teamwork and for some - newly learnt chopping skills. What a superb job they did - they tasted yummy!

In English, we have completed our unit learning about explanation texts and have been writing about keeping our teeth healthy. The children have written some superb explanations remembering to use time adverbials, rhetorical questions and a 3-part structure. They tried their best with their handwriting and it looks beautiful!

In Reciprocal Reading, we have been reading Charlotte's web and answering questions around it. The children have enjoyed this story despite a sad ending which brought a tear or two to some - a sign they were hooked to the story and had empathy with the character's feelings.

In maths, we have been learning about mass & capacity where the children have used scales to practically weigh different foods to help aid learning around grams and kilograms. They loved doing this. Next half-term, we are going to learn about fractions, time and money.

In PE we have loved being outside for our lessons and have even had a bit of sunshine! We have been learning different cricket skills and the children have had fun doing this.

I'm excited to see what the next half-term brings but in the meantime, I wish you a happy and restful holiday!



## Year 4

We have thoroughly enjoyed the topics studied this half term!

In History, we have been learning about prehistory, working like archaeologists to discover information about the past and the way people lived in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age.

In Science, Mrs Moore has been teaching us all about electricity. We have really enjoyed working scientifically to build circuits and to identify problems within a circuit.

In one of our experiments, we created a human circuit! When we all joined hands, the energy stick lit up and made a noise. When there was a break in the circuit, the energy stick stopped. We tested different materials to see if they were good conductors.

We have been working hard to practice our times tables ahead of the multiplication check in June. Hard work and dedication have seen many of us fly up the leader board. Congratulations to Jacob, Caleb and Alexander who currently occupy the top of the leader board with the rock status: "Rock Legend". Huge well done to Hector who has the most improved score and is chasing their tails on "Rock Star" status!

This half term has been a sporty one in Year 4. The Year 4 football team celebrated a 2-1 win away at Abbeyfields last week and a 4-1 win against St Roberts yesterday.

As a school, we took part in walk to school week, our class achieving top of the leader board in school. We were thrilled to win and enjoyed an extra playtime as a reward!

On Wednesday, a group of Year 4 children competed at Chantry Middle School as part of the Quad Kids athletic festival, achieving 3rd place- Some excellent times, PBs and super sportsmanship demonstrated across schools.

Our team of Year 4's will now go forward to represent Morpeth and Ponteland at the Level 3 County finals. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing them the best of luck.



We have lots of exciting things to look forward to in our final half term at Stobhillgate – DT week; children’s countryside day at The Glendale Show, Lifepath at Brinkburn Priory, our camping trip to Hadrian’s Wall and our opera performance at Alnwick Playhouse to name but a few! I can’t quite believe our lovely Year 4’s are very nearly ready to fly the nest!

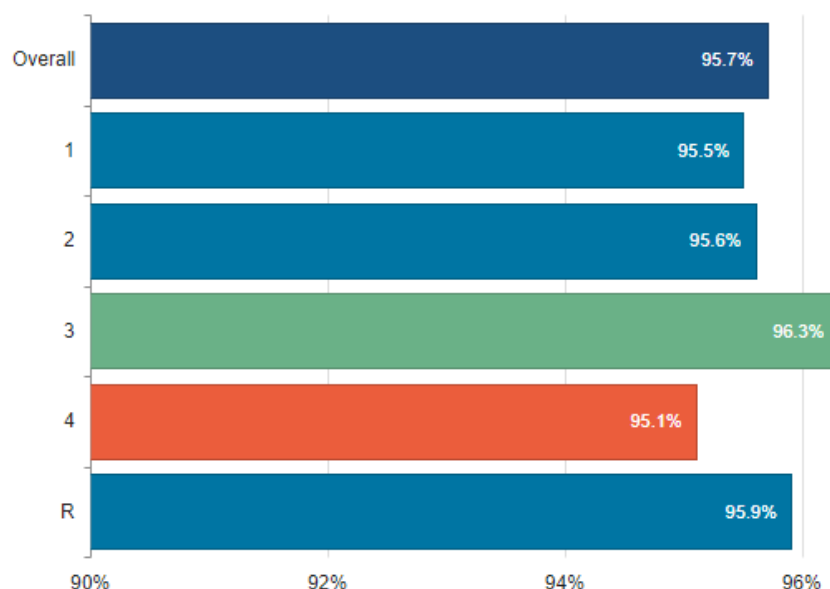


## Attendance

Can we reach 96% attendance by the end of summer?

We have seen some excellent progress with attendance recently and our 'late gate' with our Education Welfare Officer proved that, so thank you for your ongoing support to ensure your child gets the best possible start to their education by being in school on time and as much as possible. Our school target is to have 96% attendance overall, and you will see in the graph below we are very close to this. As ever if you have any concerns about attendance, please speak to Mr Henderson.

Overall



## Did you know Snap chat is age rated 13 +?

Recently we have seen an increase in inappropriate use of social media apps while children are using smartphones outside of school. There has been a direct correlation between this and now that Year Four children walk to school and bring phones with them. We have a very strong PSHE curriculum in school that has been developed to teach the child how to stay safe and act appropriately online, however like with any learning, this is a journey. Both as parents and school, we need to work together to ensure our children act responsibly online and stay safe. As a school we will be having even more of a focus on this over the summer, especially as our oldest children progress to Chantry and they become more independent.

You might be thinking this doesn't apply to you as your child doesn't have a phone, however the time will come when this will be a consideration. One consideration I would urge you to talk about as a family is whether a smartphone is appropriate, or a more simple mobile phone that only allows calls and texts which is perfect for communication with your child.

I have attached a link to the [NSPCC's website](#) and [Parent Zone](#) for some further guidance.



## BASC

The focus this half term in before and after school club has been nature and the coronation of King Charles III.





## Upcoming Diary Dates

<b>June</b>	
Monday 5th	School recommences
Thursday 8th	Y4 visit to the Glendale Show
Thursday 15 – Friday 16th	Y4 Camping at Hadrian’s Wall
Friday 16th	Reception visit to Morwick Dairy
Thursday 22nd	Y3 Camping on school site
Friday 23rd	Teacher Training Day (School Closed)
Monday 26th	Y4 visit to Brinkburn Priory for Lifepath
<b>July</b>	
Tuesday 4th	Y4 Big Sing Performance at Alnwick Playhouse
Thursday 6th – Friday 7th	Y4 Transition to Middle School
Friday 21st	School closes at 15:15 for summer