



MORPETH
Stobhillgate
FIRST SCHOOL

Autumn Newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and you are as pleased as I am about the term we have just had here in Stobhillgate First School.

When we think about Christmas, we think about friends and family and sharing quality time together doing the activities we enjoy. Speaking of family, here in school we see all of the children, staff, parents and carers as key parts to the Stobhill family. We all work together to ensure the children can be the best they can be in all areas of life. The relationship between school and parents is key to your child's success. Part of that relationship is attending events and performances in school and this half term has been rather special as we have had our Christmas Nativity shows. Some of you are attending these special performances for the first time and some of you for the last as

your children will be moving to middle school in the summer.

This time of year is also a time for reflection. While I was watching the performances this week I was able to look back over the last four years and it made me immensely proud to see our Year Four children stand up on that stage to sing and act with such confidence and gusto! The progress that those children have made to do that, when I look back to them being in my class in Year One was incredible. Everybody in the whole school was able to contribute to the performance in some way and that is what makes it special.

As we are soon to see in the New Year, this is also a time of change and there are to be some changes in school too. We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Gentry as our Reception teacher and Early Years lead. We also welcome Mrs Angus who will

be working alongside Mrs Gentry in Reception and with Mrs MacAndrews in Year Two. Our final welcome is to Mr Baker who will be working in our school office as business support.

As we welcome these new members of staff into school, we must of course say some goodbyes. Miss Ferries will be starting a new role within Cheviot Trust in January, so we must all thank her for her hard work and dedication to the school over the years. We are also sad to see Miss Wilkinson leave us as she pursues an exciting career with the NHS. She will be helping out in school for a few weeks in January before we say our final goodbye.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mr Henderson
Headteacher

EYFS

What a busy and exciting second half to the Autumn term! In Nursery, the children have spent time looking at the core book *The Gingerbread Man*. They found flour and crumbs all over the Nursery classroom which led to the oven. Inside we found gingerbread men and they smelt gorgeous. The gingerbread man that came to visit our classroom left us lots of ingredients: flour, sugar, golden syrup, ginger and butter. We decided that it would be fun to make our own gingerbread men. Once we made them we decorated them, using our amazing fine motor skills. They were so tasty!

Reception found an unusual box in their classroom one morning. It had words such as 'fragile' and 'handle with care' written on it, as well as a hole nibbled into the bottom. When we looked inside we realised it was Kipper's Toy box. We enjoyed exploring this story, retelling the story using actions and using our imagination to innovate the story to include a new toy.

After reading the story, *How to catch a star* by Oliver Jeffers, reception carried out an experiment to free the stars which had been frozen in ice. We put the ice blocks in four different places around our classroom; the cupboard, the fridge, the radiator and the shelf. We made predictions about where the ice would melt the quickest. We monitored each ice block closely, noting our observations every 20 minutes. In the end we found the radiator was the quickest place to melt the ice to free the stars.

In Nursery we have done many science experiments linking to *The Gingerbread Man*. In the story *The Gingerbread Man* uses the fox to help him cross over the water as he would dissolve. So we decided to test which liquid would be the best for the gingerbread man to cross over. We used 3 different liquids: water, milk and oil. Our prediction was that oil would not make the gingerbread dissolve. Our findings proved our prediction to be correct. Water made the gingerbread man look like porridge, milk made our gingerbread man a little soggy and oil kept our gingerbread man intact and created a layer over him. We have had so much fun doing experiments this half term to help us understand the world around us.

The children in Early Years have had a very special time celebrating Christmas at school. It was fantastic to see parents and grandparents come to join us for a Winter stay and play session. It was a perfect time to start the festive celebrations, decorating the tree together, making baubles for the tree and made even more festive with the perfectly timed snowfall! When the snow came, early years made the most of it! We had a fantastic time playing in the snow, making snow angels, snowball fights and even building mini-snowmen.

We also had the arrival of our class elves. The children have thoroughly enjoyed looking for them each morning, and will certainly miss the elves when they return to the North Pole. The festivities continued with a Christmas yoga session with Debbie. The children enjoyed listening to the story of the Innkeeper and the noisy night as part of their yoga session.

The children across Early Years spent a lot of time preparing for our special Nativity performance. It was exciting to welcome parents and carers to watch the performance. We are incredibly proud of how hard all the children have worked



and they certainly put on an excellent show. It has been a super end to the year with Christmas dinner and Jumper day, a trip on the Polar Express and a visit from Santa. EYFS wish you a very Happy Christmas!!



Year 1

This half term in Year 1 has been jam packed with lots of excellent learning.

In English we learned that Rainbow Fish have been spotted in the River Wansbeck. We learned all about information texts through this exciting occurrence. We watched a news story all about it, learned some very ambitious vocabulary and have written some amazing information texts of our own about fantasy creatures.

In Maths we are now super stars at addition and subtraction and naming 2D and 3D shapes. We have really enjoyed making patterns and using our number skills to solve real life problems.

In history we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We know what happened to make the fire start, how long it lasted and the impact it had on London. We really enjoyed comparing old and new firefighting equipment.

In Science we have learned about grouping animals into reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals and birds. We are very knowledgeable about why each animal would be grouped into each category. We are loving wearing our lab coats for science lessons, to feel like real scientists. We particularly enjoyed the week where we crafted our own reptiles!

In music we have been learning to play the glockenspiel. This has involved reading some simple notes on a staff, playing in time, keeping a steady beat and playing in unison.

In computing we have been learning about algorithms. We had to colour in a picture on the computers, following instructions, like computers follow instructions to carry out tasks. We have also been collecting and representing data as pictograms using the computers too!

In PE we have really enjoyed using the big gymnastics equipment and making floor sequences too. Alongside this we have been developing our multiskills and used these to compete in sporting games against Abbeyfields School at the PE festival last week at Chantry. Our class showed super sportsmanship to others throughout the festival.

I was so proud of our little angels in the Christmas performance this week. Their singing and dancing was super! Well done for getting up on the stage with such confidence and enthusiasm.

The children are still working hard this week, even though their excitement is growing so much for Christmas. I hope you all have the most wonderful time over the Christmas holidays. You all deserve it!



Year 2

We have had a very busy time in Year 2!

The highlight this half term was definitely our recent trip to Beamish, where the children were impeccably behaved. This trip linked directly to our History unit of learning about **Homes over the last 500 years**. While there, we visited a Victorian cottage. A lady showed us around her home, and we helped with a wide range of domestic tasks including: polishing brass, ironing, sweeping and beating rugs. At the end of the session, we handled interesting unknown objects and discussed their use.



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!

We have since completed a recount linked to our trip to Beamish. We thought about the main events of the day, and included our toolkit features into an accurate, sequenced and detailed recount which we innovated to become a visit to a theme park.

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!

Following this, we completed a unit on shape. The children are really enjoying building on their learning from year 1, and I was so delighted to see their enthusiasm in the lessons.

Finally, I am so proud of how hard the children have been working to learn all of their songs and dances for the Christmas performance, they were all brilliant throughout rehearsals, and of course during the performances! I wish you all a lovely break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Year 3

The second half of the Autumn term has been an exciting and very busy one! I can say with great pride that the children in Year 3 continue to work with enthusiasm, positivity and determination.

Charlotte's Web, our reciprocal reading book, has proved to be a big hit this term and we loved finding out about the adventures of Wilbur the pig, Templeton the rat and of course Charlotte herself! Our writing lessons have also featured a variety of animals. The children wrote their own 'rags to riches' story using the book *Cloud Tea Monkeys* as an inspiration, and more recently have loved finding out about the mysterious golden-lacquered magpie. Just before Christmas, they wrote their own newspaper reports about the sighting of an unusual animal in the local area.

Maths lessons have focused on multiplying and dividing with the numbers 3, 4 and 8. The children are beginning to be able to recall the times tables for these numbers, and can apply this knowledge to real-world questions relating to money and sharing. *Times Tables Rock Stars* continues to support the work that we do in school, and the children will be participating in a new scheme of work after Christmas that provides them with additional daily times tables activities. We look forward to seeing how this scheme promotes times tables fluency as the children prepare for Year 4.

Our Science lessons this half term have been all about rocks. The children have learnt how to describe and categorise rocks, how rocks can be formed in three main ways and how fossils are created. Our soil investigation was a particular highlight, with some children even finding some unexpected creepy crawlies in their sample of soil!

We visited South America in our Geography lessons. We learnt about the countries in South America, how many of them contain part of the Amazon Rainforest and how this area of incredible beauty and significance is sadly under threat from human activities across the globe.

Other highlights this term have included the designing of 'spoof' websites in computing lessons, fantastic castle-building during design & technology week, completing a number of multi-skills challenges in PE lessons and of course our wonderful clog dancing sessions!

I hope everybody has a fantastic Christmas and I look forward to seeing the children of Year 3 again in 2024!



Year 4

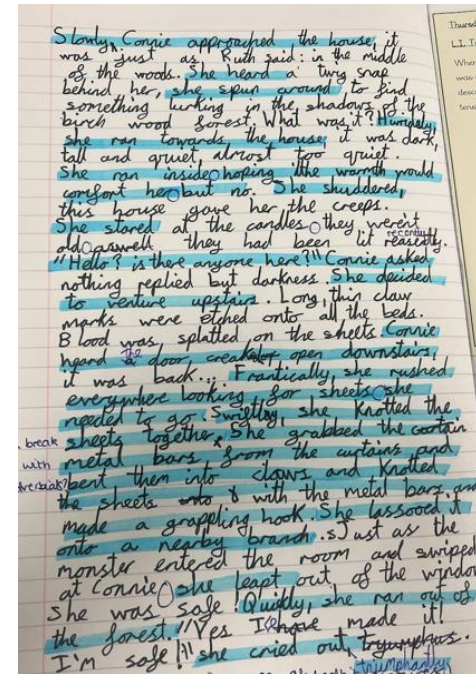
Wishing all of you a happy and healthy Christmas from Year 4!

The last few weeks have been full of festive joy at school...

Last week, Year 4 visited Sanderson's 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 joined us to sing along! Thanks to kind donations we raised £145.61 for some new playground equipment.

We also visited residents at Hepscott care home on Wednesday, singing traditional carols as well as some songs from this year's play: A Midwife Crisis. I'm sure you can agree that Year 4 did an amazing job with taking the lead in our Christmas performance!

We have continued to work hard in all subjects but have especially enjoyed our writing unit focussing on warning tales. We have learned how to effectively build suspense into our writing through a range of techniques such as rhetorical questions which leave the reader thinking and short, impactful sentences to hook the reader in and advance the action.



In Geography, we have been studying countries in Europe. We were especially interested in learning about Northern Europe and how life can be very different in other parts of Europe. Did you know that Longyearben in Svalbard, is the most northern point on Earth and they experience something called the Polar Night? The Polar Night usually lasts from November to February and as the name suggests; people there experience total darkness during this time. Svalbard is also a location where you are likely to see the Aurora Borealis more clearly – We were fascinated by the phenomenon of the Northern Lights and this inspired our Christmas Calendars this year.

In another lesson, we were trusted with supporting a police investigation! We needed to use our knowledge of central Europe to help with a missing persons investigation!



This has become an international search. Countries across Europe are searching for Tony and they need your help in limiting the search.

In today's lesson you will be provided with evidence to help you file a report suggesting where you think Tony may be along the course of the River Danube. The Danube is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia. It flows through much of Central and South Eastern Europe.



In Maths, our focus has been on multiplication and division. The introduction of the Numbersense approach to teaching tables is already showing children making excellent progress; through daily practice of our times table facts, we are gaining fluency and becoming really quick with our recall of times table facts. We still enjoy practicing daily on Times

Tables Rockstars - Huge congratulations to Libby and to Summer who have reached the top status of: Rock Hero on our leader board. Rock Hero status is defined as 1 second per question or less with 60+ correct answers a minute! An incredible achievement.

Next half term, we continue to look at multiplication and division before moving on to length and perimeter and later in the term, fractions.

Pupil Achievements

Well done to Catrin and Seren who have been competing in trampolining competitions. We are very proud of them representing the school at such a high level! Seren won their category of the competition and will progress to the next round in Wakefield in February.

Congratulations to Poppie who was awarded her 10m swimming badge!

Well done to Fae with her impressive results from a dancing competition!

Annabel received her tap dancing primary level 1 award – Well done Annabel!



Diary Dates

December	
Friday 22nd	EYFS Christmas Party (AM) KS1 Christmas Party (PM) School closes for Christmas (15:15)
January	
Monday 8th	School recommences

Community News

Bloom Baby classes are coming to
Stobhillgate First School!

Classes will run on Wednesday mornings in our performing arts hub, starting with a launch session on 3rd January 2024.

For more information, please contact Jennifer on the contact details below.



Classes across Northumberland and Tyneside

BLOOM BABY CLASSES

WWW.BLOOMBABYCLASSES.COM

@BLOOMNORTHUMBERLANDANDTYNESIDE

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A great way to help your child's development

Classes at **Stobhillgate First School, Morpeth**

Saturday mornings

18 months - 6 years old

free taster session

come and join in the fun!

sophie.elliottedwards@didirugby.com tel: 07837111239

www.didirugby.com f didi rugby Newcastle and North East

Jan 2024: fresh start

Free

Learn together at home



Family Hubs now offer group guidance in the comfort of your own home. So busy dads, mums and carers don't miss out on learning life and self-help skills.

"I feel like have more confidence, it was really well delivered by the lovely family hub staff, I logged on at home in my PJ's. I enjoyed listening to other points of view. I was reassured that I am not alone."



HENRY 5 - 13 years.
Time for parents and carers to concentrate on yourselves and create a healthier lifestyle. Receive a free toolkit. 1.5 hours x 8 weeks

9:00 - 11:30
8th January

HENRY 0-5
Become confident parents, learn about physical activity, what we eat, lifestyle habits and enjoying life as a family. Receive a free toolkit.

1.5 hours x 8 weeks

15th January,
13:00 - 14:30



The Incredible Years
For parents who want support - to meet the needs of their children aged 1-6 years.

The group provides a supporting and nurturing space for parents to meet other parents and carers, discuss concerns and learn new skills.

1 hour x 10 weeks

7pm - 8pm
17th January



oneplusone Relationship workshop for parents who are together or separated. Manage stress and communicate better.

Help your relationship and your children. (You do not attend the same group as your partner or Ex)

1 hour x 3 weeks

7:30 - 8:30pm
17 & 18th January

Dadtalk



For soon-to-be Dad's Partners welcome. Find out about the skills you'll need as a new dad.

Practical, honest sessions giving advice, tips and celebrating dads. Text 07729 080 263 your name and email to be invited to the online workshop

6:30-8pm weekdays or Saturdays

REGISTER NOW

1. GO TO : www.familyhubsnorthumberland.co.uk/register
2. SELECT: 'take me to referral form'
3. Add 'learn from home & name of course' in the comments
4. A Family Hub worker will contact you



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