



# Stamfordham Primary School

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17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate what a fantastic start to the year it's been. Our pupils have shown incredible enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness in everything they've done — from embracing new learning challenges to supporting one another across the school. It's been wonderful to see their hard work and positive attitude shine through each day, and we couldn't be prouder of all they've achieved so far.

This week, as part of Walk to School Month, our focus has been on the theme "*Be Bright, Be Seen.*" We've been learning all about how to stay safe when it's dark, especially during those early morning and evening journeys. Highlights of the week included fun and engaging lessons on visibility, a lively Funky Feet Parade celebrating bright and bold socks, and creative activities where pupils made their own reflective items to help them stand out in the dark. It's been a bright and brilliant week full of learning and fun!

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

## **The last 2 weeks in school**

### **Early Years**

We have had an action-packed couple of weeks in Early Years! We thoroughly enjoyed our Stay and Play session, which was an opportunity for parents to see our Early Years Unit and take part in some shared activities with the children. We were so pleased to have a special visit from a team of fire fighters from Ponteland Fire Station who let us sit in the fire engine and explained what their job entails. We have also been lucky enough to meet some police officers who let us try on some hi-vis jackets and helmets. The children asked some fantastic questions and loved exploring the vehicles!

We have spent quite a bit of time learning all about our school values – Resilient, Ambitious and Nurturing and adding pom poms to our class pots whenever we show these qualities. Once one of the pots is full, we'll enjoy a well-earned treat-not long to go now! One of our favourite activities is meeting up with our Class 4 buddies who joined us for a lovely calming yoga session. Woodwork is an activity we usually save for later in the year as it's important that everyone stays safe, but because the children are so sensible we thought we'd make a start. So far, we have practised hammering nails, using screwdrivers and even tried out the hand drill!

Our class book, A Little Bit Brave which is all about two rabbits called Luna and Logan has helped us to learn lots of exciting new vocabulary and talk about what it means to be brave. Finally, we had a very sparkly science moment when Miss Phillipson demonstrated how germs spread with her huge glittery sneeze!

## Class 2

Class 2 have been working extra hard in maths, grasping addition and subtraction using an array of practical tools. We are particularly proud of how confident they are becoming during our whole class sessions in maths at sharing their answers and how they are able to explain how they arrived at their answers.

They are also enjoying sharing their experiences about forgiveness in R.E, we have very kind and thoughtful children in class two! we are so proud of all their achievements this half term.

## Class 3

We've had another fun and busy week in Class 3! Here's a little peek into what we've been learning. We've been diving into column addition and subtraction over the last few weeks – with and without exchanging. The children are doing brilliantly learning how to line up digits carefully and work step by step. In Science, we have continued to explore living things and their habitats and the children are full of brilliant questions! So far, we've looked at: animal classification, whether or not our school site is a habitat and how we can help to protect habitats to avoid them being destroyed. We've been getting creative in art and diving into the colourful world of Paul Cézanne. The children have loved exploring his style and having a go at creating their own masterpieces inspired by his work. We've been experimenting with a variety of media, including oil pastels, watercolours and soft chalks. I will be uploading some of their artwork to our Facebook page next week! 😊 Well done Class 3!

## Class 4

Class 4 have continued to work hard this half term. In Science, we have carried out lots of investigations to investigate solubility, dissolving and separating different materials. There has been lots of tricky vocabulary to learn but we have approached it with determination and enthusiasm. We can now explain how to set up a fair test, identify the independent and dependent variables and also state which variables need to be controlled to ensure our results are accurate.

In Maths, we have been working on our mental arithmetic skills, making sure we work quickly but also remembering to check our answers. We can see a massive improvement already, well done Class 4! Last Friday, we took part in a buddy yoga session as part our 'Hello Yellow Day' celebrations. This was so much fun and another opportunity for Class 4 to support the younger children in school. They are so kind and nurturing and act as great role models.

## **Staffing Update**

On Wednesday, we say goodbye to Miss Finney, who has been teaching in Class 2 in Mrs Charleton's absence. Miss Finney has been a fantastic member of the SPS team and we are sorry to see her go. We will still see her in school as she has agreed to come back and provide cover when needed.

We welcome Mrs Charleton back after the half term break. I am sure you will agree that it will be lovely to see her back in school. Mrs Charleton will teach in Class 2 with Mrs Gray for the remainder of this academic year.

## **Harvest Festival and The People's Kitchen**

Pupils (Reception - Year 6) will be attending St. Mary's Church on Monday 20th October to celebrate Harvest. The children have been practising Harvest songs for the occasion and parents/ carers and families are very welcome to attend at 9.30am.

We will also be collecting food donations for the People's Kitchen again this year. We will be accepting food items from now until the afternoon of Monday 20th October.

Many thanks in advance for your continued support.

### **Earrings**

A gentle reminder that if earrings are worn in school, they should be small studs. No earrings are permitted on swimming or PE days. This is to ensure the safety of your child and other pupils.

### **Hello Yellow Day**

We had a fantastic day in school last Friday to mark World Mental Health Day. The children looked amazing in their bright outfits and classes took part in a range of activities across the day including buddy yoga, mindfulness activities and Banksy-inspired art work. We also raised a total of £69 for YOUNGMINDS, thank you to everybody for your donations.

### **Attendance**

Our attendance for the current academic year is currently 98.3% (our target is 97%). A huge thank you to you all for supporting school ensuring pupils are attending school regularly.

### **School Lunches**

Week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Week 2

Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Week 3

**The dinner menus are available on the school website. – new menu will start W/C 10<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:**

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Harvest Festival 9.30am – People's Kitchen Donations</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Swimming for Years 3 &amp; 4</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>PE with Mr Thompson</b> Tag Rugby – Year 1, 2 and 3 <b>(6 of 6)</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Yoga - Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 <b>(5 of 5)</b> <b>Village Walk (all classes)</b>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Music with Mr Radford</b> <b>School closes for half term</b>

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<b>Teacher Training Day – School closed to pupils</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Swimming for Years 3 &amp; 4</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>PE with Mr Thompson</b>

	Tag Rugby – Year 4, 5 and 6 <b>(1 of 6)</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Yoga - Reception, Year 4, 5 and 6 <b>(1 of 6)</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Music with Mr Radford</b>

**Upcoming Dates:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	School Photographs
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime at The Tyne Theatre (Years 1-6)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December (approx. 2pm)	Early Years and Class 2 performance
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime at The Queen's Hall (Early Years)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day / Santa Dash
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Church Service at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (approx. 2pm)	Class 3 and 4 performance
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)	Christmas Party
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>School closes for the Christmas break at 1.15pm (there will be no Kidzone after school but breakfast club will run as usual)</b>