



Stamfordham Primary School

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7th November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

We enjoyed having all our pupils back to school this week after the half term break and it was lovely to see them return full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. It was lovely to welcome Mrs Charleton back in school this week following her maternity leave. She has settled back into school well and the staff and pupils have enjoyed having her back.

With Christmas less than 7 weeks away, we are already looking forward to the festive season and all the exciting things we will be doing in school, but there's still plenty to enjoy before then!

In our whole-school assembly this week, we have been finding out about Guy Fawkes and the history behind Bonfire Night. We've also been talking about how to stay safe while enjoying the fireworks and bonfires – a timely reminder as families get ready to mark the occasion.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

The last 2 weeks in school

Early Years

What a fantastic first week back we've had in Early Years! We've been super busy helping with the village bonfire celebrations — we've got the special yearly job of making the Guy, and the children have done an amazing job! We've also created some brilliant firework art! The children have heard how important it is to stay safe when they are celebrating and have learnt some sensible rules to follow on Bonfire Night.

We've jumped straight into our new topic: Animals and Their Habitats. This week, we've been learning all about polar animals — did you know that penguins huddle together to share body heat and protect each other from the freezing weather?

Our Preschool children have started their new core book, *Where's Spot?*, and they're absolutely loving it! They've also been joining in beautifully with our new core rhyme, *I'm a Little Hedgehog*. Reception's core book is called *Anna Hibiscus*, which is all about a little girl and the adventures she has with her extended family.

We celebrated Diwali, The Festival of Lights by listening to the story of Rama and Sita and the terrifying ten-headed demon, Ravana. We also made some beautiful clay diyas, used sequins and buttons to make rangoli patterns and danced with scarves to Diwali music.

Reception are very excited because they are close to learning all the set 1 sounds and ask for a new sound every day! We are blending lots of the sounds we have learnt so far into words, such as hat, lock, ship and although this is really tricky to do, we are beginning to get the hang of it! In maths, we have been sequencing activities and focusing on numbers 0-5 by finding parts of a number, then the whole number. Our P.E focus this term is dodgeball which we are really enjoying, although we have been trying hard not to be hit by The Killer Ball because that would mean our whole team would be out of the game!

Class 2

It has been lovely seeing our Class 2 pupils return to school so cheerful and excited for our new Autumn 2 topics- we have had a fantastic first week back! In Science, we have moved on to 'Seasonal changes' with a focus on autumn and winter. Children will be considering how animals and humans survive in winter as well as thinking about what we wear and do in the colder months compared to the other seasons. In English, our focus book for the new couple of weeks will be 'Cottonwool Colin', children will be thinking of and writing sentences to describe the very little mouse Colin as well as some other characters in the story and will be including our key vocabulary from the story in their sentences. We will be continuing to work hard on our handwriting as well as spellings; we have seen lots of progress already since the start of the school year and look forward to seeing more! Great job Class 2- keep up the amazing work!

Class 3

It's been another fun-filled week in Class 3! The children absolutely loved their first PE session back with Mr Thompson, who has introduced us to a brand-new dodgeball unit — complete with his set of luminous coloured dodgeballs! The games have been fast, exciting, and a great way to build teamwork, reactions, and plenty of laughter. In Science, we've been exploring light sources and thinking about how light helps us see. We carried out a task where the children had to design a zoo enclosure for a nocturnal animal, considering how to stop light pollution to ensure our animal felt comfortable. There were some fantastic ideas. In Maths, we've begun our new multiplication and division unit. We're focusing on building strong number sense — recognising equal groups, using arrays, and spotting patterns in times tables. Any extra practice at home (especially on Times Tables Rock Stars!) would be wonderful. It's been great to see so much enthusiasm and curiosity across all subjects this week. Well done, Class 3!

Class 4

Class 4 have returned to school well-rested and ready for action, full of enthusiasm and smiles! In English, the children have been using their Chrome pads to research key aspects of World War II, including evacuation, the blackout, the Blitz, food and rationing, and wartime propaganda. They have been taking great care with their notes, as these will be used to write a non-chronological report in preparation for reading our new core text *Friend or Foe*. In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, focusing on simplifying using common factors and finding equivalent fractions on a number line, while also improving our speed and accuracy in daily mental arithmetic with the help of a timer. In Geography, we have started our new topic on climate change, exploring the difference between weather and climate and identifying where different climate zones such as temperate, arid and polar can be found on a world map. Across all subjects, we are focusing on improving presentation and taking care to produce our very best work.

Children in Need

We will be fundraising for Children in Need on Friday 14th November. Children are invited to come to school that day wearing Pyjamas or comfy clothes for a £1 donation. If pupils also have Pudsey merchandise (e.g. Pudsey ears), they are more than welcome to bring them to school.

School Council pupils are organising the game 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar'. If your child would like to have a go, please send in an additional 50p per guess.

Many thanks for your support!

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to Patsi (Harlowe and Mikey's Mum) for sending in reflectors for all our pupils before the half term break. These linked in with our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' work and were a lovely treat for the children leading up to Halloween.

Picnic Benches

Some of our outdoor seating was beyond repair so we were delighted when 4 new picnic benches were delivered before the half term break. A huge thank you to Egger UK, Jackson's Timber, Goodfellow's Eggs and Friends of Stamfordham for making this happen.

School Photos

A reminder that Unscripted Photography will be in school on Monday 10th November to take individual and sibling school photos.

Friends AGM

Our AGM will take place in school at 6pm on Thursday 13th November. Friends support the school across the year, providing support at school events and raising funds which support resources and additional opportunities for all our pupils. Recent projects have funded our fantastic outdoor learning space and ICT resources which have benefitted our current cohorts and will continue to benefit pupils for years to come. It would be lovely to see both existing members and new faces at the meeting. Any support you can offer, no matter how small, will make a difference.

Walk to School Week Homework

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our 'Walk to School Week' homework. Well done to everybody who took part, we are so proud of your efforts. Prizes will be handed out next week.

School Lunches

Week commencing 10th November 2025 – Week 1 new menu

Week commencing 17th November 2025 – Week 2 new menu

The dinner menus are available on the school website.

Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:

Monday 10 th November	
Tuesday 11 th November	Swimming for Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 12 th November	PE with Mr Thompson Tag Rugby – Year 4, 5 and 6 (2 of 6) Craft Club – Year 1 and 2 (1 of 4)
Thursday 13 th November	Yoga – Year 4, 5 and 6 (2 of 6)
Friday 14 th November	Music with Mr Radford

Monday 17 th November	Christmas Choir Club – Year 3 – 6 (1 of 4)
Tuesday 18 th November	Swimming for Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 19 th November	PE with Mr Thompson Tag Rugby – Year 4,5 and 6 (3 of 6) Craft Club – Year 1 and 2 (2of 4)
Thursday 20 th November	Yoga – Year 4, 5 and 6 (3 of 6)
Friday 21 st November	Music with Mr Radford

Upcoming Dates:

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