



Stamfordham Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

We saw the first winter snowfall this week and there were some very excited faces at the gate on Wednesday morning. With the weather turning colder, please ensure pupils have a warm coat as well as hats and gloves to wear over the colder months. Pupils can also come into school wearing boots or wellies and bring their shoes to change into if the weather is particularly wet, cold or snowy.

The festive period is fast-approaching and the excitement is building in school as we have begun rehearsals for our Christmas plays. These are big events in our school calendar and our pupils always amaze us with their confidence when singing, dancing and delivering their lines. We know that we will once again put on a fantastic show and we look forward to seeing you at these events over the next few weeks.

All the dates for our Christmas events are included at the end of this newsletter and we will send further information and reminders nearer the time.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

The last 2 weeks in school

Early Years

It has been a very busy and productive few weeks in Early Years. We've been exploring our senses - especially *taste*. Did you know we have around 10,000 taste buds on our tongues? The children tried sour, sweet, bitter and salty foods, and let's just say the lemon-tasting produced some *very* entertaining facial expressions! We have also been finding out about hearing by trying to identify different sounds and trying to work out which direction a sound is coming from whilst wearing a blindfold.

In our topic on animals and their habitats, we explored environments such as the jungle, Arctic, forest and desert. The children worked thoughtfully to match different animals to the habitat where they belong and enjoyed discussing what helps each animal survive there.

As part of Remembrance Day, we learned about the different colours of poppies and the meanings behind them. The children then created some beautiful poppy artwork using watercolours, finger painting and chalk pastels. They were amazing!

The Reception children are very excited because we have reached our final sound in Read, Write, Inc which means we are spending our time reading lots of words and will begin to read whole sentences very soon! In maths, they are also becoming experts at using a part, whole model to split numbers into smaller ones and use counters to represent the different objects they are counting.

We have also begun practising our Christmas play. The children are very enthusiastic about their parts and are already showing growing confidence and lovely performance skills. We are looking forward to sharing their hard work with you soon.

Class 2

We have had a fantastic two weeks in Class 2. We are in middle of our Great Fire of London topic which the children have all been engrossed in. On Tuesday we helped Pam in Thomas Farriner's 'Bakery' on Pudding Lane and baked some bread, we talked about how the fire started, what happened during the fire and why the fire spread so quickly. Thank you for the delicious bread Pam! In our maths lessons, we have started our new unit on shapes, looking at both 2D and 3D shapes and exploring their properties. In DT we have been learning how to make pictures move. So far, we have made sliding pictures and pivot pictures, I wonder which picture was their favourite to make? Finally, our Christmas performance rehearsals are in full swing, it is fantastic to see the children finding their confidence with dancing, speaking and singing parts. It is definitely getting us in the Christmas spirit!

Class 3

What an exciting week we've had in Class 3! In Geography, we've been exploring a world map and discovering some of the planet's most important imaginary lines. The children loved tracing the Equator and locating the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We then used this knowledge to dive into our next lesson on climate zones. The class compared polar, temperate and Mediterranean climates (as well as others) and had some great discussions about why different parts of the world feel so different. In English, we've been thoroughly enjoying our class book, Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure. We reached an especially dramatic cliff-hanger chapter this week, which sparked lots of brilliant ideas. The children have been writing story resolutions, imagining how the characters might escape danger or solve the mystery. Their creativity has been fantastic to see! We're looking forward to another great week of learning.

Class 4

There was a buzz of excitement this week as we started to rehearse for our Christmas play. Pupils have been given their lines and we have started to learn the songs that we will share with you later in the term. Any support to help your child learn their lines at home would be greatly appreciated.

In class, we have continued to work hard and we are delighted that the enthusiasm for learning and the strong desire to improve the handwriting and presentation has continued. In English, we have continued reading 'Friend or Foe' and last week, the pupils wrote a diary entry from the perspective of David, the main character in the book. The work was presented beautifully and we were very impressed with the use of vocabulary and punctuation.

In Science, we have continued looking at materials. We explored magnets and looked at how we use them in our everyday lives in hospitals and transport infrastructure. We have also explored how materials can change state and which changes are reversible / irreversible.

Children in Need

Last Friday, we had a fantastic day filled with fun and fundraising! Everyone came to school in their cosy pyjamas, and throughout the day we took part in a range of Children in Need-themed exercises and activities. A big well done to Joseph, who won our *Guess the Sweets in the Jar* competition! Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our school community, we raised an amazing **£145.13** for this wonderful cause.

NSPCC Assemblies

Speak out. Stay Safe assemblies will be delivered to all pupils in school next week.

Speak out. Stay Safe is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child-friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age-appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of NSPCC mascot buddy.

School Lunches

Week commencing 24th November 2025 – Week 3 new menu

Week commencing 1st December 2025 – Week 1 new menu

The dinner menus are available on the school website.

Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:

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| Monday 24 th November | Christmas Choir Club – Year 3 - 6 (2 of 4) Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights check School Choir and Stamfordham Singers ‘Happy Harmony’ concert at St Mary’s Church @ 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 25 th November | Swimming for Years 3 & 4 |
| Wednesday 26 th November | PE with Mr Thompson Tag Rugby – Year 4, 5 and 6 (4 of 6) Craft Club – Year 1 and 2 (3 of 4) |
| Thursday 27 th November | Yoga – Year 4, 5 and 6 (4 of 6) |
| Friday 28 th November | Music with Mr Radford |

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| Monday 1 st December | Christmas Choir Club – Year 3 – 6 (3 of 4) |
| Tuesday 2 nd December | Swimming for Years 3 & 4 |

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| Wednesday 3 rd December | PE with Mr Thompson Tag Rugby – Year 4,5 and 6 (5 of 6) Craft Club – Year 1 and 2 (4 of 4) |
| Thursday 4 th December | Yoga – Year 4, 5 and 6 (5 of 6) |
| Friday 5 th December | Music with Mr Radford Pantomime at Tyne Theatre (Years 1- 6) |

Upcoming Dates:

| Date | Event |
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| 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) |