



Stamfordham Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

As this is the first newsletter of 2026, let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year, we hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday. We were excited to welcome everyone back to school last week and we are looking forward to a fun-filled term ahead with lots of learning, laughter, and new adventures together.

Our School Council have already been back in action, setting up our new parking buddies as part of our 'Smarter Parking' campaign. We hope they remind the community to park safely and sensibly around our school. In assembly on Monday, we discussed other ways we can be more proactive in our community and we will seek to get these ideas up and running over the coming weeks.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

The last 2 weeks in school

Early Years

Early Years have had a great start back after Christmas and have settled quickly back into their routines. It has been lovely to hear how everyone celebrated.

In science, we have begun learning about light and dark and enjoyed creating our own shadow puppets. In geography, the children have started exploring hot and cold countries, locating them on the globe and learning new vocabulary such as *North Pole*, *South Pole* and *equator*. In history, we have been learning about the explorer Ernest Shackleton. In Computing, we have been making scarves for snowmen by designing and making repeated patterns.

Preschool have been especially enjoying their new core rhyme, *There's a Worm at the Bottom of My Garden*, mapping the rhyme using pictures and actions and even adapting it to include different animals. Reception's new core book is *Billy's bucket* and the children have enjoyed joining in with the story, drawing their own story maps to retell the story and have learnt lots of new vocabulary linked to the story.

Class 2

Class 2 have had a very busy and exciting two weeks of learning. In English, we started our new core book *The Squirrels Who Squabbled*, where we have been focusing on using the -ing and -ed suffixes correctly in our writing, as well as learning new and interesting vocabulary. In Maths, we have begun working on addition and subtraction using bridging, by making 10 and then adding on the remainder, using our number bonds to multiples of 10. In History, we launched our new topic on World War II, learning about important individuals and countries before exploring the experiences of evacuee children.

In Art, we have started creating earth art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, and this week we made our own wall sculptures using natural materials.

Class 3

It's been another lovely few weeks in Class 3, full of creativity, curiosity and some brilliant learning moments. The children have hit the ground running with their learning after the Christmas break. I've been especially impressed with the children's newspaper reports inspired by Fantastic Mr Fox. The reports were packed with great headlines, thoughtful detail and lots of imagination — the children really enjoyed stepping into the role of journalists and showing off their writing skills. In history, the class took on "A Day in the Life of an Ancient Egyptian" quiz, and they absolutely loved it. We've also kicked off our new art unit, exploring blow painting inspired by the work of artist Sarah Taylor. There's lots more creative mess (and learning!) to come.

Class 4

Class 4 returned in January ready for action after a well-earned rest! We have completed our unit of work based on the core text *Snow Sister*, where the children wrote engaging newspaper articles about the Lockwoods coming into a fortune, and we have continued to practise and improve our handwriting skills. In Maths, we have moved on to multiplying and dividing fractions by whole numbers and finding fractions of an amount, while also developing our mental arithmetic skills. We have been incredibly impressed by the children's enthusiasm for fractions and the hard work they have all put in. In RE, we explored the question "*Why do Hindus want to be good?*", studying the Hindu story of Creation, learning about the concepts of moksha and samsara, and looking at a story from their holy scriptures, the Mahabharata.

Meanwhile, Year 6 have been very busy completing assessments this week. They have all worked incredibly hard and done so well — good job, Year 6!

Mrs Black's Maternity Leave

Today is Mrs Black's final day in school before she begins her maternity leave. Hopefully, she will be able to enjoy some rest before the baby arrives. We look forward to sharing news of the new arrival in the coming weeks.

Staffing Update

Mrs Armstrong will be joining the Preschool team next week to cover Mrs Black's maternity leave. Mrs Armstrong has already spent a considerable amount of time in Early Years over the last few months and I know that the children will enjoy having her back in school.

We also welcome Miss Jefferson who has joined the team as a Teaching Assistant. She will be based mainly in Class 3 but will support our pupils across school throughout the week.

School Lunches

Week commencing 19th January 2026 – Week 3 new menu

Week commencing 26th January 2026 – Week 1 new menu

The dinner menus are available on the school website.

Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:

Monday 19 th January	Class 2 visit to St Mary's Church
Tuesday 20 th January	Swimming for Years 3 & 4 Holiday Club Extra
Wednesday 21 st January	PE with Mr Thompson Netball / Basketball (Year 4, 5 and 6) (3 of 6) Craft club (Year 3 & 4) (2 of 4)
Thursday 22 nd January	Science Club (Year 5 & 6) (2 of 4)
Friday 23 rd January	Music with Mr Radford

Monday 26 th January	
Tuesday 27 th January	Swimming for Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 28 th January	PE with Mr Thompson Craft Club (Year 3 & 4) (3 of 4) Netball / Basketball (Year 4, 5 and 6) (4 of 6)
Thursday 29 th January	Science Club (Year 5 and 6) (3 of 4)
Friday 30 th January	Music with Mr Radford

Upcoming Dates:

Date	Event
Friday 13 th February 2026	School closes for half term
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Teacher Training Day – school closed
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	School reopens to all pupils
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Professor Brainstorm Science visit
w/c 2 nd March 2026	Year 5 and 6 Bikeability week
Monday 30 th March at 9.30am	Easter Service at St Mary's Church
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	School closes for Easter
Monday 20 th April 2026	School reopens to all pupils
Thursday 30 th April 2026	Cricket sessions start (more info to follow)
w/c 11 th May 2026	Year 6 SATS assessment week
Friday 22 nd May 2026	School closes for half term
Monday 1 st June 2026	School reopens to all pupils
Tuesday 23 rd – Friday 26 th June 2026	London Trip – Year 5 and 6
Friday 17 th July 2026	School closes for the summer break 1.15pm