



Stamfordham Primary School

Stamfordham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE18 0NA

Tel: 01661 886358

Head Teacher: Lynsey Briddock

Email: admin@stamfordham.northumberland.sch.uk

Governing Body email: stamfordhamGB@gmail.com

Website: www.stamfordhamvillageschool.org.uk

30th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had another busy fortnight in school with so much happening in all classes. Thank you to all of our Early Years parents that joined us for 'Share a Skill' week. The children really enjoyed learning lots of new things, such as food preparation, how to stay safe on a mountain and first aid. Parents also read our home time stories across the week. On Thursday, Early Years then joined with Class 4 to share their own skills and we saw a range of talents from singing and dancing to poetry, stories, puppet shows, art and music. Stamfordham definitely has talent!

Class 2 visited St Mary's church where Revered Rachel kindly talked to the pupils about Baptism, while Class 3 and 4 took part in a contemporary dance workshop led by Dance City in Newcastle. It has certainly been a busy couple of weeks.

Work has also started this week on our outdoor reading shelter. Our pupils told us that they would love a quiet space outdoors where they can read at playtime, even in bad weather. Thanks to the continued fundraising efforts of Friends of Stamfordham, this project is now underway. The pupils have enjoyed watching the progress across the week and we can't wait to share some photos once it is completed.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

The last 2 weeks in school

Early Years

We have had a very busy and exciting two weeks in Early Years! In music, we've been developing our listening and attention skills with the help of our special friend, Goldie the dog. We listened carefully to different pieces of music, focusing on the beat, tempo and volume, and then matched our movements to the music by swaying, clapping and nodding along. In science, we kicked off our brand-new topic all about materials and their properties; things got very exciting when we made a volcano in our classroom! We loved watching how materials can change! As part of the Big Garden Birdwatch, we have drawn some beautiful garden birds with pencils, adding different materials for texture. These are now proudly displayed in our classroom, along with our snowdrop pictures which we created in the hope that we might start to see some very early signs of spring outside. This week was also 'Share a Skill' week, and what a treat it was! A huge thank you to all the parents who came in to share a skill or a story with us. We learnt how to make yummy fruit kebabs, practised first aid, and even found out about mountaineering. The children absolutely loved having you join us. We also took part in a Buddy 'Share a Skill' Talent Show, which was brilliant! Our buddies amazed us with their talents, including singing and dancing. They were super confident and inspired us to have a go ourselves. Well done to everyone — what stars you all are!

Class 2

We have had another fun and busy two weeks in Class 2; our pupils continue to impress us with their determination and resilience! In Science, our new topic is all about living things and their habitats. So far, we have been learning about and classifying the five main animal groups based on their key characteristics; mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. The children were great at comparing various animals and their habitats. Next week, we will be learning more about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. In English, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed reading our new core book 'The Koala Who Could', they have created excellent independent sentences based on the book and have even challenged themselves to include conjunctions such as 'but' and 'because', to extend their sentences further. Keep up the amazing work everyone!

Class 3

We've had another busy and fun-filled time in Class 3 over the last two weeks! In maths, the children have been working hard on column multiplication and are doing a great job with a division method that includes remainders. It's been brilliant to see their confidence growing as they tackle trickier problems and explain their thinking. Science has been noisy (in the best way!) as we've carried out lots of sound experiments. The children loved exploring how sounds are made and investigating pitch and volume through hands-on activities. We've also been really enjoying our tag rugby sessions with Mr Thompson. The children have shown fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and energy – and it's been lovely to see everyone getting involved and having a go. Looking ahead, we're very excited about our water safety session at swimming next week. This will be a really valuable opportunity for the children to learn important skills and build confidence in the water. Well done Class 3, keep up the good work 😊.

Class 4

In Class 4, we have continued our core book 'Black Powder'. Pupils have been making inferences about characters based on their descriptions and then used details to write their own character descriptions. We have been working with decimals in maths, firstly comparing decimals and then moving on to rounding decimals to 1 and 2 decimal places. We have been exploring the work of Georgia O'Keefe in art. The class created some amazing pencil sketches and have been exploring the use of colour with pastels and watercolour. We are now ready to create our final pieces using the skills we have been learning this half term. In science, we have been looking at forces. So far, we have explored pushes, pulls and gravity and this week we looked at air resistance in preparation for our parachute investigation next week.

Exciting News!!

Congratulations to Mrs Black and her husband James on the arrival of their baby boy! He arrived just one week after Mrs Black began her maternity leave. Congratulations also to big brother, Charlie, on the arrival of his new sibling. Wishing the family lots of love and happiness.

Fundraising Updates

Work is underway on the outdoor reading shelter and the new football goals have arrived. Thank you to Gary (Ella and Esme's Dad) who has put up one of the goals, we hope to have the other one ready for use soon too. We have also ordered new lunch tables and are awaiting an installation date for the new front gate (following the film nights organised by Fran- Florence and Henry's Mum). Thank you again to Friends of Stamfordham, The Swinburne Arms, The Widdrington Trust, the organisers of the Matfen Fete, The Stamfordham Car Show and The Christopher Rowbowtham Charitable Trust for making these things possible.

Mental Health Day

We are pleased to let you know that on Monday 2nd February, we will be holding a Whole School Mental Health Day to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week. To help create a relaxed and positive atmosphere, we invite all children to come into school wearing comfy clothes for the day.

Throughout the day, the children will take part in a range of enjoyable and supportive activities, including:

- * Crafts
- * Dancing and movement
- * Buddy activities
- * A walk outdoors (weather permitting)

As part of one of our activities, we ask that all children please bring in one or two pebbles, no bigger than the size of an adult's hand. These will be decorated in school during the day. We're really looking forward to a fun, creative, and meaningful day focused on wellbeing and positive mental health.

School Lunches

Week commencing 2nd February 2026 – Week 2 new menu

Week commencing 9th February 2026 – Week 3 new menu

The dinner menus are available on the school website.

Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:

Monday 2 nd February	Reverend Rachel visit to EY Mental Health Day in school
Tuesday 3 rd February	Swimming for Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 4 th February	PE with Mr Thompson Netball / Basketball (Year 4, 5 and 6) (5 of 6) Craft club (Year 3 & 4) (4 of 4)
Thursday 5 th February	Science Club (Year 5 & 6) (4 of 4)
Friday 6 th February	Music with Mr Radford

Monday 9 th February	Class 3 Sporting Event
Tuesday 10 th February	Swimming for Years 3 & 4 – Final session Class 2 World War 2 Day
Wednesday 11 th February	PE with Mr Thompson Netball / Basketball (Year 4, 5 and 6) (6 of 6)
Thursday 12 th February	Class 3 and 4 Laing Art Gallery visit
Friday 13 th February	School closes for half term 3.10pm

Upcoming Dates:

Date	Event
Monday 23rd 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 9 th March	SATS information evening – Year 6 parents
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