Stamfordham Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

What a fantastic half term we have had! I would like to congratulate all of our pupils on such a positive start to the school year. They have worked incredibly hard, shown great enthusiasm for their learning and demonstrated our school values brilliantly in everything they do. It has been wonderful to see their kindness, resilience, respect and determination shining through, and we are so proud of the way they continue to grow and flourish.

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support. Your encouragement and partnership make such a difference to our school community, and we really appreciate everything you do to help our pupils succeed.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest, spend some lovely time together and return refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!

Miss Briddock and the team at Stamfordham Primary

The last 2 weeks in school

Early Years

It has been a busy and exciting couple of weeks in Early Years, with autumn being our theme! In Reception, we have made fantastic progress in Read, Write, Inc., learning 21 sounds and using them to blend sounds together to read words and segment words to support our writing. In Maths, we are becoming increasingly confident with numbers to 5, finding one more and one less, representing numbers in different ways and showing off our fantastic subitising skills! In Preschool, we have been exploring sounds, experimenting with making loud and soft noises and listening carefully for the initial sounds in words. We have also been busy counting, spotting numbers around our school and joining in with our favourite number songs. Our little bouncy bunnies have been developing their early mathematical skills, listening and language through lots of fun, playful activities!

Across Early Years, we have continued exploring our five senses in Science, using our sense of smell and discovering that we have two nostrils! We have also been revisiting the primary colours of red, yellow and blue and developing our fine motor skills through paper weaving. Although we found this a little tricky at times, we showed fantastic resilience and kept trying! Our autumn adventures took us into the woods to look for signs of the changing season, where we collected leaves of different shapes, sizes and colours. Inspired by the story *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert, we used our natural treasures to create some wonderful leafy characters. At the beginning of this week, we welcomed families into Early Years for a fantastic Stay and Play afternoon, filled with fun activities and opportunities for families to spend time with the children and see how wonderfully they have settled into school life and our daily routines. Thank you to everyone who joined us! It has been a lovely end to a busy and exciting half term, and we are all ready for a well-deserved break. Have a wonderful holiday, everyone!

Class 2

In Class 2, we have had a lovely last two weeks! We can't believe how quickly our first half term has flown by. We are incredibly proud of the friendships that have blossomed, the positive atmosphere in our classroom, and the fantastic work ethic shown by all the children. It has been wonderful to see everyone growing in confidence, supporting one another, and working so hard.
In Maths, we have enjoyed starting our new place value unit, focusing on counting in tens and ones and working with numbers up to 100.
In History, we have brought our Monarchs topic to a wonderful end with a special Royal Day! The children enjoyed crafting their own crowns, creating regal portraits and writing letters to the King. It was a fantastic way to celebrate all that we have learnt.
In English, we have been exploring how to add the suffixes *-ing* and *-ed* to verbs to help us write in the correct tense. The children have been working hard to understand how these changes affect our writing. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved this half term and the lovely classroom community they have helped to create. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting half term of learning!

Class 3

What a fantastic first half term we've had in Class 3! The children have made an excellent start to the year, and it's been wonderful to see so much progress already. They have settled into their routines, grown in confidence and shown a really positive attitude towards their learning. It's lovely to see them challenging themselves, trying their best and becoming more independent as the weeks go by. In maths, we've spent the last few weeks focusing on column addition and subtraction. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of these methods and have particularly enjoyed learning how to set their columns out neatly, making sure their numbers are lined up correctly. We've also been enjoying our learning about the Romans and have now come to the end of our topic. The children have explored different aspects of Roman life and have recently been finding out about Roman gods and goddesses, discovering who they were and the important roles they played in Roman beliefs and everyday life. It has also been an excellent first half term for swimming, with the children showing great enthusiasm and a willingness to give everything a go. It's been lovely to see their confidence growing in the water and to notice the progress they are already making with their swimming skills. Well done, Class 3, for such a brilliant start to the year. Let's keep that enthusiasm going after half term!

Class 4

Class 4 have had a busy and exciting couple of weeks! In English, we have continued our work on *Goodnight Mister Tom*, creating an evacuee card for Willie using formal vocabulary before inventing our own evacuee characters, plotting timelines of events and exploring their thoughts and feelings. In Maths, we have completed our first unit on multiplication and division and moved on to fractions, finding equivalent fractions. In History, we have finished our topic on Victorian childhood, developing our historical skills by analysing sources such as census records, factory inspectors' reports and photographs to explore whether life was the same for every child and how things improved over time.

In PE, we have continued to enjoy tag rugby, refining our skills and putting them into practice in both competitive and non-competitive games. In Science, we have been exploring how birds and humans have evolved. Did you know that chickens are the closest living relatives of the T. rex? What a fascinating fact! It has been a fantastic end to a long and busy half term, and we are all ready for a well-deserved break. We hope everyone enjoys a restful holiday!

Friends Halloween Fundraiser

A huge thank you to our fantastic Friends of Stamfordham for organising such a brilliant Halloween fundraiser! The pupils looked absolutely '*spooktacular'* in their Halloween outfits, and the pumpkin competition entries were truly outstanding – it was wonderful to see so much creativity! The children also thoroughly enjoyed choosing their delicious treats from the bake sale. Thank you to everyone who donated, entered and supported the event. We are so lucky to have such a supportive school community, and we really appreciate all the time and effort that goes into making these events so special!

Harvest Festival and Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Festival last week. I am sure you will agree that the children were absolutely outstanding! They did a fantastic job and made us all incredibly proud. Thank you also to everyone who donated food for The People's Kitchen. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated and will make a real difference to those in need. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to teach the children the importance of caring for others.

School Lunches

Week commencing 2th November 2026 – Week 3
Week commencing 9th November 2026 – Week 1 – NEW MENU

The dinner menus are available on the school website.

Diary dates for the next 2 weeks:

Monday 2th November	**Teacher Training Day – School closed to all pupils**
Tuesday 3rd November	**Swimming Year 3 and 4**
Wednesday 4th November	**PE with Mr Thompson** **Tag Rugby Year 4, 5 & 6 (1 of 6)**
Thursday 5th November	
Friday 6th November	**Music with Mr Radford**

Monday 9th November	**School Photographs**
Tuesday 10th November	**Swimming Year 3 and 4** **Craft Club Year 1 & 2 (1 of 4)**
Wednesday 11th November	**PE with Mr Thompson** **Tag Rugby Year 4, 5 & 6 (2 of 6)**
Thursday 12th November	
Friday 13th November	**Children in Need Day**

Upcoming Dates:

Date	Event
Friday 20th November 2026	Nasal Flu Vaccination
Friday 4th December 2026	Panto @ The Tyne Theatre (Year 1-6)
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Christmas Performance **(Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year2)**
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10th December 2026	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10th December 2026	Early Years Theatre Trip
Monday 14th December 2026	Christmas Church Service at St Mary's Church 9.30am
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Christmas Performance **(Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)**
Friday 18th December 2026	School Closes for the Christmas break at 1.15pm **** There will be no Kidzone session after school but breakfast club will run as normal****
Monday 4th January 2027	School re-opens to all pupils