

Let's learn Judo!



We were very lucky to get a special visit from Adam, from the British Judo Association. He worked with all of the children from Reception to Y6, delivering fun judo sessions. The children learned about different tactics and got to try them out - for example: a judo pin and 'catching the tail'. They also learned about important judo rules such as where and when it is safe to perform judo movements. They had lots of fun and many children were eager to join Adam's judo club. Miss Beetham.

Look at what we offer at GPS:

<p>Free Places for 2 year olds 15 hours a week – check eligibility with our school office staff.</p>	
<p>Breakfast Club Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.20 per session.</p>	
<p>Home from Home After school care – Mon to Fri 3.15 until 5.00pm. Amazing value at just £2.50 per session! Book places via the Office.</p>	
<p>Free Messy Play sessions! Tuesdays 1.30pm - 2.30pm, with Vicky. Great fun – & free of charge! Babies to 4 yr olds welcome.</p>	

And...please remember:

Be an Early Bird!

A reminder to all families that school starts every day at 8.50am. Please be on the yard at 8.45, ready for the doors to open at 8.50. Being on time every day makes an important contribution to your child's learning. Thankyou.

School Attendance Matters!

Being in school is vital - good attendance gives your child's learning a big boost. We award prizes for good attendance, including SAM the dog, certificates, our weekly 'Treasure Chest' prizes, tickets for SAFC matches...plus a £50 prize every half-term for the best attending class!

Scales and Tails!



Our topic for Spring 1 has been 'Scales and Tails' and it is all about dragons and dinosaurs. We started the topic by looking at dragons, finding a golden egg and a video of a creature flying above school. The children were very excited to find out what was inside the egg and wrote excellent predictions. We then spent a week exploring Chinese New Year. Our dragon dance was fantastic! Reception wrote fortunes for their friends and then baked cookies to make fortune cookies. They were delicious! The last part of our topic is dinosaurs. We have started by writing questions of what we want to find out about them and reading non-fiction books. Miss Beetham and Miss Cassidy.

Reception – Chinese New Year

Recently we learned all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. We watched a video exploring Chinese New Year traditions. The children recreated 'The Great Race' story using animal masks and props. We made fortune cookies and tasted a range of different foods in our Chinese Restaurant. The food was delicious! We also made paper drums and used them to create our own dragon dance to celebrate Chinese New Year. Miss Cassidy and Miss Beetham.



Pass the Smile 2020!



'A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.'

As part of Anti-Bullying awareness and linked to our PSHE curriculum, all children took part in a special initiative called 'Pass the Smile'. We filmed the children in every class across school 'passing on their smiles'. We're now editing the footage - so

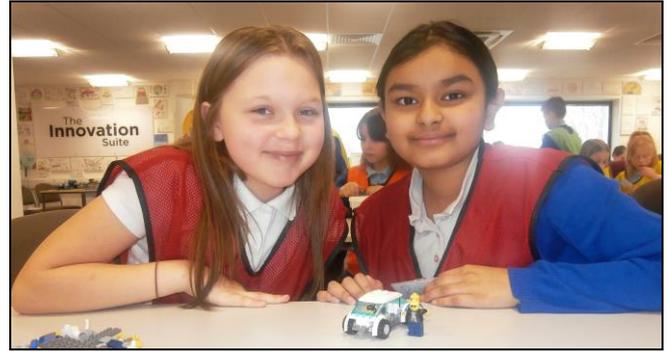
watch this space! It will be displayed in the main school reception when it's ready. Be sure to come and see our smiles – we're sure to pass one on to you! Mrs Dolan.

Remarkable Robots!



Year 4 have loved their exciting 'Remarkable Robots' topic! We have read the novel 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, and this has inspired our writing - a diary entry, a formal letter, a story and an explanation text. We have stepped into the role of the characters in the town through drama and we've held class debates to decide how to tackle the problems caused by the Iron Man. During our science lessons, the children have been investigating electricity by testing simple circuits and adding conductors and insulators to help them light a bulb. Their perseverance was fantastic when finding the best conductors of electricity and the children gave great scientific explanations. As part of our DT lessons, we have created our own Iron Man from recycled waste, and used our knowledge of different attachment techniques to fix him together. We then linked our science and DT together by using a simple circuit to light up the eyes in our Iron Man! Finally, to top off our thrilling topic, we created a stop motion animation of the Iron Man story using our own designed backgrounds and props. This half term, I have been overjoyed to see the children demonstrating their creative and independence skills – it was amazing! Miss Muldowney.

Y6 - Monozukuri Caravan at Nissan



The Year 6 children took part in the Monozukuri Caravan event at Nissan. After a welcome cookie and a glass of juice, the day began with the children learning about the actual car factory and the history of Nissan. They also found out which words we use in our language are actually Japanese words. The children, in pairs, had to build a model car of their choice from Lego. The children were then put into teams, a bit like a production line in the factory, to build a model car from Lego in the fastest time. They each had a part of the car to build and they had to build it in the quickest time possible. They then had to think of ways to make the building of the car more efficient, and to see if they could meet their original time. After lunch, the children visited the workshop where people come to train how to use the equipment. Here the children found out about the jobs you can do at the factory, learned more about electric cars and saw a robot in action. After that, the children watched a film about a car being built and then tried activities to test their co-ordination and their speed. These activities included banging a dent from a metal sheet with a hammer and using an electric drill to take out and put in screws. The day ended with all of the children being given a goodie bag. The children had a very enjoyable day and learned lots of new facts and had many new experiences. Miss McLoughlin.

Kung Hey Fat Choy!



New Year and created our own blossom pictures too. What a busy week we had! Mrs Mitchell.

Nursery learned all about Chinese New Year traditions and we learned how a girl called Abbie celebrated this with her family. We read the story of The Great Race, learning how the different years were named after the animals. We made dancing dragon cookies and lucky coin biscuits – they were crunchy and so yummy. We learned a song about Chinese

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Sportability!



Seven of our children took part in a 'Sportability' event, at Sunderland Tennis Centre. On arrival we were given team names - GPS were the Tigers! First of all we took part in seated volleyball. We learned some skills, then played games against other teams. Then we learned how to play 'new age curling', using the curling stones to knock down skittles as quickly as we could. Next we played Boccia - our children were very good at this and achieved high scores. Finally we played some tennis related activities, bouncing the ball and catching it after clapping twice. We had a brilliant day of enjoyable sporting activities! Mr Newby.

Stories from the past



This term Year 1 have been focusing on stories from the past. We have been looking at Beatrix Potter stories and writing lots of beautiful descriptions of her characters. We've even learnt a bit about the lady herself, and how her stories started off as letters! The children have also loved looking at some traditional tales, such as the Gingerbread Man and we have written our very own traditional tale called 'Squeak's Picnic' which impressed all the adults greatly. We have written our very own stories, and we used lots of adjectives and brilliant ideas! We have also designed our very own Mr McGregor's Garden for our bee bots to roam around. We've also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, and the story of the zodiac animals, and loved making a video of the story with some puppets. Miss Barnett.

We are the Never Dead!



The Year 6 topic for this half term has been 'We Are The Never Dead', based around the novel 'The 1000 Year Old Boy' by Ross Welford. The novel tells the story of a boy who was born in the time of the Vikings but who remains 11 years old forever. He meets two children from today and the story tells us about the changes he has experienced and the challenges he faces in modern times. All of the children's writing in English has been based around the book. The children have written their own version of the story, which moves between the past and the present. They also wrote a persuasive letter about whether adults should be told about the 1000 year old boy. As well as this the children are busy preparing for SATs in May. They are revising many areas of Maths and punctuation and grammar, as well as developing their technique in answering reading comprehensions. Miss McLoughlin.

Groovy Greeks!



This half term the children have been learning all about the 'Groovy Greeks'. In English we based our work around the book 'Adventures of Odysseus', all about Odysseus's travels after conquering Troy. The children have written their own comic strip about The Cyclops, in the style of Marcia Williams. In topic time, the children have looked at what life was like during the Ancient Greek times and how this has influenced today's culture. In Geography, the children explored atlases to find out where in the world Greece is and which countries and seas surround modern day Greece. In art, the children have used their sculpting skills whilst making a Greek tile out of clay. They also made a Greek vase using 'Scratch-art' technique. We've had a Groovy (Greek!) time! Mrs Miller.

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The Iron Man!



This half term Year 3 are enjoying their topic Remarkable Robots. We have been reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and have enjoyed listening to the adventures of the characters. We wrote diary entries in role as a character in order to understand his feelings at different points in the story. We looked at an image of a scrap yard in the book in order to create our own poems. We made the poems into paper chains like the chains in the scrap yard. The children are looking forward to making their own robots inspired by The Iron Man. Miss Stell.

Our Dinosaur Hunt!



Reception came to school on 30th January very eager as it was the special day for their first big trip. They had been counting down the days for weeks for the day they got to go to Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. The children started the day by searching for different types of dinosaurs and completing a dinosaur check list. They knew lots about the different types of dinosaurs. We then spent time having our packed lunches which the children were very excited about. To end the day, we took part in a dinosaur workshop with Marie where the children got to explore fossils and make a jungle hat for the winter gardens. The children were very well behaved and were polite to all of the staff. Miss Beetham and Miss Cassidy.

Phonics in French!



Miss Stell's class have been using French phonics to help them learn how to read and write in French. We have been using colours to help us do this. Actions for each sound are very useful because they help us to remember. We've played lots of games to make sure we understand and we've read a wonderful story in French about a rabbit who gets very messy but also very colourful. Madame Blackett is so proud of the children, who are beginning to put together a sentence using the actions to help them to remember what to say. If you were to ask the children what their favourite part has been though, they would say using the actions, as you can see! Mrs Blackett.

Blast from the Past!



This half term Y2 have had a 'Blast from the Past', learning about life over 100 years ago. We've focussed on children from the past and how their lives were very different to our own. The children have researched the jobs children did and the different lifestyles they had depending on class. We have used Oliver Twist to explore the workhouse and write our own story based in the Victorian era. Mrs Roberts, Mrs Dolan and Miss Charlton.

Dates for your Diary



- Mon 17 - Fri 21 Feb:** Half-term break.
- Mon 24 Feb:** Y2 to Beamish
- Tues 3 Mar:** Y4 to Beamish
- Mon 23 Mar:** Y3 & 3/4 to Broomhouse Farm
- Tue 24 Mar:** Nursery & Rec to Hall Hill Farm
- Mon 6 - Fri 17 April:** Easter holiday.
- Fri 8 May:** Bank Holiday.
- Mon 11 - Fri 15 May:** Y6 SATs week.

For a full set of dates, please see our website.

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