

Our Choir stole the show!



We were honoured to be invited to sing at the Sunderland Christmas Light switch on again this year. The choir have been working very hard since September and we had a fabulous programme of songs to sing. We arrived very excited to be rubbing shoulders with local celebrities and we had a fantastic turn out. That morning we had been played twice on the Sun Fm breakfast show, and Simon and Lauren couldn't wait to meet us and introduce us on stage in the evening. The choir sang 4 songs and were absolutely spectacular. We sang beautifully and wowed the crowds. Ava Richards stepped forward to sing a short solo and we lit up the stage with candles and glow sticks. The following week we were featured in the press, all over the Sunderland city facebook and twitter pages and made a huge appearance in the video about the light switch on. Everyone has been talking about the GPS Choir, and rightly so. We well and truly stole the show. Well done everyone!

Lest We Forget



This year every class made a poppy using recycled plastic bottles in order to remember those lost in conflict. Each class took part in a lesson to learn about Remembrance Day and every child made a unique Poppy. The Poppies were on display at the front of the school and I think you will agree they were a beautiful tribute. We also tuned in to live TV and observed the 2 minute silence in classes. Mrs Dolan.

Raiders and Invaders!



Year 4 have started a new and exciting topic called Raiders and Invaders, based on a book called Arthur and the Golden Rope, by Joe-Todd Stanton. The book tells the journey of a young boy from an Icelandic town, who sets out to capture a rare beast that has destroyed his town's fire. The children are using the book's pictures to predict what will happen. In history, the children have already learned about the Anglo Saxon's and their invasion of Britain. The lesson was fantastic and the children were very engaged as we used our drama skills to act out the invasions from different countries. In art, the children will focus on the work of Jansson Stegner Sarabande and use his art as inspiration for their own sketches. They will focus upon the facial expressions of Viking warriors. This half term, our lessons – as ever - are packed with engaging activities, and are full of new knowledge and skills. I'm excited to see the children produce their best work! Miss Muldowney.

Destination Celebration!



We have been busy in nursery since coming back in October and have enjoyed this topic so much! We started by learning how to be safe during bonfire night and created our own firework pictures. We also read Whatever Next and enjoyed our own space picnic. Then, a spaceship crash landed and we explored what it would be like to be on the moon. We learned lots of new words such as astronaut and planet and we have been reading lots of books linked to space too. We then started to move onto celebrations through Stick Man and we have been finding out the different uses for a stick. Mrs Mitchell and Miss Davison.

Stick Man, Oh Stick Man!



Nursery went for a walk to Backhouse Park and we had such a lovely time. We enjoyed reading Stick Man whilst sat on some tree stumps, hearing his adventures and what he needed to watch out for. We then chose our own sticks in the park, before playing our own game of pooh-sticks and throwing them in the stream. We collected lots of sticks and leaves to make our own stick men back at nursery too. Mrs Mitchell and Miss Davison.

To the moon!



This half term our topic is called 'Destination Celebration!' We started the topic by learning all about space. We were very excited when we watched a video of a spaceship hovering over the Early Years outdoor area and when we found that a spaceship had crashed on the veranda. We learnt all about space, looking at how astronauts go to space and what they wear. We read 'Whatever Next', learning the story off by heart. We even got our own box and flew to the moon too, just like baby bear. We have explored alien slime and completed lots of experiments. We have just moved onto the celebration part of our topic where we will focus on birthdays and Christmas. Miss Beetham.

See this in glorious colour at: www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk

Beamish – Murder Mystery Workshop!



Recently, in partnership with the Sir Tom Cowie Trust, all of the year 4 children visited Beamish. The children took part in a murder mystery workshop, taking on the role of investigators, and questioning a number of 'witnesses' to find out what had happened to poor Mr Charles Turnbull. Due to their fantastic detective work, the children were able to piece together all the events and point the police in the right direction to make an arrest. During our visit we also spent time in the Town and riding on the tram. We all had an amazing time and can't wait for our next visit. Mrs Millican

Saxons and Vikings in Year 4!



For the second half of the Autumn term, the year 3/4s have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasion. We looked at where they originated from and how they settled in England. The children found out lots of interesting information about Iceland and created some lovely posters to try and persuade people to visit there. We have read the wonderful book Arthur and the Golden Rope – following a young Icelandic boy on his quest to save his village. Children will use this as inspiration to write their own stories. During a Viking workshop morning, the children had wonderful opportunities to see, handle and learn all about Viking artefacts. Mrs Millican

Up, Up and Away! Y5 - Trampoline Festival



the end of the day! Mrs Miller.

Year 5 had a fabulous afternoon at the AAA Sports Trampoline Festival. They used a range of facilities, including the trampolines, DMT and floor area. They were divided into three groups and explored the three areas where they were coached by experienced gymnastic coaches. The children were all worn out by

Y3 and Y4 Viking Workshops



Years 3 & 4 took part in a series of Viking workshops. First, they chose their Viking names and then looked at lots of artefacts. They chose an object each to find out about and decide what they would have been used for. They listened intently to a myth about Viking Gods, and then took part in a 'circus' of activities including weaving with willow branches, grinding wheat using the huge whetstones and writing sentences using words with Viking origins. Mrs Millican.

Let's Play!



Miss Dolan's class have been finding out what children in France call the toys they play with. They have been learning about modern and traditional toys and discovering that many of the toys they play with are the same in both countries. Madame Blackett has been so impressed by how well the children have remembered all of the new words they have been learning. Everyone has made up their own sentences to tell the rest of the class which toys they like. Mrs Blackett.

Freeze Frame!



In English, Miss Stell's class have been reading the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and the children have enjoyed acting out sections of the story. We created freeze frames and the children discussed which part of the story was represented by each image. The children are now planning the story and are going to re-tell it in the third person. Miss Stell.

Change Starts With Us!



What a brilliant week we had for Anti-Bullying week! The children and staff had a range of activities planned across the week, linked to this year's theme - 'change starts with us'. We took part in the annual Odd Socks Day and each class got very creative with their odd sock photos! Sharon from Impact Northeast delivered workshops to every year group and also led a whole school assembly. We once again took part in Friendship Friday where classes mixed together for a PSHE activity linked to Anti-Bullying. Well done everyone for your fantastic support, it really helped make the week a success! Mrs Dolan.

Spaceship lands in Reception!



Reception have started an exciting new topic, learning about space and different celebrations. We started our topic learning a new story, Whatever Next. We helped baby bear get to space on his rocket and had a picnic on the moon. We investigated a spaceship crash and discussed what we

think happened and who was there. We have been learning about astronauts and planets and we have read some non-fiction books. We have talked about fireworks and discussed what the children did on Bonfire Night. We can't wait to learn about other celebrations including Christmas and talk about the ones we celebrate with our families. Miss Cassidy.

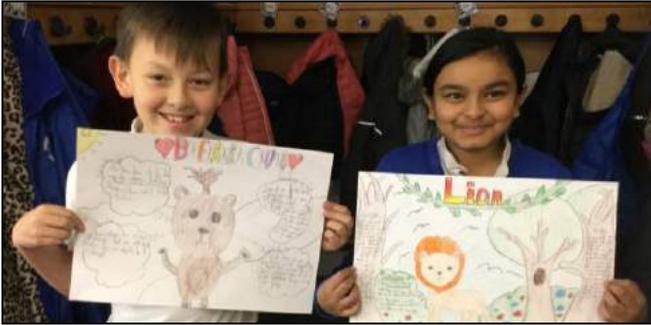
Parent Consultations – well done!



A big thankyou to all GPS parents & carers, for the fantastic support you gave to our recent teacher-parent consultation days. Turn-out was excellent across the school – 100% in many classes. These meetings make an important contribution to your child's learning, and we are very grateful for your engagement and support. From the GPS staff team. From the GPS Team.

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Our Natural World!



Year 6 have begun an exciting new topic, which we have not yet done at Grangetown. The children were given a series of pictures as clues in order to guess what their new topic was. The mixture of David Attenborough, mountains, Rosalind Monks and Charles Darwin really got the children thinking. In geography, the children will learn how mountains and volcanoes are formed. They will also locate mountains around the world on a map using atlases. In science children have already learned about how offspring inherit genes from their parents. They produced some fantastic work linked to Mr Men. They began with a Mr Man and a Little Miss, and then they thought clearly about what characteristics their offspring might have. It was a fantastic lesson and the work produced by the children was superb. They will also study Charles Darwin's experiments and what he learnt about finches. Children have also studied different animals and were able to explain how these animals have evolved over time to suit their habitat. Miss Hunter.

Year 1 set off...Around the World!



Year 1 have been learning about Antarctica this term. We've been finding out lots of facts about Emperor Penguins and have even created our own stories about some penguin characters we made up ourselves - the stories were very impressive and some were very funny. The children have loved looking at David McEown's beautiful watercolours of Antarctica and painting our very own Antarctic scenes. We have compared this cold and icy weather with the hot and dry weather of Kenya, in Africa. The children have been exploring the differences between hot and cold countries and predicting what the weather would be like if we visited these places. We are looking forward to finding out more about the animals that live in Kenya and how we can compare them to the Emperor Penguins we have been learning about. Miss Barnett.

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Land of Roar!



Our topic this half-term is The Land Of Roar, and is linked to dragons. In English, we will be making-up two dragons using the book Dragonology as inspiration. We'll then be using these to write a comparative non-chronological report. We'll also design and make a dragon trap which will include either a pulley or a lever mechanism which links in well with our Science topic – Forces. In Art the children will sculpt a dragon eye out of clay and they will paint a dragon eye using water colours which we will use for our calendars. Mrs Miller.

Christmas Musical Extravaganza!



Our KS2 classes have been working very hard, for the Christmas Musical Extravaganza. This is a show involving everyone in year 3, 4, 5, & 6...over 140 children! We've been learning traditional Christmas songs with a twist and putting our own GPS razzle-dazzle into the story of the first Christmas. Each class has something special to do and they've all been working together fantastically. We have so much talent in GPS, so why not put it all together in one big extravaganza?! There's everything including acting, singing, strings instruments, ukuleles and even a '12 days of Christmas spectacular'. The children are all very excited to show off what they can do and are sure to wow audiences in the two performances. Tickets are now available - this is not to be missed! Mrs Bryant-King.

Dates for your Diary



Tues 10th Dec: 9.15 - KS1 Nativity (Years 1 & 2)

Wed 11th Dec: Christmas Music Extravaganza, 10.00am and 1.45pm. Tickets cost £1 for adults, and 50p for children.

Thurs 12th Dec: 9.15am - EYFS Nativity (Nursery, Reception)

Mon 16th Dec: KS2 Christmas Party

Tues 17th Dec: EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party

Wed 18th Dec: Christmas Dinner!

Fri 20th Dec: 12.00-1.00. Christmas Carol Service - St. Aidan's Church

Fri 20th Dec: Term ends 1.00pm - please collect your child from St Aidan's

Mon 6th Jan: School reopens for Spring Term.

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