

### You've got a Friend in Me!



We are so proud to announce that our Buddy Benches are in place and are a fantastic addition to the Key Stage 1 and 2 yards. The project has spanned the last 2 terms and we initially asked children to design their own buddy benches. The school council then selected their favourite designs and a local artist led workshops to incorporate the children's ideas into 3 bench designs. The final part of this project was for Kerry to work with the children to actually bring the benches to life and each class took part in making their mark on the benches. We launched the Buddy Benches as part of anti-bullying week and they have been such a success so far. A special thank you to Kerry for your fabulous work and making us the most beautiful benches! Mrs Dolan.

### It's World War 2 Day in Year 6!



To celebrate the end of the Year 6 topic, 'Courage and Conflict', the children took part in a special World War 2 Day. The children came to school dressed as evacuees and had a gasmask box and a name label that they had made in class the previous day. The day began with the children singing 'Pack Up Your Troubles' and 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' in the Harvest Festival Assembly. Back in class the children made an identity card, which everyone was required to have in wartime. They made a Union Jack flag to celebrate the end of the war. They also made a spitfire model. On the afternoon, the children tested some wartime recipes. They tasted Spam, a carrot, cabbage and pickle sandwich filling and a dessert made from apples and condensed milk, with a side portion of jelly. These foods weren't favourites with all of the children. The children ended the day by leaning about code breakers and in particular Morse Code and Alan Turing and the Enigma Code. The children then cracked messages using Morse Code and created their own coded messages. The day was a fantastic way to end our first topic. We are looking forward to our next topic. Miss McLoughlin.

### EYFS – walk to Backhouse Park



Reception and Nursery enjoyed going on an Autumnal walk to Backhouse Park. We looked for signs of Autumn and found lots of conkers and brown leaves falling off the trees. We found sticks and dropped them in the stream, watching to see which one would come out first. On the walk back to school, Reception posted letters in the post box to their houses. All children were very well behaved and walked very sensibly to and from the park. EYFS team.

### Look at what we offer at GPS!...

#### Free Places for 2 year olds

15 hours a week – check eligibility with our school office staff.



#### Breakfast Club

Every day – 7.45 a.m. onwards. Just £1.20 - fantastic value!



#### Home from Home

After school care – Mon to Fri 3.15 until 5.00pm. £2.50 per session – amazing value!



#### Free Messy Play sessions!

Tuesdays 1.30pm - 2.30pm, with Rachael & Vicky. Great fun – and free of charge! Babies to 4 yr olds welcome.



### 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!

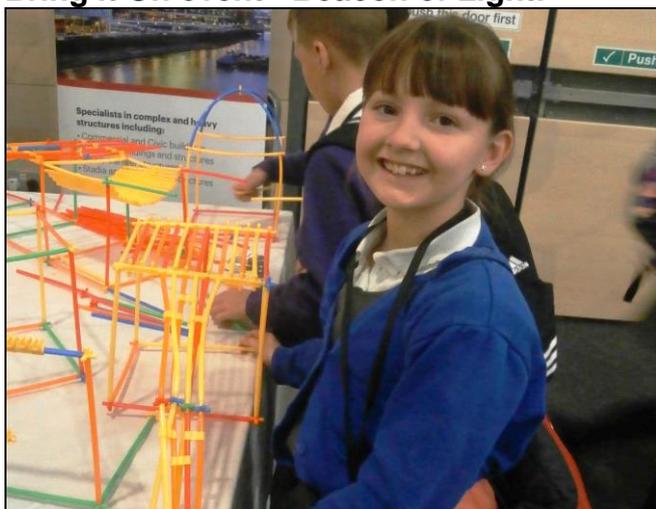
Being in school is vital! - good attendance gives your child's learning a big boost. We send out letters every half-term, to each family, with an analysis of your child's attendance. We also have prizes for good attendance, including certificates, our weekly 'Treasure Chest', tickets for SAFC matches...plus a £50 prize every half-term for the best attending class!

## Year 2 Drumming Workshop!



Year 2 had a wonderful time in this term's parent workshop. Our topic 'Let's Go Wild' saw the children learning about Africa including music, song and instruments. Mrs Bryant-King hosted a fantastic Djembe Drumming session where children learnt Africa words and songs alongside their parents. The session was followed by designing a Djembe drum and some African dancing too. Thank you to all the parents who showed their support. The children thoroughly enjoyed having you in school to share this experience with you. A special thank you to Miss Bryant-King for a memorable experience and bringing our topic to life! Mrs Roberts and Mrs Dolan.

## Bring It On event - Beacon of Light!



Some of the Year 6 children went to a special event at the Beacon of Light, which was to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based subjects at school and in careers, when the children are older. The children had the opportunity to try lots of different activities and learn about different jobs. The children all had a try at using a digger to lift a weight and place it into a container, with Komatsu UK. They had the chance to build the biggest tower using a straws and completed activities to test their dexterity skills. They learned about jobs in the chemical industry and took part in Science experiments. They learned about renewable energy and the jobs that are available in that sector. The children had a fantastic day and really enjoyed meeting lots of different people and trying lots of new activities. Miss McLoughlin.

## We're having lots of fun in Music!



We've all been working very hard in Music, learning lots of different skills on a variety of instruments. Y2 have been using the percussion instruments and djembe drums to learn about African music - there was some fantastic playing from parents and children in our recent African drumming workshop. Y3/4 have been learning how to play the ukuleles, preparing to perform in the Christmas Extravaganza - they have been so enthusiastic, showing skill and co-ordination! The Y6 classes have been getting creative with the keyboards, investigating sound effects and exploring how to make a WWII soundscape. They used the keyboards to create and communicate their own Morse code messages - very impressive! The school choir are working hard, preparing for several performances in the lead up to Christmas. We have recorded their singing and they sound amazing. More news on the exciting upcoming events very soon! Mrs Bryant-King.

## Waterstones Bookspree – Year 6



Thanks to a very generous grant from the Siobhan Dowd Trust, Y6 were given the very special opportunity to visit Waterstones in the Bridges and purchase £500 worth of books. Each of the children chose a book they would like to add to our school library. They then added books which they felt would be suitable for younger children, and finally they selected a picture book they thought others would enjoy. Thanks to Waterstones giving us an additional 25% off the books, the children were able to choose lots of fantastic new books for our library. We cannot wait to unveil them. When the children returned to school, Miss Hunter had an email from the staff at Waterstones which said how fantastic the children had been. The staff said the children were extremely cheerful and polite, which was a fantastic way to represent Grangetown! Miss Hunter.

See this in glorious colour at: [www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk](http://www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk)

## EYFS Spooktacular!



We had a monster-rific time in Early Years for our Spooktacular Day, which was the end to our mini topic. Flying Start, Nursery and Reception all got involved, including the staff. We had a variety of different spooky characters that everybody was dressed as. We took part in lots of exciting activities and games, including apple bobbing and mummy wrapping. Our favourite part by far was tasting our home made treats of witches finger breadsticks and mummy gingerbread biscuits. EYFS Team.

## Autumn at Broom House Farm!



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, Year 3 and Year 3/4 visited Broom House Farm in Durham. Over the course of the year they will visit the farm three times in order to observe changes on the farm over Autumn, Spring and Summer. As this was our first visit, the children spent some time getting to know what happens on this working farm.

We were able to help farmer Mark give the sheep their vitamins and were able to talk to him about why these are important to keep the sheep healthy. The children were excited to collect some conkers which had fallen from a tree and were able to learn the names of different trees around the farm and even completed a trail to find all of the different types of tree in the forest. The children asked fantastic questions, showing their excitement and enthusiasm whilst being fantastic role models for GPS. We can't wait for our next visit in the Spring term! Miss Stell and Mrs Millican.

## Eden Camp Adventure!



Year 6 visited Eden Camp as part of their WW2 'Courage and Conflict' topic. The museum is set in an old prisoner of war camp and each hut has been turned into a wartime exhibit. We explored replicas of tanks and planes used in the war, then visited the music hall hut to watch a puppet show, featuring music acts of the 1940s including Dame Vera Lynn and George Formby. After lunch it was time to explore each of the huts - the children could see and feel what it would have been like to be in the Blitz or in a wartime street. One of the huts was set up like a 1940s street and one was like the inside of a German U-boat. The children had a fantastic day. Miss McLoughlin.

## Year 6 Insight event at Southmoor



Year 6 took part in a special day at Southmoor. They were taught a range of subjects, including a Psychology lesson where they looked at optical illusions and considered why different people view them differently. They labelled the parts of the brain and learned which function each part of the brain is responsible for. In Sociology, they learned about how a person is raised can affect their behaviour. They also looked at what DNA and genes are. In English, they wrote a fairy story with a twist and in History, they watched a video about schools in Victorian times and compared schooling then to now. Miss McLoughlin.

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## Holocaust Memorial Day – Year 6



The children worked with a local blacksmith, called Darren, to produce a candle holder which will be used as part of a larger display to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2020. The forge was set up on the school field and the children had to wear protective clothing such as goggles, thick gloves and a thick apron. The children were given a disc which had been heated to a very high temperature in the forge, and using a large hammer, the children hammered a 3-digit number into the disc. The disc was then reheated and the children used the hammer again to turn the flat disc into a bowl shape, in which a candle could be held. Each of the children's discs will be used in a bigger piece of art work, creating the world 'Frei' to represent the words used above the concentration camps. The larger piece of work may be chosen and displayed in London which would mean it would be seen by thousands of people. The children really enjoyed this unique experience and many of the children asked fantastic questions about how they could become blacksmiths themselves. Miss Hunter.

## Centre for Life – Out of this World!



watched lots of fun and exciting experiments. Later on, we had a chance to explore and investigate the Brain Zone and the Interactive Zone. All in all, the children had a fabulous time and learned loads of new facts about space. Mrs Miller.

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## Y5 Show Racism the Red Card



Y5 had a fabulous trip to the Stadium of Light, to take part in some 'Show Racism the Red Card' workshops. First of all, we learned about the different types of hate crimes. Then, we learned about racism and why it is wrong. After that, we had a tour of the stadium - we looked in the changing rooms, the press room and the manager's room. After a very informative morning, we sat in the Quinn's bar and ate our lunch in style. To finish the day off nicely, we had a chat with Charlotte Potts, Gary Bennett, George Dobson and Alim Ozturk about their experiences with racism. Ultimately, the key message that we all clearly understood is that racism is not acceptable and will not be tolerated – we need to 'SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD!' Mrs Miller.

## Les Planètes



In Y5, the children have been discovering the names of the planets in French. Most sound very similar to the English versions, which was helpful because the children then attempted to write the French names from memory! They have also discovered some facts about each planet in French - for example did you know that it is windy on Venus? Year 5 then added their facts – in French - to their display work in class – it looks fantastic! Bravo Year 5! Mrs Blackett.

### Dates for your Diary



Mon 18 Nov. Parent Consultations: Flying Start, Nursery (VM), Y4 (KMu) & Y6 (AM)  
 Mon 18 Nov. Y3 & 3/4 Viking Workshop  
 Tues 19 Nov. Y4(LM) Parent Consultations  
 Wed 20 Nov. Y2(RD) Parent Consultations  
 Wed 20 Nov. Year 5 Trampoline Festival  
 Thurs 21 Nov. Y2 (NR) Parent Consultations  
 Thurs 21 Nov. Y4 Viking Workshop  
 Fri 22 Nov. Y3 (VS) Parent Consultations  
 Fri 22 Jan. Y6 to Nissan  
 Mon 23 March. Y3 & 3/4 to Broomhouse Farm

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