

Welcome to our new staff!



I know you will join us in welcoming our new staff to GPS! We welcome Mrs Eggleston and Miss Nixon to Flying Start, our fabulous Nursery for 2 year olds. Mrs Begum has joined our team of lunchtime supervisory assistants. In our Office, we welcome Miss Burlison. We also have 2 new class teachers: Miss Cassidy in Reception and Miss Muldowney in Year 4. All of our staff have made a great start, and are now very much part of the GPS 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 completely free! All 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!

As you know, our target attendance is 96%+. Being in school is vital, and good attendance gives your child's learning a huge boost. We will be sending out letters every half term, to each GPS family, with an analysis of your child's attendance. We also have various prizes for good attendance, including certificates, our weekly 'Treasure Chest' and tickets for SAFC matches!

Nursery children settling in nicely!



Both the returning and new Nursery children have settled so well into their sessions and we have been learning the names of all of our friends. Everyone has loved sharing photos of how busy they were during the Summer and of themselves as babies too. We have drawn some lovely pictures of who lives with us and we talked about our family members. We have been enjoying singing our core songs, picking our favourites and listening to some of our core stories each day too. Mrs Mitchell.

Off to Hendon Beach!



To launch the Y3 and 4 topic of Awesome Adventurers, all of the children in Years 3 and 4 visited Hendon Beach. There, they had a wonderful time collecting items to create their own 'seawigs'. The children scoured the beach in search of sand, pebbles, seaweed and shells in their preparations – linked to their class novel Oliver and the Seawigs. Mrs Millican.

Me, Myself and I



The children have made a wonderful start to Reception! They are making many new friends and are becoming confident and independent in their daily routines. The children have enjoyed PE lessons and reading in the library. We have been looking at similarities and differences, what we looked like when we were younger and what we can do now that we couldn't when we were babies. The children have made their own family trees and have loved talking about their families and pets. We can't wait to post a letter home when we go for a walk around our local community. Miss Cassidy.

Exploring the outdoors in Reception!



Reception have made a fantastic start to the year! They have settled in well and are making lots of new friends and completing lots of 'first' experiences such as staying for lunch, going to PE and getting reading books. The children have especially enjoyed exploring the outdoor area, painting self-portraits and learning about their families. We can't wait for our walk to look at houses and to post a letter home! Miss Beetham.

A Reminder about the GPS Uniform!

A reminder to all parents & carers to make sure that your child is wearing uniform, & the correct PE kit, please. We keep our uniform simple, and it's affordable too. If you are unsure about any aspect of our Uniform, the Policy is on our website. Thankyou for your support.

Let's Go Wild!



This half term Y2 are learning about life in the African Savannah. We started our topic reading 'One day on our blue planet...In the Savannah' in English. This led us onto creating our own fact cards all about lions. We have also been researching what life is like for other animals and people that live in the Savannah. In science the children have been learning how different animals have adapted to survive in this very hot place. Did you know that Meerkats are immune to scorpion venom and enjoy them as a tasty snack? We have also learnt that Africa is one of 7 continents on our planet and that they are surrounded by 5 different oceans. The children are enjoying this topic and cannot wait to find out more! In the coming weeks the children will have the opportunity to carry out some African art and Miss Bryant-King is teaching us the Djembe Drums in a special one off workshop! Mrs Roberts & Mrs Dolan.

Awesome Adventurers!



Our topic this half term is 'Awesome Adventurers' – we're learning about different explorers. The children are reading the novel 'Oliver and the Seawigs' by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre. They have written diary entries, descriptions and a poem. We will be using Oliver and the Seawigs as inspiration for our

own adventure stories. We are learning all about Ernest Shackleton and his journey to the Antarctic. In science, we will be learning about the states of matter and will be carrying out experiments to find out if different materials melt and freeze at different temperatures. The children enjoyed melting ice lollies and chocolate using their mouths.... it was a delicious experiment! In Art and DT, the children are designing their own 'seawigs' and drawing sea monkeys in the style of the illustrator Sarah McIntyre. Mrs Millican.

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

Travelling by Tuba!



We were visited by 'Travelling by Tuba' recently, and what an amazing day it was. Chris and Stuart started with a brilliant performance for the whole school involving a history of brass instruments and brass from around the world. There was lots of comedy, participation, demonstrations and songs which everyone listened to carefully. With help from our children they then demonstrated how you can make a home-made tuba from a hosepipe and funnel. We had a fantastic time participating in the show and learned lots of interesting things. Each class then worked with Stuart and Chris in a musical workshop. We got the opportunity to play lots of different percussion instruments and learn some samba rhythms. We all had a fabulous day of musical fun. Mrs Bryant King.

Making fabulous Music!



What a fantastic start we've had to Music this year. There are so many interesting things going on and lots of beautiful sounds being made. Y1 have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra and are singing some lovely songs with actions. Y2 have been looking at the 'sounds of Africa', singing in African, and playing some complicated African rhythms with percussion instruments. Our Y3's have been doing 'the sounds of the sea'. They have been listening to and composing their own calm sea music and comparing this with stormy sea music. In Y4 the children are looking at adventure music from the movies. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning how film music is made and will learn to play some famous film pieces on the keyboards. Our Y5 class have been on a space journey listening to Gustav Holst's planet suite. They also worked together to play the theme from 'A Space Odyssey' using 3 different instruments and performed it as a class. Very impressive! Y6 are exploring the music and sounds of WWII. They have listened to Dame Vera Lynn, tried to write their own morale boosting lyrics and played famous WWII songs on the keyboards. Lots of exciting things happening in Music, and lots more to come! Mrs Bryant-King.

The Jolly Postman



Year 1 have really delved into their new class book 'The Jolly Postman'. We have been learning about our own local area, where we live and what our address is. We received a letter from Geraldine's (our pet Giraffe) mum who asked us if we could throw Geraldine a birthday party, so we did! We sent out invitations and posted them in the letter box! The party was fabulous! We visited Grangetown Post Office to see the inner workings! On the way back, we met a postman, asked him some questions and looked in his van! The children all wrote a fabulous recount of our walk to and from the post office! We can't wait to read on and see who the next letter is for! Miss Tose and Miss Henry.

Flying Start Nursery – settling in nicely!



Flying Start Nursery has gotten off to a fantastic start this year. We are so proud with how well the children have settled in. The children have enjoyed making new friends and exploring all of our exciting areas. During group times the children have been getting to know each other and their key workers by learning everybody's names. The children have enjoyed getting creative with the paint and exploring the outdoor area, especially our tyre swing. Miss Forster.

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Refugee and Asylum Seeker Workshop



The Year 6 children worked with the organisation Friends of the Drop-In, which supports asylum seekers and refugees in the Sunderland area. The sessions began with the children thinking about major changes that they have experienced in their own life and the emotions associated with this. The children then played a matching game, where they were given a set of words such as asylum seeker, refugee and migrant and had to match them to the correct definition. They then discussed more about what these words actually meant. They then met a lady called Claudia, who used to live in Honduras, and found out about why she moved to England and the changes this has had on her life. The children were given the opportunity to ask her questions. They found Claudia's story very interesting. They really enjoyed the session and have developed a better understanding of what it means to be an asylum seeker or a refugee. Miss McLoughlin.

Out of this World!



This half term we are having fun exploring the topic of 'Out of this World'. The children will be learning about the Earth, Sun and Moon, famous astronauts who travelled into space and how discoveries changed the way we think about the world. In Literacy we are basing our work around the book 'The Jamie Drake Equation' by Christopher Edge. We are writing a 5 part narrative with a space theme. We are looking at the life of Neil Armstrong and writing a biography chronicling his major life events including his moon mission. In Science we are exploring day and night. In Art we are looking at the artist Peter Thorpe and creating our own version of his work. Mrs Miller.

Courage and Conflict



The topic for Year 6 this half term is 'Courage and Conflict' and is about World War 2. The children are reading two fantastic stories throughout this topic, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and 'Rose Blanche.' They have been learning about how the war started, which countries were involved, and the impact that the war had on people in Britain – particularly how life for children was different. They've learned about life as an evacuee and the emotions which go along with being evacuated. They have designed their own propaganda posters and are now designing and making a model Anderson shelter. They have also already produced fantastic work linked to Rose Blanche in English, using informal language to write a blog and formal language to write a letter. In music, the children have listened to wartime songs and how they were used to boost morale. We have also visited Eden Camp, to bring to life what they have been learning about in class – more about that visit in our next Newsletter! Miss Hunter and Miss McLoughlin.

Messy play – Let's get messy!



This month in messy play the babies and children have enjoyed exploring the different resources. You name something messy - we've had it! From rice pudding to spaghetti in tomato sauce. If you have a child between the ages of 0m-4y why don't you pop along to one of our FREE messy play sessions, every Tuesday from 1:30 – 2:30. We're very welcoming and would love to see some new faces. If you're interested, call our office staff on 01915140101 to book a place. Miss Forster.

Dates for your Diary



Tues 15 Oct. Y5 Parent workshop
 Wed 16 Oct. N&R to Backhouse Park
 Wed 16 Oct. Y6 Holocaust Memorial Day
 Mon 21 Oct. Y2 Parent Workshop (RD 9.00am & NR 2.10pm)
 Tues 22 Oct. Y3 & 3/4 to Broomhouse Farm
 Tues 5 Nov. R - Y6 Flu vaccines
 Tues 12 Nov. Y4 to Beamish
 Fri 22 Jan. Y6 to Nissan
 Mon 23 Mar. Y3 & 3/4 to Broomhouse Farm

For a full set of dates, see our website

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