

Christmas Pyjama Day!



The children were invited to wear pyjamas to school on Monday this week, for one of our special Christmas days. Many children came wearing Christmas themed PJs which looked very cosy! All children got to sit in their comfy PJs and watch Pip's Puppet Show across the day. In class, children enjoyed completing some Christmas English and maths tasks as well as some Christmas crafts. Y3 created beautiful Christmas wreaths and Y6 designed some eye-catching decorations. Reception had a Polar Express afternoon and watched the film after all climbing aboard their own Polar Express train and drinking yummy hot chocolate. It was a lovely day and a fun way to spread some Christmas spirit. Miss Beetham.

Look at what we offer at GPS:

<p>Breakfast Club. Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.20 per day. Book places via the Office.</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 PLACES FOR 2 YR OLDS! We have free places for 2 year olds, in our fabulous Little Butterflies Nursery. 15 hours a week –check eligibility with our school Office staff. Please pop in and enquire at our Office, or ring us on 0191 814 9820.</p>	

Pip's Puppets!



We had back-to-back puppet shows on Monday this week - every GPS child thoroughly enjoyed this traditional Christmas treat! We were visited by Philip Thompson, a local entertainer who runs Pip's Puppets. The children were thrilled to meet Santa, Rudolph, the Snowman and of course the Wicked Witch! They booed and cheered, and laughed at the silly jokes, as the story unfolded, with the Witch trying to ruin Christmas by kidnapping Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and then Santa coming to save the day! It was a fantastic, fun-filled experience, and we plan on making this a Christmas fixture at Grangetown!

Little Butterflies' Christmas Special!



What busy Butterflies we have been this December! Our Little Butterflies have been so busy getting ready for Christmas. We have made some beautiful reindeer Christmas cards with our feet! We made and decorated salt dough ornaments for our Christmas trees at home and had a trip to the post box to send off our letters to Santa Claus - we even bumped into the postman! We've had a cosy, comfy pyjama day with a Christmas film – 'The Gruffalo's Child' - and the children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas puppet show with 'Pips Puppets'. We're ending our Christmas celebrations in style, with a Christmas Party full of dancing, party games and delicious food. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Little Butterflies Team!

Joyeux Noël!



Miss Muldowney's class have had a wonderful time designing Christmas light displays and describing them in French. They have been learning how to describe animals using colours, and they have used this knowledge to describe Christmas-related garden ornaments. We have also been learning about how Christmas is celebrated in France. Did you know that children in France don't leave out a stocking for Santa Claus to fill, they leave out their shoes! Mrs Blackett.

Nursery and Reception - Let's Celebrate



This half term, we have been focusing on Celebrations! We had a lot of fun finding out about Diwali, making Diwali sweets and Diva lamps! We made Rangoli patterns with colourful sand, and designed Mendhi hands. Nursery have enjoyed reading Rosie's Walk this half term. We went on a learning walk, walking *around* the yard, *under* the climbing frame, *over* the bridge and *into* the sand pit. We have been writing letters to Santa, decorating our class Christmas tree, reading all about the Nativity story and playing with our Christmas play dough. We have made calendars, salt dough decorations and cards for our adults. In Reception we've made repeating pattern Christmas cards to send home and the children have worked hard to do their best writing in them. There have also been writing challenges, sending letters to Santa and creating a ticket for our Polar express day! This December Reception have been visited by a cheeky elf that leaves us surprises every morning – He even gives us a 'kindness challenge' sometimes! We have had a busy Christmas filled week this last week of term, starting the week with our Polar Express day, with everyone in Pyjamas where we had hot chocolate and popcorn! Later in the week we have made some sweet Christmas treats and will be celebrating Christmas by having a little party with some lovely Christmas music and dancing. It's been a lovely half term celebrating this special time all together. Miss Holyoak, Mrs Hanlon, Miss Barnett.

Year 4 and the Light Hunters!



This term, Y4 have been working very hard on their Light Hunters topic – the topic title comes from the exciting book we are reading (The Light Hunters by Dan Walker) about a young boy hiding his secret light-wielding powers from the world. He must race against time to stop terrifying monsters from destroying his town. We have written diaries, created monster descriptions, wrote a persuasive 'WANTED!' advertisement and created our own 5-part story based on the book. In science, we learned all about light - light sources, how light travels and how shadows are formed and change. In ICT we have created our own digital music using apps such as Incredibox, Music Lab and Isle of Tunes. We experimented with different colour mixing in art, making our colours darker and lighter. We looked at examples of work by Vincent Van Gogh and – using his style - we painted our own water colour paintings of The Sunflowers. We've even been featured on Facebook – see <https://fb.watch/2qZ3-eYR4J/> Mrs Millican & Miss Muldowney.

Me and My Shadow! (Y3)



Y3 have been studying light and dark and what makes or changes shadows. We've carried out lots of experiments to find out how light creates shadows and what sort of object casts the best one. In Art, we developed different shades of blue paint to create a wash for the background of our own version of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' painting before painting dark shadows over the top. We also explored how light is used in different religious celebrations and created our own Rangoli patterns using oil pastels for Diwali. We investigated how shadows are formed and looked at shadows throughout different times of the day and how we could make them smaller and larger. We even created our own shadow puppets and performed the story of 'The Tunnel'. Miss Charlton & Miss Cassidy.

The Big Bauble Bonanza!



The magic of Christmas is well and truly alive here at Grangetown! There are some traditions that we may not have been able to fulfil this year, but the Christmas tree was just not one of them! We decided 'go big or go home!' And as we're all fed up of being at home...we went BIG! This year we have the biggest Christmas tree we have ever had and I think it would be fair to say the most decorated tree in Grangetown. Every child from Little Butterflies to Year 6 received a bauble to decorate and add a Christmas wish. We then took turns class by class to go to the hall and add our bauble to the tree. Each class had their very own 'Big Switch On' ceremony and enjoyed singing Christmas songs. As if this wasn't enough, they then returned to class to enjoy a delicious hot chocolate. A special thanks to the parents that helped with the decorations. The hall looks amazing and the children were in awe! The idea is that the children will bring their bauble home at the end of term and that way there will be a little bit of the GPS family in everyone's home this year. Merry Christmas! Mrs Dolan.

Let's Party!



KS1 have had a fantastic afternoon for their Christmas parties. We enjoyed our party food, played games in the hall and even had a special visit from Santa who brought a gift for all of the children. A fantastic day was had by all! Miss Stell & the KS1 Team.

A Musical Christmas at GPS!



Although things have been a bit different this year, we certainly haven't missed out on musical activities. The children and staff have worked so hard to produce some amazingly festive musical performances that we are all proud of. Our Y4 children took part in two events with Sunderland Music Hub and City Council. Firstly, they were filmed for the 'virtual' light switch on which went out live to hundreds of viewers. They sang 'Winter Wonderland' beautifully and performed the song with other schools from across the city. Then Y4 were asked to take part in the 'Songs of the Season' online Christmas concert. They joined together with other schools, musicians and the Sunderland Symphony Orchestra to be part of a fantastic programme. Our children certainly stood out and were incredibly professional and enthusiastic. Well done Y4. Next we unveiled our KS2 Christmas pop song 'Christmas at Last'. This is an original song written for this year, and each KS2 class were recorded singing different sections of the song in their music lesson. The children then helped to direct a fabulously festive music video to go with the song. I'm sure you'll agree it was brilliant. Well done KS2! Lastly, we had our Christmas Sing-along. Each class in the school from little Butterflies nursery to Y6 chose and rehearsed a Christmas song. They then performed this and were videoed professionally. They all sang beautifully and brought some much needed festive cheer to all. Well done everyone and Merry Christmas! Mrs Bryant-King.

Years 3 & 4 know how to Party!



The children looked amazing, all dressed in their Christmas party clothes. In the hall, they all danced, showing off some fantastic moves, and played games including our favourites of pass the parcel and corners. In classes, children continued their parties, eating their party food and playing more party games. LKS2 Team.

Around the World with Year 1!



This half term, Year 1 have travelled around the world looking at two continents – Antarctica and Africa. We used two books to conduct a comparison between the two continents- 'Blue Penguin' and 'Lila and the Secret of Rain'. We wrote two fantastic stories linked to our key books, wrote character descriptions, labelled animals and described settings. We looked at animals native to Antarctica and Kenya and compared their diets and appearance. We created non-chronological reports about Emperor Penguins and worked extremely hard on our writing! When looking at maps of the world, we found out what the equator was and how it affected the climate in Antarctica and Kenya. In Art, we studied the artwork of David McEwan and we created one of his Antarctica masterpieces. We also really enjoyed making penguins out of clay! Miss Tose & Miss Stell.

A World of Discovery!



Y6 have been working on a fabulous topic called 'A World of Discovery'. They have been reading the story Holes, where a young boy sets out on a journey of discovery, even making a discovery he wasn't expecting. They have been learning about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution, including the islands where he made his discovery. The children also learnt about mountains and volcanoes this term. They learnt how mountains and volcanoes are formed, as well as learning about some devastating eruptions such as the one in Pompeii. The children produced some amazing work on their volcano topic complete with lots of information and beautiful images. Throughout the term the children have also studied the work of Rosalind Monks. They created line drawings of animals in a style similar to Rosalind Monks and had great fun doing so. During ICT, the children all created their own websites which are now available to view online. The children have worked extremely hard all half term and should be very proud of everything they have achieved. Miss Hunter.

Dragonology with Year 5!



Our recent topic – Dragonology - inspired our English, Art & Design Technology. We wrote a humorous narrative based around last year's John Lewis advert – Excitable Edgar. The children demonstrated excellent writing skills using humour and repetition. They also created their own dragon and wrote a non-chronological report about it, thinking carefully about the vocabulary choices. In Art, they used water colour pencils to draw dragon eyes, choosing colours carefully and looking at how to create tone and shade. In Design Technology - the children planned, made and evaluated their own dragon trap which used levers & pulleys. Mrs Miller, Mrs Bracknall, Miss McLoughlin.

Who Lives in a House like This?



Y2 have been learning about the Three Little Pigs. This linked brilliantly to our science work about materials. We investigated the properties of different materials, then carried out an experiment investigating which would be the best for building a new roof for the Three Little Pigs! We designed and created a sock puppet, then used our puppet to retell the story, recording it on our I pads using Puppet Pals! The children were really proud of their creations and they are having a special screening of their animations this week with some treats! Mrs Dolan and Mrs Mitchell.

Dates for your Diary



Fri 18th Dec: School closes at 1.00pm for Christmas & New Year – please collect your child from their classroom door.

Happy Christmas to all GPS families!

Mon 4th Jan 2021: School reopens for start of Spring Term.
Happy New Year to all GPS families!

*A huge Thankyou to all GPS families, for the fantastic support you've given your children – & school – during 2020! I know you'll join us in thanking our amazing staff for their incredible commitment, & of course the children for their hard work & perfect behaviour. **Have a lovely Christmas, & all the very best for 2021.** Mr McAnaney, Mrs Russell & the GPS Staff Team.*