

### Reaching out to GPS families



Though this newsletter focuses on activities in school, we are very much aware that most GPS families are still home schooling, due to the current Government restrictions. At the moment, 35% of GPS children are in school, made up of children from 'key worker' families and certain other categories. Nursery is fully open, and attendance is excellent. Our staff are working very hard – as well as teaching the children in school they are ensuring that home learning is fully in place – they are preparing learning packs, placing work online and on our Learning Platforms (Showbie, Seesaw), and communicating with families by phone and via the learning platforms. To the parents & children at home, we'd like to offer you a huge thankyou for all of your hard work – you're doing a great job in what are certainly very challenging circumstances for everyone. We hope the Government lifts their restrictions soon, so that the whole GPS family can be together again, in school!

### Look at what we offer at GPS:

<p><b>Breakfast Club.</b> Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.20 per day. Book places via the Office.</p>	
<p><b>Home from Home</b> 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><b>FREE PLACES FOR 2 YR OLDS!</b> 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>	

### Places for September 2021

- We are currently taking applications for our 2 year old Nursery, our 3 year old Nursery, and for Reception, for September 2021.
- If you are looking for a school place for your child, and you'd like a school full of creativity, where the children are happy and well cared for by our team of amazing staff, please consider GPS!
- Please share this with friends, neighbours and relatives. Thankyou!

### Grangetown Primary Strings



Last term we played pizzicato-accompanied marching games around the Community Room, which was fantastic. This term we're in the Library, so we can't be quite so noisy (though some groups do a very good job of trying ..!). Even Year 3's violinists now, though, are getting to grips with reading sheet music, while Year 4's and 5's are learning to read and play the notes between the strings – and some of Year 6's violinists are working on proper duos. We've new Year 4 and Year 5 cellists who've started well (even if their cellos do still seem to be absolutely massive..!) and the large Year 5 cello group recently accidentally improvised an impressively tight ensemble piece, as well as all putting in sterling work on the difficult cello-science of "the bow-hold". With already one student from the school's cellists moving on to the Furthering Talent programme, we look forward to possibly a few more string players joining at all levels as the year progresses. Mr Stead.

### Bonjour Thierry Tricolore!



The children in year one have very much enjoyed meeting Madame Blackett's friend Thierry Tricolore. He loves coming into school and talking to everyone. He doesn't speak any English though so we talk to him in French. We have been learning about his name. He is named after the French flag the 'Tricolore' because he is the same colours – bleu, blanc et rouge. We have also learnt an action for each colour and have had lots of fun playing games to help us remember the names of these colours. We are going to design our own friends just like Thierry and give them names too. I wonder which language they will speak. Mrs Blackett.



Main school Facebook: [Grangetownprimary](#)  
 Little Butterflies Nursery Facebook: [LittleButterfliesGPS](#)  
 Twitter: [Grangetown\\_PS](#)  
 Instagram: [grangetown\\_ps](#)

## Little Butterflies – Baking & Cooking!



We have been very busy in Little Butterflies Nursery! The children have taken an interest in baking and cooking. We made some delicious chocolate cakes which we enjoyed for snack. The children helped weigh the ingredients out and add everything to the bowl ready to give it a good mix. Of course the best part was eating them - we had lots of children with chocolate faces! The children have also been cooking some yummy scrambled eggs for snack. They were very careful when cracking the eggs into the bowl before giving the eggs and milk a good mix. Make sure to follow our new Facebook page 'Little Butterflies Nursery' for regular updates of what we get up to. Thank you! Little Butterflies Team.

## 'Castles and Kingdoms' in Year 1!



Year 1 are exploring our topic of Castles and Kingdoms, which we are really excited about. In English, we are looking at a traditional tale 'The Princess and the Pea' and the alternative book 'The Princess and the Peas'. We will be writing character and setting descriptions, and sending a postcard from a Palace! We will be learning about the Monarchy and about Medieval Banquets! We will even try some Medieval food! In Geography, we will be learning all about the United Kingdom and the seas that surround it, as well as the differences between Town and Country. In Art, we are making our very own Castles and Palaces out of junk modelling materials! Miss Tose and Miss Stell.

## Year 3 are busy Recycling!



Our current topic is 'Trash to Treasure', where we have been focusing on recycling and the environment. We have learnt about the best ways of helping our environment, including turning off lights, saving water and recycling. When researching all about recycling, we were shocked to find out that 8 out of 10 pieces of plastic made over the last 70 years have been thrown away. We decided to find out how we could transform a plastic bottle into a new creation. We designed, made and evaluated our final products. We had fun exploring ways of connecting different materials together and even made our own paint solution using PVA glue and ready mixed paint. Check out some of our amazing creations, including a pencil pot, a piggy bank and a bird feeder. Miss Cassidy & Miss Charlton.

## A great start to the year in Music!



This half term the children in school have been very busy making lots of music and exploring different musical instruments. Our key stage 1 children are on a journey of discovery! Each week they are exploring a different musical instrument looking at how it is played, what it sounds like and learning a short piece of music to perform. So far they have played the keyboards, Ukuleles, Djembe drums and Glockenspiels. Brilliant work key stage 1. In key stage 2, the children are learning about film music. They are thinking about moods in music and how the film themes create different atmospheres and effects. They have done lots of listening and descriptive writing and are now using the keyboards to play contrasting film themes. For example, they are learning the theme from Indiana Jones which is an adventure movie, and also the Harry Potter theme, which is magical. The children are thoroughly enjoying this topic and are demonstrating some excellent skills on the keyboards. Mrs Bryant-King.

## Year 5 are 'Groovy Greeks'!



In Y5 we have been learning about life in Ancient Greece. We began by looking at the geography of Greece. We then looked at key events in the history of Ancient Greece and recorded these in a time line. We compared democracy in Ancient Greece with democracy today. We will be learning about the Olympic Games, the differences between the states of Athens and Sparta and about the Battle of Marathon. We have continued the topic in our art work, by designing our own Greek patterns that are found on Greek pottery, then used this to design our own Greek urns. We are going to create our own Greek mythical creature and turn the design into a collage. We'll also be using art straws to make a picture of a Greek building. We're enjoying this topic and discovering lots of new facts. Miss McLoughlin, Mrs Miller and Mrs Bracknall.

## It's a 'Blast from the Past' for Year 2!



Our topic in Year 2 is called Blast from the Past. The children have been comparing life in the past to the modern day. We've used a story called, 'The selfish Giant', as it is a story set in this era. The children have really engaged with the text and have so far created setting descriptions, posters and diary entries. By the end of term the children will have predicted and wrote their own ending to the story. They have enjoyed learning what school was like in the past and they have compared a Victorian classroom to the modern day classroom. They loved it when Mrs Mitchell came to school in character as a Victorian teacher - the children quickly realised they preferred to be in school in modern times! We have also made a range of toys from the era including a thaumatrope and a jack in the box! Mrs Dolan and Mrs Mitchell.

## Our Nursery Superheroes!



This half term, we have been learning all about Superheroes in Nursery! We have had so much fun talking about our favourite famous superheroes and their exciting powers. We have also learned about 'Everyday Heroes', such as doctors and police, who help us to keep safe. We focussed on the core book 'Supertato', which our Early Years children love to read. We have made Evil Pea paper plates, explored the new supermarket

stall and went on a hunt around school for our missing water tray! This month we welcomed some new children into our class. They have settled in so well and have made lots of lovely friends. We are very proud of how much progress all the Nursery children are making - lots of children are tracing their names and counting all the way to 10! Well done everyone - you really are all Superheroes! Miss Holyoak & Mrs Hanlon.

## The Tin Forest – Year 4



In our fantastic new topic this half term, 'Collect, Convert, Connect', we have delved into the subject of forces and magnets. Our class text is called 'The Tin Forest', which tells a heart-warming tale of an old man who lives alone and surrounded by other people's rubbish. He spends his days dreaming for a more colourful and interesting life, until one day his dreams come true. We have written diaries, setting and character descriptions and an explanation text to show all of the skills and knowledge we have gained from this text and our new topic. We have enjoyed learning about contact and non-contact forces, magnetism and how compasses work in our practical science lessons. We have created an EBook in ICT and have looked at shading and tone in art to create facial expressions. Miss Muldowney and Mrs Millican.

## Let's Pretend in Reception: Superheroes!



In Reception we have been learning and talking all about Superheroes! We have been designing our own heroes and thinking all about the powers they could have! Our focus book was SUPERTATO this term and we've been doing lots of experiments thinking about how the Evil Pea was captured and if we could design a better trap! We dropped lots of things into jelly to see if we could trap any of our classroom equipment, and we found that pencils were easy to capture! We have loved dressing up as heroes and role playing super hero games, and even made our own vegetable superheroes to join in our games. We're now looking at real life superheroes and the children have loved talking about all the helpful jobs that people have, we've been dressing up in lots of different uniforms and using our imaginations to create wonderful games and stories. Miss Barnett.

## Nursery are on a Mission!



Recently, we have been learning more about superheroes. We focused on our favourite core book - 'Supertato'. Evil Pea came into nursery and stole the water tray, leaving a video message and a news report, so we used our maps of the school and went on a hunt to find it! We found a special note at the end inside the water tray. We did it - Nursery saved the day! Miss Holyoak, Mrs Hanlon and Miss Davison.

## 'From the Rooftops' with Year 6!



This term may have been a little bit different than usual but we have still had an absolutely fantastic time. The children have been working incredibly hard on their new topic called 'From the Rooftops.' They have been reading a wonderful book called *Rooftoppers*, by Katherine Rundell. The children have enjoyed the book so far and are looking forward to reading the rest of it. They have already produced some brilliant writing, full of description. Our book is set in Victorian Britain, and then Paris, so the children have been looking at life in Victorian times. They have learnt about how different life was for children during these times, and how life was very different depending on how much money you had. Alongside this topic, the children have been looking at the work of William Morris. They have even had a go at making their own stencils to create a repeated print in the style of Morris. As well as our history and art, the children have been learning all about notable scientists who have changed the world. They will be linking this to the Victorians, when they look at the Victorian inventions which changed the world. The children have been absolutely fantastic so far and I am extremely proud of them all. Miss Hunter.

### **GPS on Social Media**



Our main social media is Facebook, but we also use Twitter from time to time, and we are set to re-launch our Instagram. We have recently set up a brand new Facebook page, for our 2 year old Nursery – Little Butterflies.

#### **Please check out our pages:**

School Facebook: [Grangetownprimary](#)  
Little Butterflies Facebook: [LittleButterfliesGPS](#)  
Twitter: [Grangetown\\_PS](#)  
Instagram: [grangetown\\_ps](#)

### **GPS on the Web**

Our website has recently had a refurb – what do you think?  
[www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk](http://www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk)

### **Dates for your Diary**



**Friday 12th Feb:** break up for half term, 3.15/3.20pm  
**Monday 15th - Friday 19th Feb:** half-term break.  
**Monday 22nd Feb:** School reopens after half term.  
**Mon 29th March - Fri 9th April:** Easter Holiday.