

## Year 1 visit Buddhist Meditation Centre



As part of our RE curriculum, Year 1 learn about Christianity and also Buddhism. We were very lucky to be invited by Monk Kom to the Buddhist Meditation Centre in Hebburn. When we arrived, there were three monks in traditional robes who welcomed us, we took our shoes off and entered. We were stunned at how beautiful it was inside, a huge shimmering Buddha, golden chandeliers and some wonderful stained glass windows! We played mindfulness bingo, meditated and learnt the story of Buddha. We gave offerings to the Monks who were very grateful and we even learnt how to bow! Thank you to the staff at the Meditation Centre for this wonderful opportunity! Miss Tose.

## 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 or with Charlotte in Little Butterflies. Please pop in and enquire at our Office, or ring us on 0191 814 9820.</p>	

## Wild Oyster Project



The year 4 children had the wonderful opportunity to work with the Wild Oyster Project where they learned all about different species of oyster and lots of interesting facts about oysters. There was first a visit in school, where the children completed a workshop to learn lots of information including finding out that a single oyster filters and cleans approximately 200 litres of water every day. The following week, the children visited the Sunderland Marina, where they all investigated the oyster nurseries. They held the oysters, counted and measured them and then looked through magnifying glasses at the other sea creatures that were found swimming around the pontoons. The children had a fantastic time and now know all about oysters. Mrs Millican.

## Year 4 & their Spooky Drama Workshop!



Y4 took part in a fantastic drama session with No Limits Theatre as part of an arts project. The children watched a short film of 'As the Crow Flies' about the crow family who were cursed to be crows on the daytime and humans at night. They were constantly on the run, but found home in the theatre. The children watched the characters come to life in our own school hall. Janet and

Carolyn spoke to the children all about the Crow family and the children filled out a number of activities in their own booklet. They acted out freeze frames, played games and were able to interview the actors themselves. Thank you Janet and Carolyn for a fun-filled afternoon! Miss Muldowney.

## Messy Play – every Tuesday!

- Just £2.00 per session
- 9.15-10.00am - weekly
- 6 months – 2 years
- Book via Facebook:



<https://www.facebook.com/MessyPlayGrangetown>

## Football – GPS girls ace it at Farra!



As our shortened football season came to a close, we travelled to Farringdon for the last two tournaments. One for our girls football team and the last one for a team made up of year 5 children. Our girls team were very unlucky not to win their group. Their team spirit and camaraderie were second to none. They also played some fantastic football, their passing and movement was really good. We were unlucky not to win our first game against Hill View, Ava opened the scoring for Grangetown with a thunderbolt of a shot, Hill View scored two goals late into the game to take a 2 - 1 win. Our next two games against Fulwell and Bexhill both ended in goalless draws. Our last game saw us beat St Marys by one goal to nil, our winning goal being scored by Laurney. Mr B Newby

## Y4 work with author Chris Connaughton!



Year 4 had a fabulous day working with actor, author and storyteller Chris Connaughton. The day started with an interesting story that had us all on the edge of our seats based on 'The Tinder Box' by Hans Christian Anderson. Using this as inspiration, Chris gave us some fabulous tips and advice on how to write successfully and get over what may be called 'writers block'. We wrote diary entries in the role of the soldier, spells and plans in the role of the witch, and also started to think about writing our own fairy tales. In the end, we all came back together to listen to one last story from Grimm's Fairy Tales in which, again, we were mesmerised by the telling. We had such a fun day and would like to thank Chris for working with us. Miss Muldowney and Mrs Millican.

## Marvellous Mayans!



To celebrate the end of our topic, 'Marvellous Mayans', the children in Year 5 held a special Mayan day. The children began the day by making a Mayan mask, using a range of materials including paint, feathers and sequins. Some masks used patterns, while others looked like animals, such as a tiger. The children learned about the Mayan calendar and produced a calendar of their own, using Mayan glyphs. Did you know that the Mayan calendar had 19 months and not 12 months like ours? The children also tasted guacamole, which includes avocados, tomatoes and chillies. Not all of the children liked this. The children also tasted hot chocolate with chilli flakes, as this would have been the way the Mayans would have drunk it. The children preferred this. They also watched a video of a light show which was projected onto El Castillo, a Mayan temple in Mexico, and designed their own temple. The children had an enjoyable day and it was a lovely way to end the topic. Miss McLoughlin.

## Year 3 with Chris Connaughton!

Year 3 had a very exciting visit from author Chris Connaughton last week. He told us lots of traditional tales and we were all hooked from the start! He reminded us that there are several common themes in traditional tales,



such as the classic "Once upon a time" and "They all lived happily ever after" as well as a pattern of three such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Three Billy Goats Gruff. He then taught us some great tips for if we get stuck with writers block. He said he will write about the characters senses and use spotlighting to help him get into the mind-set of the character. He also taught us the WAVE technique – walk, action, voice and expression. He finished by answering some of our burning questions and we found out lots of cool facts about him. Miss Charlton and Miss Cassidy.

## Little Butterflies have fun at the beach!



This term we have enjoyed learning about the beach! We have used a seaside themed talking bag to encourage our communication and language skills, we created pictures of fish to explore colour and colour mixing and have had lots of fun developing our hand eye coordination skills by fishing for fish at group time! We've also had a fantastic trip to the beach. Our morning Butterflies went to Roker Beach and our afternoon Butterflies went to Seaham Beach aka 'The Blast Beach!' We built sand castles, looked for seashells and went paddling in the sea – or in some cases swimming! It was great fun and a day I'm sure we will all remember. Little Butterflies Team.

## Harehope Quarry Visit



As part of the 'Raging Rivers' topic, the children in Year 5 visited Harehope Quarry in County Durham for a Rivers Day. To begin the day, the children found out about the River Wear and thought about the river may differ in Sunderland and at the quarry. One of the activities involved the children walking to the Harehope Gill site via a gorge. Along the way, the children learned more about the countryside around them and had to complete river and landscape features sheet of the things they could see. The river here was fairly narrow and shallow and the children measured the width and depth of the river at different places and then measured the speed of the water, by timing how fast it took a dog biscuit to travel 5 metres. The children sketched the features of land around them using survey map keys. The children also visited Bollihope Burn, which was deeper and wider and made river measurements there. The children had a great day and enjoyed being in the river and getting wet! Miss McLoughlin.

## Nursery go Under the Sea!



We are thoroughly enjoying our new under the sea topic and we have been taking part in many exciting activities. We enjoyed reading Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs and Rainbow Fish. We have been finding out about different dinosaurs and we have talked how we are unique and how it is good to share. We have been very interested to learn about different types of fish and sea animals and we are really looking forward to our trip to the beach. Mrs Hanlon & Miss Holyoak.

## Reception are making hermit crabs!



We have been busy this term learning all about different sea creatures and have especially loved learning about hermit crabs. We have made our very own plaster shells using sand and a real shell to make a mould, and then carefully using plaster to pour in. We are going to decorate them like the crab in our focus story 'House for Hermit Crab' by Eric Carle.

## 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.*

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

*School Facebook: GrangetownPrimary  
Little Butterflies Facebook: LittleButterfliesGPS  
Messy Play Facebook: MessyPlayGrangetown  
Twitter: Grangetown\_PS  
Instagram: grangetown\_ps (to re-launch in September)*

## Y3HC are getting Arty!



This term we have been practising our art skills through using different grade pencils to shade and show tones and textures. We have focused on shading small areas to perfect our technique before moving on to larger areas. We have also experimented with different facial expressions and how we can tell how someone is feeling by the look on their face. We rearranged different facial features onto a blank head outline and described what features matched the emotion. Then we drew different expressions in our sketch books ensuring that we used our knowledge of the facial features and emotions. We will then link this to our topic on the Mayans by creating masks to show expression. Miss Cassidy.

## Spreading our Wings!



Year 2 have been learning all about life cycles and we recently took care of some very important visitors to our classroom! We took care of them and watched as the hungry caterpillars were getting fatter by the minute, before they turned into chrysalides last week. We were watching and eagerly awaited for them to emerge from their chrysalis. The children were overjoyed when they came into school to see the butterflies had emerged and we kept watching as more

emerged as the day went on. We kept them for a few days to observe them and then on Monday we released them into the school grounds. It was a special moment and all of the butterflies fluttered around the school yard for the whole of playtime!

## Y5 are North Sea Explorers!



The children in Y5AM took part in a workshop which involved exploring Hendon Beach. The workshop began with the children going on a scavenger hunt to see what objects they could find. They had to look for included pieces of coal, shells and a feather. The children then had the opportunity to explore the rock pools to see what creatures they could find. The children really enjoyed this and found two types of crabs, sea anemones, tiny fish and a starfish, which they were able to hold. Even though it was a cold and damp morning, the children had a very enjoyable and interesting time. The morning inspired many of the children to want to visit the beach again and go rock pooling for more creatures. Miss McLoughlin.

## Places for September 2021



- We are still 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!

## Dates for your Diary



- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 5 Cycling proficiency week.
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> July:** 4.00pm: Cinderella – Year 6 Show!
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> July pm:** Year 3 to SAFC Beacon of Light.
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July:** School closes at 1.00pm for Summer holiday.
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils).
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School re-opens for the Autumn Term & the new school year. Breakfast Club & Home from Home both open today.

## **YEAR 6 GO ADVENTURING AT KINGSWAY!**

Year 6 enjoyed three days of adventure, at Kingsway Activity Centre in Middleton-Teesdale. Throughout the three days, the children learnt new skills such as foraging for herbs and making wild garlic bread on a fire, to how to load a bow and arrow and practise their archery skills, to learning how to paddle and kayak. All of the children had an absolutely fantastic time. All of the children went on a gorge walk down the river and did some very daring jumps – one group even jumped off a waterfall! The children spent more time on the river when they each went canoeing or kayaking. Some of the games the children played whilst out on the water were fabulous. One group had to run across the front of the lined-up kayaks. The highlight of many children's week was the tree climbing activity. Many children faced their fear of heights and raced up higher than they thought they could. One impressive pair were even challenged to climb the tree blindfolded, and of course they did just that with huge smiles on their faces. As you can imagine, that group got very wet! As well as all of the fun activities, the children were given responsibilities at meal times and we had daily teams for setting the tables and washing up. They all tried something new and challenging and they all returned home tired and full of stories. The children behaved beautifully throughout the whole trip and were a real credit to GPS so well done! Miss Hunter, Miss Stell, Mrs Millican, Mrs Dobson (who all survived to tell the tale!).



**TURN OVER FOR MORE KINGSWAY ADVENTURES!**

