

### Year 2 at Penshaw Monument!



Year 2 had a wonderful day visiting Penshaw Monument recently. We climbed the steep stairs to the top and enjoyed the amazing view. We then explored the woods behind the monument. We loved experiencing a forest walk, listening to the bird song and observing our surroundings. It linked brilliantly to our current text, *The Fox and the Star*. The children enjoyed collecting sticks, making messages with them and what visit to the forest would be complete without hugging a tree! A lovely day had by all, the children were a real credit to our school. Mrs Dolan & Mrs Mitchell.

### 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!

### Making sun catchers in Reception!!



This month we have been continuing our theme of plants and growing. We've been learning about Jack and the Beanstalk and thinking about how tall the beanstalk grew! There is even a fantastic song we have learnt. We have started retelling the story ourselves and practiced writing sentences to write the story down to read it to others. We have also made some beautiful sun catchers from natural objects we found in our outside area and loved exploring to find them. Miss Barnett.

### Year 3 are keeping healthy!



This half term, Y3 have been learning all about being healthy. First we looked at healthy foods and exercise, then this month we have been focusing particularly on our bodies, and the things inside us which help us to move and stand up straight. We learnt about how our skeleton differs from an animal's and how some animals don't even have a spine! We found out about the names of the bones in our body and even made a skeleton out of natural materials. We then learnt about the muscles in our body, creating our own questions and then researching the answer. We discovered several interesting facts - did you know the smallest muscle in your body is in your ear? Miss Charlton.

### Messy Play Starts on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June!

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



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

## Skipping skills in Year 4KM!



This past half term, Y4KM have been working extremely hard on their skipping skills. We have been practicing a range of different jumps including speed bounce, crossovers, side swing, and pretzel and even paired skips such as face to face or butterfly. We work in groups and teams to complete a run and jump through the big rope to gain as many points as possible without stopping. We have been very encouraging of others and many have conquered their fears of jumping into the moving rope. These past few weeks we have been improving our scores as we time our skills and creating routines to go alongside our skills. It has been so much fun! Miss Muldowney.

## The toy designers of Year 1VS!



This half term Year 1 have loved learning about old and new toys in our History based topic. We really enjoyed our online Beamish workshop where we were able to identify and name many toys that children played with in the past. We have been able to compare the toys which we play with now to those that our parents and grandparents played with. We have also learnt how many toys are the same but are now made from different materials. In Design Technology we have been designing and making our very own toys. We are excited to see the finished products! Miss Stell.

### **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)

## Adventure Valley!



Nursery had a fantastic day at Adventure Valley! We were so excited to go on the trip bus to see all the animals at the farm - we saw Llamas, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and even some minibeasts! Lots of the children scared Miss Holyoak with the huge tarantulas! Many children were brave enough to feed the animals with the special pellets from the farm shop. We had a chance to play on the soft play and on the outdoor climbing frames, with some swirly slides. We got a chance to go on a special train track ride and had a tractor journey to drive past all the outdoor animal enclosures. We had a chance to dig for gold in the water fountains and watched some very special birds in the Tweeties area! We all sat sensibly in the café to have some lunch! What a fantastic day! Well done to the children for their amazing behaviour. Miss Holyoak and Mrs Hanlon.

## Swimming Superstars!



Y5CB have been lucky enough to go swimming at Silksworth Sports Complex for the last 4 weeks and have one more week to go after half term. They were all extremely excited to go and it has been wonderful to see them re-learning and improving their swimming skills after so long without the opportunity to go to a pool. The swimming coaches have been wonderful and all the children have made great progress. They have worked very hard on a range of different strokes and on their stamina in swimming. They had the challenge of swimming one full length of the pool-25 metres without touching the ground once and many managed this or are well on their way to managing this. One of the children was even selected for joining a team after an initial assessment because they showed so much potential! Mrs Buddle.

## The Fox and the Star!



This half term Year 2 have been using the text, 'The Fox and the Star' in English. The children have been gripped by the story and have produced some fantastic work. The text is a very emotional journey for Fox and the children have really empathised with the character, writing diary entries, letters and creating thought bubbles for the illustrations. During a whole class reading session one of the children said, 'I think the author illustrated the fox in different colours to show how Fox's sadness is growing.' The children have also created some atmospheric forest art using shading techniques. As well as all the work in class we also managed to squeeze in a visit to Penshaw Monument to give children the experience of being in a deep, dense forest! Well done Year 2, the teachers have enjoyed this topic just as much as you! Mrs Dolan and Mrs Mitchell.

## Year 4 'History Detectives'!



The year 4 children worked with Beamish Museum and took part in a virtual workshop. They had the wonderful opportunity to become detectives for the afternoon and worked with the Beamish chief inspector in order to help him solve a terrible crime. The children had to look at all of the different clues which were left at the crime scene and decide where they should go in order to follow the clues. Around Beamish Town, there were letters, adverts, receipts and many more items that helped the children to solve the mystery. We then used this wonderful opportunity as a stimulus for writing newspaper reports. Mrs Millican.

## Mini beasts in Little Butterflies!



Since reading 'The very hungry caterpillar' the children have been very interested in finding mini beasts, our garden is full of them! So far we have seen a caterpillar, a spider, a daddy long legs, a woodlouse and a snail called Rosie! You might have seen Rosie the snail on our Facebook page. Since finding these mini beasts we were inspired to do some beautiful

symmetry paintings of butterflies, we have enhanced the play dough area with natural resources such as bark, logs and leaves and added our insects. Finally, we have added '3 little speckled frogs' to our water area. For regular updates please like/check our Facebook page 'Little Butterflies Nursery'. The Little Butterflies Team.

## Enjoying 'Handa's Surprise' in Y3HC!

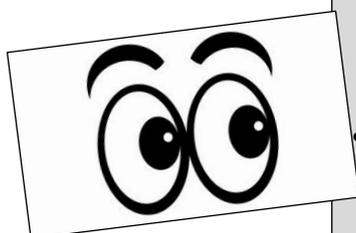


In Y3, we have been continuing with our topic 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' and have read Handa's Surprise. We have retold the story using a story map and actions to help us remember the sequence. We have used our imagination to plan and write our own story. We have been focusing on using figurative language in our writing and have included fantastic similes and personification. We have also included adverbs of time to help move the story along. We have even started to plan ideas for a sequel to our stories. I wonder if any of our main characters will find any clues for the stolen fruit and vegetables! Miss Cassidy.

## Thrilling half-term ahead for Year 6!

Year 6 are set for the time of their lives!

- On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June they head off for on a residential trip to Kingsway Adventure Centre, for 3 days of exciting outdoor activities!
- They are also working on their end of term show – Cinderella – and are looking forward to performing for their mams, dads & carers!



## The Great Outdoors!



10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of May marked Metal Health Awareness Week in school and this year it was all centred around nature and how being outdoors is good for our mental health and well-being. Every class took part in a range of activities to get children outdoors and appreciate what is around us. We had

everything from cloud watching, water painting to hill rolling! We made sure the activities used little or no resources so that these could be easily adaptable for home too. The children had a fantastic time and it was great to see every class get outdoors! Mrs Dolan.

## Creating Mayan Pottery in Y5AM



As part of their 'Marvellous Mayans' topic, the children in Year 5 looked at Mayan pottery – the shape and the patterns used. The children then designed their own pot. They then used clay to create a coil pot, in the way the Mayans would have done and then decorated it. The children also used the clay to make a tile upon which they etched a Mayan design. The children really enjoyed using the clay and learning the techniques to use it correctly. The children are looking forward to taking their clay work home, so they can share what they have made with their families. Miss McLoughlin.

## 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 be re-launched soon)

## Double Double Toil and Trouble!



Y6 had a fantastic day working with the author Chris Connaughton. He introduced the children to the story of Macbeth and was very impressed with their knowledge of the story. The children were amazed by his acting skills and were frightened of his wonderful portrayal of Lady Macbeth. Inspired by the story of the witches and their involvement in causing trouble, the children wrote their own spells based on the opening lines of the play. The creations were absolutely incredible and some of them were extremely spooky. The children also created a newspaper report about the discovery of King Duncan. Chris gave the children fantastic advice on how to write, and more importantly what to do if you run out of ideas. In the afternoon, the children worked together to create a performance piece. They looked at how to use different parts of their body to create sounds. Each group worked on using their voices to create different moods. The final result was fantastic. The children had an excellent day and by the end of the day were quoting Shakespeare! Miss Hunter.

## Dates for your Diary



**Tuesday afternoons:** Y5CB swimming (1 more session on 8<sup>th</sup> June, then it's Y5AM's turn for 5 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> June!).  
**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June:** Half-Term break.  
**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June:** School reopens for Summer 2 half-term.  
**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 1 visit to Buddhist Temple.  
**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June:** Change4life working with Y4.  
**Thur 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Girls football tournament – Farringdon.  
**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> June:** Y4 working with Chris Connaughton  
**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> June:** Y3 working with Chris Connaughton.  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 5 Harehope Quarry Trip.  
**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** Y6 Residential trip to Kingsway.  
**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Y5AM North Sea science workshop.  
**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Health Week!  
**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Y5AM North Sea science workshop.  
**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Sports Day! (am KS1&Y3 / pm Y4-Y6).  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 5 Cycling proficiency week.  
**DateTBC:** Wild Oyster Project visitor in sch, year TBC.  
**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 5 visit to Harhope Quarry.  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July:** sch closes at 1.00pm for Summer hol.  
**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School re-opens for the Autumn Term & the new school year.

To all GPS families – thank you for your support this half-term. Enjoy your break, have a lovely week, & we'll see you all on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June! Best wishes from the GPS staff team.