

'Christmas at Last' all set to debut!



We've got a fantastic line-up of Christmas activities for the children! These are now on Facebook, and a letter has gone out to GPS families. 'Christmas at Last' also refers to our very special GPS Christmas Pop Song, which our Key Stage 2 children have put together with Mrs Bryant-King – the video is fantastic, and we hope this can become an annual 'GPS Christmas Tradition' – we will debut the video on Facebook and Twitter on Friday 4th December!

Y4KM have been Digging up the Past!



This half term, Year 4 had delved into Prehistoric Britain in our topic 'Digging up the Past'. We focused on the book 'Stone Age Boy', about a young boy who travels back in time to the Stone Age. We wrote beautiful diaries, letters and a four-part story to show our understanding of the text and characters. In science, we became archaeologists by experimenting with different types of rocks, soils and fossils. During our history we learned all about the daily life of people living in the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages including their clothing, housing, and food habits. We created detailed cave paintings using coffee to stain our backgrounds and paint and pastels to include markings of animals. We used light to shine onto these to make it look like the animals were moving! In DT, we created our own life-size dinosaurs using wire and tin foil, and moulded our own Stone Age Jewellery out of clay. To sum up our learning, were able to take part in a fantastic Stone Age workshop that included learning ancient fire-lighting techniques, handling some tools and artefacts, and making Stone Age bread. We have had so much fun, while working hard to learn all about Prehistoric Britain! Miss Muldowney.

Reception Traffic Survey



As part of our 'Marvelous Me' topic, we learned about journeys. The children showed lots of interest in transport and vehicles so we decided to complete our own traffic survey. First we learned how to make a tally chart so that we were ready to fill in our traffic survey worksheet. We went out of school and watched carefully to see which vehicles would drive past. We saw many different types of vehicles. Some even beeped their horn at us and gave us a wave! We were very excited when a police car went past and put its sirens on. The children were very well behaved and had a fab first trip out. Miss Beetham & Miss Barnett.

Year 2 'Go Wild'!



We really did 'Go Wild' during our 1st topic of the Autumn term. We read the story Meerkat Mail, about a meerkat called Sunny, who lived in the Kalahari Desert. We wrote some fantastic stories about Sunny! We researched meerkats and then wrote some amazing non-chronological reports. We explored habitats in Science and created videos in ICT. We learned about the continents and oceans of the world and specifically about Africa. We became explorers and compared the land and lives between Kenya and England, before creating some lovely sunset pictures of a savannah in Art. Mrs Dolan and Mrs Mitchell.

Look at what we offer at GPS:

<p>Free Nursery Places for 2 yr olds. 15 hours a week – check eligibility with our school Office staff.</p>	
<p>Breakfast Club. Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at £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>	

Amazing Habitats!



Year 2 visited Elba Park recently, and we had a fabulous time with Becky. We explored the different habitats that the park had to offer, which linked really well to our Science as we have learned all about different habitats. We explored the pond, woodland and grasslands and thought carefully about the wildlife that inhabited each of the areas. We also loved exploring the fairy dell at the end of our wonderful walk. Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Dolan.

Thierry Tricolore goes to Paris



In year 2, we have had a wonderful virtual adventure with our French friend, Thierry Tricolore. He travelled to Paris and we discovered all of the different ways to get to France from England. We decided which actions would help us to remember the names of transport. We were so surprised to find out that there is a tunnel under the sea! We discovered lots of fun things to do in Paris. One of the most popular things to do was to enjoy the panoramic view from the Eiffel Tower; you can see a very long way. We also found out that you need Euros to pay for things. We decided what Thierry Tricolore would do in a day with 10 Euros to spend. We had lots of fun and we can't wait to find out more about this wonderful city! Mrs Blackett.

'Marvellous Me' in Miss Beetham's Class!



Our first topic in Reception was 'Marvelous Me'. The children learned all about themselves and journeys. The topic was filled with many 'firsts' such as our first PE lesson, full day, reading session and trip. We started the topic by sharing the children's 'all about me' bags. They really enjoyed showing their friends pictures and objects that were special to them. The children enjoyed taking selfies and painting their own self-portraits – now proudly displayed in our classroom. We enjoyed playing 'guess who?' - guessing who each baby photo belonged to. When we moved onto journeys, we enjoyed following a map of our school grounds, playing in our own bus and reading the story 'The Naughty Bus'. The children were very surprised when the naughty bus came to GPS and made a big mess! We enjoyed ending the topic by exploring the autumnal changes in our school grounds. Miss Beetham.

Year 4 LM are Digging up the Past



In our Stone Age topic, we looked closely at people's lives and technology, and how they changed during this period of history. Reading our class book 'Stone Age Boy', the children wrote their own stories and diaries and formed their own freeze frames. In art, the children created cave paintings, adding drawings of animals from the Stone Age. The children also used clay to make their own jewellery. In science we learned all about the different types of rocks and how they are created and looked at layers and different types of soil. The children also took part in a fantastic Stone Age workshop where they looked at how fires would have been made – even having the opportunity to light a fire themselves! They handled different artefacts and made their own Nordic bread, cooking it on the fire and then eating it. Mrs Millican.

Our 'Out of this World' Space Day in Y5!



Mrs Bracknall & Mrs Miller: To end our space topic, 'Out of this World', Year 5 had a space themed day where they could come to school dressed up and take part in lots of space related activities. There were aliens, astronauts and NASA workers to name but a few. The costumes were amazing! We started our morning making a junk modelled rocket. The children brought in lots of recycled materials from home such as boxes, milk cartons and tin foil and they then designed and made their model rocket. The children really took their time with this activity and it was worth it as the finished products were so creative. The children then completed word searches and space themed puzzles before watching a video of Tim Peake in space. He discussed how different life was in space and how they could even play ping pong with a water bubble. The children began their afternoon with a Space-Themed quiz and this tested their knowledge of our solar system and other learning throughout the half-term. After that we even had the opportunity to try dried space food like Tim Peake had discussed in his video. The dried ice-cream was definitely a firm favourite! Year 5 had a fun-filled day and it was an enjoyable way to end our first topic.

Miss McLoughlin: The children came dressed in a range of space costumes, including aliens and astronauts. The day began with the children making a space rocket out of recyclable materials and taking part in a solar system quiz. They also completed a moon landing word search and drew an astronaut. They shared their space projects that they made at home and made an alien door hanger. They also had the special treat of trying space food, which astronauts would have eaten - strawberries, ice-cream and peaches. We had a fantastic day and it was a lovely way to end the topic.

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. Year 1 have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra and sang some lovely songs with actions. Year 2 have been looking at the 'sounds of Africa', singing in African, and playing some complicated African rhythms with percussion instruments and Djembe drums. Our year 3 and 4 classes have been playing Stone Age rhythms and using percussion to compose and play rhythmic ideas based around stories from the Stone Age. They have also been using music notation to write their rhythms. Our year 5 class have been on a space journey listening to Gustav Holst's planet suite. They also worked together to play the theme form 'A Space Odyssey' using 3 different instruments and performed it as a class. Very impressive! Year 6 explored 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 there's lots more to come! Mrs Bryant-King.



Year 3HC visit the Stone Age!



In our topic 'Stones and Bones', we learnt all about Prehistoric Britain including the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. You can ask us the names of the three periods the Stone Age is divided into. We read the book 'Stone Age Boy' and wrote a diary entry and a four part narrative as if we were in the Stone Age and telling our own story. We have created wonderful cave paintings using brewed tea to stain the background and used oil pastels to create animals and hand prints. We made animal headdresses and moulded a jewellery pot from clay. In science, we tested different types of rocks for erosion, making fossils using shells and becoming archaeologists trying to extract chocolate chips from a cookie. To end this amazing topic, we had a fantastic workshop where we learnt the different ways of creating a fire safely and even got to start a fire and cook some bread on a stick! Miss Cassidy.

The Stone Age in Miss Charlton's Class!



After exploring the book 'Stone Age Boy', we wrote our own diary entry and narrative, as if we were the real Stone Age Boy (or girl!). We carried out several science experiments, testing rocks for erosion, making our own fossils and even put on our archaeologist hats to extract chocolate chips from a cookie. We also created some fantastic art, including

animal headdresses, cave paintings and even made a Stone Age jewellery pot out of clay! To finish off the topic, we were lucky enough to take part in a Stone Age workshop, where we each got a chance to start a fire and cook some delicious bread and honey. Miss Charlton.

FREE PLACES FOR 2 YR OLDS!

We have places for 2 year olds, in our fabulous **Little Butterflies Nursery**. Please pop in and enquire at our Office, or ring us on 0191 814 9820.



Courage and Conflict



Earlier this term, Year 6 did a fantastic topic called 'Courage and Conflict'. We learned about World War 2 and how it impacted the lives of people in Great Britain. We researched the Blitz and how people tried to protect themselves from air raids. The children created some fabulous Anderson shelters and found ways of attaching different materials to different surfaces. They also made amazing silhouettes showing a city during the blackout. The children were particularly excellent when they were learning about the rights of Jewish people and how they were taken away. We had some very grown up conversations about how the lives of Jewish people changed during the war and shared how unfair they thought this all was. Also, we'd like to say a big thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and great grandparents who shared stories or memorabilia with the children. The children loved sharing them with the rest of the class. The children were fantastic throughout the whole topic and produced some amazing work. Miss Hunter.

Marvellous Me in Miss Barnett's Class!



In Reception our first topic was 'Marvellous Me'. We have been focusing on journeys and we have been discussing how we all travelled to get to school each day. The books we have been looking at all had a different journey in them, the children

particularly loved 'The Naughty Bus', who visited us here in Grangetown! We had such fun exploring the mess he had made and discussing the story adding our own endings and some of us even continued the story on in our play. We loved learning all about the different types of transport! Miss Barnett.

Dates for your Diary



- Fri 4th Dec:** GPS Christmas Lights Switch-On, class by class.
- Mon 7th Dec:** Filming our class Christmas songs.
- Wed 9th Dec:** Christmas Dinner!
- Mon 14th Dec:** Christmas Puppet Shows / PJ Day!
- Wed 16th Dec:** Christmas Parties Y5&6 (pm), and Y3&4 (pm)
- Thurs 17th Dec:** Little Butterflies, Nursery, Reception (am) & KS1 (pm) Christmas Parties.
- Fri 18th Dec:** Break-up for Christmas (1.00pm). Happy Christmas!
- Mon 4th Jan 2021:** Start of Spring Term. Happy New Year!