



GRANGETOWN NEWSLETTER

September-October 2020

We Made It! And we're feeling strong!



Dear GPS Parents/Carers

*This half-term, at 8 weeks, has been much longer than usual, and - of course - it has been a half-term like no other – schools have faced unprecedented challenges as this country, and countries across the world, have been thrown into turmoil because of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. But, thanks to our talented staff, our amazing children, and our ever-supportive GPS parents, we have stayed strong (Team GPS!) and we've managed to create a successful half-term full of high-quality learning experiences for the children. We have also taken extensive steps to help keep everyone safe – we all worked hard to put in place a range of effective measures, designed to make our school as 'Covid-secure' as possible - all part of our detailed 35 page Risk Assessment. Parents, children and staff have been vigilant and have followed all of our safety procedures to the letter. Well done everyone! We'd like to thank parents/carers for your fantastic support, and we'd like to say a **Big Well Done** to each and every GPS child for putting your heart and soul into school, for working hard, and for coming into school every day with big happy smiles! We made it – and we're feeling strong! Let's enjoy half term, and then let's do it all again in the run up to Christmas! We can't wait! Stay well, Enjoy half-term, See you on 2nd November!*

Look at what we offer at GPS:

Free Nursery Places for 2 yr olds

15 hours a week – check eligibility with our school Office staff.



Breakfast Club

Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.20 per session. Book places via the Office.



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.



And...please remember:

School Attendance Matters! (SAM)

Good attendance gives your child's learning a big boost. We award prizes for good attendance, - SAM the dog, certificates, & our weekly 'Treasure Chest'!

Mrs Noah Project in Year 4LM



For the first two weeks of term, the year 4 children took part in a whole school project based on two books written by Jackie Morris and illustrated by James Mayhew – Mrs Noah's Pockets and Mrs Noah's Garden. We completed lots of wonderful activities including designing and decorating our own pebbles for our school garden, making garden collages in the style of James Mayhew and weaving our own 'pockets' – explaining what we would choose to take onto the ark and why. In English, the children created their own hybrid 'mythical creatures' and then wrote non-chronological reports to give details about what they look like, their diets and their habitats. We thought about what would happen if the animals escaped on the ark and learned all about vibration, by using different instruments and experimenting with elastic bands and rulers. We then presented our work to some of our friends and discussed what we had enjoyed about the project. Mrs Millican.

Settling-in at Little Butterflies!



We have been very busy over the last few weeks welcoming our new Little Butterflies into the Grangetown Primary School family. It has been lovely to see our children settle into Nursery so well and build those important relationships with their key workers. We have also had our first trip to Backhouse Park for our family picnic! We had lots of fun playing on the play park and getting to know our new families. What a fantastic start to our new school year, we're so excited to see what happens next! The Little Butterflies Team.



See this in glorious colour at: www.grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk

Reception and Mrs Noah!



We thought about what precious things we'd put into our pockets to keep them safe. We made our own pockets and attached them to a giant cloak. We had lots of lovely suggestions from the children as to what they'd keep safe - some chose their favourite toy, and some chose their family! As a whole school we will be creating a lovely area in our courtyard garden. For this, we decorated some beautiful shells, like the shells from the story, and then have put them in some clay creatures we created using our fine motor skills! We chose a pair of snails as we know Mr Noah sent two of all the animals and we all thought you might find snails in a garden! Miss Beetham & Miss Barnett.

Mrs Noah's Garden in Y1CT!



Year 1 were so excited to read Mrs Noah's Pockets and Mrs Noah's Garden as they are books we have never read before! After reading Mrs Noah's pockets, we made our own pockets and thought of things that are special to us that we would keep in them. When looking at Mrs Noah's Garden, we discussed what our own gardens look like and what we would include in a dream garden. In one of the pictures in the book, James Mayhew painted Mrs Noah lying in the garden at dusk and the colours were wonderful, so we decided to recreate the picture using rolling and printing techniques. We mixed colours and created beautiful backwashes for our picture. They are proudly on display in our classroom. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different animals in the story and even created our own mixed up animals! Miss Tose.

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. Y1 have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra and are singing some lovely songs with actions. Y2 have been looking at the 'sounds of Africa', singing in African, and playing some complicated African rhythms with percussion instruments and Djembe drums. Our Y3 and Y4 classes have been composing and playing stone-age rhythms. Y5 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! Y6 are exploring 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.

Mrs Noah's Project in Y3EC!



Initially we focussed on Mrs Noah's Pockets, where we designed our own pockets by weaving coloured paper and wrote about all the special things we would take with us if we had to go on a long journey. We also learnt all about mythical creatures and even created our own! We then looked at Mrs Noah's Garden and explored our own surroundings, analysing textures and making rubbings from all around our outdoor environment, such as bark, concrete and brick. We planted cress and watched it grow on our class window sill - some of us even ate some! The children produced some fantastic writing, from a setting description to a diary entry, and we talked all about using amazing adjectives in our work. Miss Charlton.

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Merci, Danke, Gracias!



To celebrate the European Day of Languages, we learned how to say 'Thankyou' in lots of different languages. In music, the children learned a song to help them remember the words. We made gratitude cards to say thank you to someone for what they have done to help us. Also – we made a movie! - take a look at our wonderful 'Thankyou' film on Facebook – it's amazing! Well done everyone! Madame Blackett.

Mrs Noah's Project in Y5AM!



As a class we read the first book - 'Mrs Noah's Pockets' - and then we read the second book - 'Mrs Noah's Garden', and we based our work around that. We first compared what Mrs Noah missed about her garden and what we missed when we weren't in school and able to see our friends. We looked closely at the pictures, which were illustrated by James Mayhew, and we discussed the methods he used. We also watched a video clip of him illustrating the book. We produced our own collage pictures of what we imagined Mrs Noah's garden would be like – full of amazing flowers and mythical creatures. Using the pictures of the garden, we wrote poems about what was in it. We were so proud of our work that we have displayed it in class. Miss McLoughlin.

Mrs Noah's Project in Y3HC!



As a class, we first looked at all of the special things that we would take with us on an adventure. We created our own pockets by weaving coloured card. We also explored the mythical creatures and watched a video to see how the illustrator created them. We created our own mythical creatures by experimenting using different techniques and finding different textures from tree rubbings, gravel rubbings and sponges. We wrote excellent descriptions of the mythical creatures and included many exciting adjectives. We also wrote fantastic diary entries from Mrs Noah and used our five senses to describe her garden. Miss Cassidy.

Nursery - Marvellous Me!



Nursery have had a fantastic half-term and have settled brilliantly. We started our new topic 'Marvellous Me' and the children have painted excellent portraits of themselves. We use the outdoor area daily and they have explored minibeasts, plants and the new equipment. All of the indoor areas have been well used and children are enjoying the sand, paint and play dough. They have all started to build some lovely friendships and we have discussed our golden rules - the smelly stickers were a favourite! We have also started Phase 1 phonics and a short maths session, which the children have been really keen to take part in. We have loved introducing our core books and songs – 'Wheels on the Bus' is a nursery classic. We recently read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (one of our core stories). After reading the book, the children have painted beautiful butterflies, learned about the caterpillar life cycle and worked in the fruit and vegetable shop. Mrs Hanlon & Miss Holyoak.

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Mrs Noah Project in Class Y1VS



Year 1VS had fun reading the Mrs Noah stories. We looked at the images in the book closely and were amazed to see all of the different techniques used. We compared where Mrs Noah lived to our own houses and discussed the similarities and differences. We used describing words to describe the animals in the book. We enjoyed learning about all of the animals in the story and designed our own mythical creature using parts of different animals. We painted it carefully and have proudly displayed it in our classroom. We really enjoyed the Mrs Noah books and now enjoy reading them in our cosy corner. Miss Stell.

Mrs Noah's Garden in Year 2!



During a flood Mrs Noah wanted to save lots of animals, so she filled her pockets with the animals! We took part in lots of PSHE activities discussing what we would put in our pockets and what is special to us. After the flood the land started to recover and plants began to grow again. We found out about the lifecycle of a plant and what plants need to grow. We planted our own seeds and we designed animal plant pots. We grew our own rainbow using kitchen roll and felt tip pens. We created our own coloured celery experiment and we predicted what would happen. We also created flowers using recycled bottles and they will be displayed in the trees on our yard. Mrs Dolan and Mrs Mitchell.

Mrs Noah – Year 4KM



Year 4KM delved into the Mrs Noah's stories to link with our time away from school and talk about our feelings. We began by reading 'Mrs Noah's Pockets' and writing about the special items we would take in our own pockets if we had to leave in a rush. In order to hold these special items, we used card to weave our own colourful pockets. We looked at the poetic language of Mrs Noah's pockets and how the writing made us feel. We then read 'Mrs Noah's Garden' which was focusing on renewal and starting afresh, just like we were doing in school. The children based their work around mythical creatures, like the ones Mrs Noah placed in her pockets. They created their own and wrote a non-chronological report to inform others of their magical creation. In art, Yr4 focused on using different media to design and create their own garden. They used sharpies to design their own pebble to decorate our own school garden. Using musical instruments, we completed some science showing how sounds travel, while making sounds that would be found in the garden. Our work is being put proudly up on display and we have thoroughly enjoyed reading our new-loved books! Miss Muldowney.

Dates for your Diary



- Fri 23rd Oct** - Break up for half term.
- Mon 2nd Nov** - School re-opens.
- Tues 3rd Nov (pm)** - Y5 to Sunderland Minster.
- Thurs 5th Nov (pm)** - Harvest Festival (to be filmed).
- Mon 9th Nov** - New basketball club starts, years 3 & 4, 20 places available! (letters are going out on Fri 23rd Oct).
- Tues 10th Nov** - Hoopstarz sessions in school!
- Tues 17th Nov** - Flu vaccine (optional).
- Fri 27th Nov** - School closed for Staff Training Day.
- Mon 14th Dec** - Christmas Puppet Shows x 3!
- Tues 15th Dec** - Upper KS2 Christmas Party.
- Wed 16th Dec** - Lower KS2 Christmas Party
- Thurs 17th Dec** - KS1 Christmas Party
- Fri 18th Dec** - Break up for Christmas (1.00pm).
- Mon 4th Jan 2021** - Start of Spring Term. Happy New Year!

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