

Y2 meet the animals from Angela's Ark!



Y2 had a special visit from Angela's Ark to support our new science topic. Angela brought in lots of different animals for us to hold and observe. She taught us that not all animals are born live (some animals lay eggs) and showed us different examples of mothers and their offspring. We talked about how animals grow into adults and how an animal's appearance can change. Some of our favourite animals were the snake, chameleon, bearded dragon, hedgehog and the skinny pigs. Mrs Roberts.

Music brings us Together!



We have been looking at how music brings us together across the school this month. Year 2 have enjoyed playing call and response games and using percussion instruments. In year 3, we learnt to sing the song 'Bringing Us Together'. Year 4 have been using instruments to improvise along to the music. Years 5 and 6 looked at different genres of music, including rap, and used glockenspiels to play along to the melody. Choir has gotten off to a fantastic start too, the children have really impressed me with their lovely, confident singing and enthusiasm as we rehearse for our upcoming Christmas performance. Mrs Cox.

Look at what we Offer at GPS!

Breakfast Club.

7.45-8.50. Fantastic value - £1.20 per day.
Book places via our 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 our Office.



Back to the Stone Age in Year 3!



Year 3 had a wonderful day during their Stone Age day. They spent half of the day participating in a Stone Age workshop with Rachael from Wilderness Outdoor Education, learning all about how people in the Stone Age would survive. They even learned how to light a fire. All children had a go at lighting the fire and learned how to put it out safely. They then explored a range of objects such as animal bones, skin and wood that were used by people in the Stone Age for protection, cooking and keeping warm. When the children were not in the workshop, they got to complete Stone Age art, creating cave art using pastels and water colours. Their finished products looked very effective. Miss Beetham

Light and Dark in Little Butterflies!



Our Little Butterflies have been enjoying their new topic – 'Light and Dark'. We've celebrated Bonfire night and Diwali and read our core story 'Peace at Last.' Linked to 'Peace at Last' we made some delicious teddy bear toast using chocolate spread, bananas, blueberries and strawberries. The children explored and tried each fruit to see which one they liked best and added them to their toast. We have also been developing our listening and speaking skills by playing 'What's that noise?' The children have had to listen carefully to sounds from the story such as Mr Bear snoring, a clock ticking and a telephone ringing and then identify them using pictures or their big voices! The Butterflies have really enjoyed these activities and it has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow. These are lovely activities that you might like to try at home! The Little Butterflies Team.

Nursery – Bus Journey to Mowbray Park!



This week we went on a bus journey to Mowbray Park. The children loved getting on the number 2 bus and after we had a play on the park we walked to find the secret door before heading back to school. We have also been making bird feeders this week as one of our forest school activities. We talked about why this was important and the children loved hanging them on the tree. Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Hanlon.

Reception meet their Stick Insects!



Reception have enjoyed reading the book 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. The children are making some maps to hunt for sticks. We have had a very special delivery of stick insects from Insect Lore to grow over time - we can't wait for them to hatch. The children have loved accessing our areas linked to Stick Man, making playdough characters, role playing the story and thinking of quotes that Stick Man might have said. We are loving this book so far! Miss Holyoak

GPS on Social Media



Please check-out our Facebook pages:

Main School page:

www.facebook.com/GrangetownPrimary

Little Butterflies Nursery:

www.facebook.com/LittleButterfliesGPS

Hidden Stories in Year 5



In Year 4, the children took part in the Hidden Stories project, where they visited Holy Trinity Church and learned all about its history and explored the objects that were found when it was renovated. This included a letter from a 13 year old boy called William Elliot whose letter, which was written in 1897, was found in a pew and it asked people to remember him as he was going off to sea. Ruth, from the project, came into school to work with the children on the second part of this project. Hidden Stories are planning on putting on a play about William and needed the children's help in developing a character for it. To begin with the children learned about what was involved in putting on a show and they were asked to create a modern day character for the play. The children had to think about the character's personality, family and likes and dislikes. They were then given a figure outline and had to design the character. They had to think about the clothes they might wear and what they would look like. Ruth took the children's work away and is going to use it to create a character for the play. We are all looking forward to seeing the play sometime in the future. Miss McLoughlin.

Launch of Magical Maths!



November saw the launch of our new maths problem solving and reasoning day – Magical Maths. The whole school will be completing the same mathematical problem – which will be differentiated for challenge – every two weeks. Problems so far have included finding 'Magic Vs' where digits of each arm needed to add to the same number and making 'One Big Triangle' from 9 small ones – where the numbers joining needed to add to 10. The children are really enjoying working together and using and discussing their problem solving and reasoning skills. Mrs Millican.

Year 3 Rocks!



In Science, Year 3 have been learning all about rocks and exploring their properties. They participated in practical lessons by grouping rocks by appearance and completed an experiment to test the rocks and their properties. The children started by identifying the names of rocks and tested if they were permeable, durable and if they were high or low density. The children worked scientifically by making close observations of their findings. Miss Cassidy.

Whatever Next?



Year 1 have been so engrossed in the book 'Whatever Next' this half term. It all began when we received a bear in the mail. We didn't know where he came from but gave him a home in our classroom. Then, one morning, we found bear with a suitcase and a box. We read the story 'Whatever Next' and read about how baby bear used a box as a rocket to fly to the moon for a picnic. We then helped bear pack his bag for his journey, ensuring he had the correct clothing and food! We then took part in role play by getting into the rocket box ourselves and blasting off to the moon! Finally, we have all wrote the story in our books which are absolutely fantastic. Well done Year 1! Miss Tose.

Our new Friends in France!



Our year 6 children are very excited. They have written letters to the children in our new partner school in Niort in the west of France. We posted the letters a little while ago and the children in Niort have received them and they have written their letters to us. We cannot wait to receive them in the post. Year 5 have been learning how to describe their homes and gardens in French. In year 4, the children have been discovering new animals and they have been trying very hard to pronounce the new words accurately. Year 3 are getting very good at using their phonic knowledge to say the names of numbers in French. They love to show off their counting skills. Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of French. They are very pleased with themselves when they beat Madame Blackett in the Beat the Teacher game. Mrs Blackett.

'Supporting Sunlun' Day!



This year, for a change, we decided to support a local charity rather than the national BBC television event. So, we carried out a survey of our families, and a Sunderland charity called Tiana's Troopers was the most popular choice. This charity is supporting Sunningdale School, raising money for an eye gaze machine to help non-verbal children. Our children all enjoyed coming to school in non-uniform, and we are very grateful for the generous donations made by GPS families. We also sold iced biscuits – made by our School Council! The money raised will be donated to Tiana's Troopers – we'll have a final total next week and we'll let everyone know via Facebook. A big Well done everyone for supporting a very worthwhile cause!

100 Years of Pyrex Glass



The children in Key Stage 2 took part in a special assembly led by Posy, an education worker from Sunderland Museum. The assembly was celebrating 100 years of Pyrex glass being made in Sunderland. The assembly began with the children learning that the glass was first made in the USA and that it came to Sunderland to be made in our factories. Sunderland had a world class reputation for making glass – many pieces of Sunderland made glass can still be seen in the museum. The children discovered how Pyrex glass came to be invented and that a man called James A. Jobling brought it to Sunderland to be produced in his factories. The children watched short film clips where they saw inside the Pyrex factory and heard past workers describe their experiences. Some of the children got the opportunity to dress up to help tell the story of Pyrex glass. All of the children had the opportunity to hold a piece of Pyrex glass, which had been brought along from the museum. The children all enjoyed this special assembly and learned a great deal about an industry that was once so important to Sunderland. Miss McLoughlin.

Year 4 visit the Arctic & Antarctic!



At the beginning of November, the children had a fantastic day taking part in an Arctic/Antarctic workshop. They learned all about what life would be like living in the coldest parts of the Earth. We had a fantastic day, trying on protective clothing, testing out skis and pulling sledges. The children built tents – including using a quick survival protection tent and they tasted rationed dried foods. The wonderful day definitely helped us to understand the work we are learning all about this half term in our geography, DT and science lessons. Mrs Millican.

Y5 Exploring Time Zones!



In Geography we have been learning about America. We have been looking at the different states and have worked with maps to locate all the different states while learning their shorthand codes. Something that is very different in America is that depending on the different state people live in they live in different time zones! When one state is waking up one state is getting ready for lunch! We used clocks to help us work out the different time zones and discuss what it would feel like travelling between them. Mrs Wight.

Our Talented Year 6 Artists!



Year 6 have been looking at how artists convey meaning through their work. We talked about how artists often convey their thoughts and feeling through their work. The children sketched their own bottles and inside they drew pictures which represented their own thoughts and feelings. The children then took inspiration from a piece of art called 'The Silent Polluters' which they recreated using different shading techniques and mediums. Their fabulous art work is now proudly displayed. Great effort Year 6! Miss Stell

Come On England!



We all had a great time watching England win their World Cup match versus Iran. And, now, we're all set for the 2nd round. Who knows, there could well be a red & white day coming up in school, depending on results over the next week or so!

Dates for your Diary

There are so many events in the run up to Christmas that we can't fit them into this section of the Newsletter! So, we are issuing another printed 'dates round-up' today, and this will be slotted into the Newsletter as a separate sheet – all dates are online too:

<https://grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk/Calendar/> and here: <https://grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk/For-Parents/Letters-Home/>