

What a great start to 2024!



2024 – and the new Spring term – has got off to a fantastic start at GPS! School is settled and calm, and the children are working hard. It has already been a busy January – family learning is underway, we're planning a Valentines disco, Y5 have performed at Holy Trinity Church, Y4 have enjoyed their Seascapes workshops, and there is a real buzz in every classroom, with everyone engaged in their learning. We look forward to working with parents & carers, to make this term, and the whole of 2024, successful and enjoyable for everyone!

Look at what we Offer at GPS!

Breakfast Club: Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.50 per day. Book places in advance via the Office, please.



Home from Home: After school care – Mon to Fri 3.15 until 5.00pm. Amazing value at just £3.00 per session! Book places via the Office.



Free Places for 2 year olds! In our Little Butterflies Nursery. 15 hrs a week – check eligibility with our Office or with Helen in Little Butterflies. For details, please pop in & enquire at our Office, or ring us on: 0191 814 9820.



The Importance of Reading at Home

Reading is the 'key' that unlocks access to so many areas of learning. Our staff work very hard to teach the building blocks of reading, and to ensure that as the children move through school they continue to further develop their reading ability. However, reading at home is also vital – please make sure your child reads at least 3 times a week (either with a parent/carers or independently), and please sign your child's Reading Diary every time they read. Thankyou!

The Gingerbread Man



In Little Butterflies, we have been learning about The Gingerbread man story. The children have loved this story and are able to help us read it by joining in at the repeated phrases. We have turned our role play area into the Butterfly Bakery, the children have made salt dough cakes and pastries. We have been baking and making some yummy rock buns. We have visited our local bakeries and bought some special treats for our snack time. We have had a very busy few weeks! Little Butterflies Team.

Seascapes Project



On Thursday 25th January, Year 4 took part in a special workshop called 'Under and above the Waves', led by Seascapes. During the workshop we investigated different habitats including the sandy seashore, the kelp forest and the rocky reef. The children spent time researching different animals and plants that could be found in each habitat. The children spent time working together in groups to create a variety of different food chains discussing producers and consumers. They had a fantastic time and are looking forward to their second session which is linked to shipwrecks. Mrs Bracknall and Mrs Mitchell

Talented Artists in Year 3



In Y3 we've been learning about the artist Paul Klee. To begin, we looked at the history of Paul Klee and learned of his journey to becoming the artist he is today. We looked at a range of Paul Klee's artwork and considered his use of water colours. During this lesson we worked with water colours to create a range of textures and shades. We then moved on to using oil pastels and recreated one of the artist's masterpieces. We then put the designs on to a print using a polystyrene block. I am sure Y3 will continue to create some fabulous pieces of work. Mrs Bewick.

Bonjour Thierry Tricolore !



Miss Tose's class have very much enjoyed their first experience of French. They began by telling Madame Blackett about other languages they may speak at home. They were very keen to say any French words they already knew. Their favourite part of the lesson was meeting their new French friend Thierry Tricolore. He only speaks French so they loved saying 'Bonjour' and telling him their name in a short French sentence. Everyone designed their own version of a puppet and showed them to the class. To finish off, Norman our puppet who doesn't speak French came to learn some new words. He often gets it wrong but the children were very good at correcting him. Bravo les enfants! Madame Blackett.

Nursery Superheroes!



This half term our topic is all about Superhero's. We started off by looking at different jobs and linked it to the story 'Dear Zoo' and a zookeeper. We enjoyed rehearsing the story using a strategy called story mapping where we use pictures to represent parts of the story. We then moved on to looking at people who help us and the jobs that they do. They particularly loved playing doctors and nurses and helping each other feel better. This week we have been reading the story 'Supertato'. We rescued the vegetables from the Evil Pea and even captured it in the jelly. We then went on an Evil Pea hunt around the classroom to see if we could find those that had escaped from the freezer. This week we dressed up as our favourite superhero's for our superhero day and enjoyed our superhero cakes that we had been making all week.

We love Reading!



As you might already know, in Year 1 we have a huge push on reading. We not only want to ensure our children can read but also that they enjoy reading! To help us achieve this we have an in class reading session every Thursday where the

children can chose a book from our class library or read their monster phonics book with a friend. The children really enjoy reading collaboratively and sharing their love of a story! Miss Farrell.

Year 5 Artists!

In our Art lessons this term we have been looking at the artist Robert Delauney. We have researched the differences between warm and cold colour palettes and experimented with painting and printing inspired by the artist's work using different objects and materials. We have also learnt how to layer colours to add effect and discussed the different uses of colour, shape, techniques and how this can affect a piece of artwork. The children are looking forward to designing their own piece of artwork based on the different designs we have looked at by Robert Delaunay in the coming weeks! Miss Humble.



Sing a Song o' Sunderland



On Tuesday 30th January the year 5 children went to the Holy Trinity church to perform. Over the past month they have been taking part in regular workshops with Marty and Ash, where they have wrote their own sea shanties. They wrote 3 different sea shanties all about the city of Sunderland. They have been practicing and adding in harmonies to their songs. They gave a fantastic performance and should be extremely proud of themselves. Miss Richardson.

When the Sky Falls



The Y6 children are enjoying reading their class novel 'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle. The book links wonderfully well to our history focus of World War II. Using the book as motivation, Y6 have completed lots of different reading and writing tasks, including writing a diary in character and writing their own narrative based on the story. The children have enjoyed learning all about the book's central character, Adonis, who is a grey silver-backed gorilla and is being cared for in a zoo in the middle of London during the time of the blitz. We have learned so much about the history of WWII by reading our fabulous book. Mrs Millican.

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready, Be Kind



We have recently launched a project to help the children think about their behaviour on the playground at breaks & lunchtimes. We will be encouraging the children to 'Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready, Be Kind'. Assemblies will be held to explore positive playground behaviour. Some new Playground Rules will be introduced, and we will even have some new noticeboards made for the playground to remind the children of our expectations. We'll keep families fully updated as this project unfolds.

Grangetown at Goals



On Thursday 25th January our boys' football team travelled to Goals Soccer Centre to take part in the annual 5 side tournament. We were in a group with Thorney Close and Barnes. Our first match was against Thorney Close, we played some brilliant football and won 6 - 2 Leo scoring 4 goals and one a piece for Rio and Ollie. Next we played Barnes, whichever team won would qualify for the finals. Both teams gave their all in a ten goal thriller. Barnes coming out on top 6 - 4. Our goals were scored by Leo x3 and one for Zane. As always our boys were a credit to our school with their behaviour and sportsmanship. Mr B Newby.

Rapunzel, let down your hair!



Miss Tose's class have been really engrossed in our new class book 'Rapunzel' by Bethan Woollvin. It tells an alternative story to the original Rapunzel tale. We have been writing lots of character descriptions, setting descriptions and looking at how stories have a beginning, middle and end. In Science, we are looking at which material is best suited to build a new tower for Rapunzel based on its properties. We are visiting Hylton Castle next week and are so excited to see a real castle where a princess may have once lived! Miss Tose.

Valentines Disco!



Tickets for our two Valentines discos are selling fast! Just £2.00 per ticket (includes hot dog, sweets & drink). The discos are on Monday 12th February, at 2.00-3.00pm FOR Little Butterflies, Nursery, & Years 1 & 2, and 3.30-4.30 for Years 3-6.

Our Year 2 Artists!



This half term we have been learning about the artist Henri Matisse. He was famous for using bright colours and patterns in his work. We began by exploring colour mixing and how we can create secondary colours by mixing the primary colours. After that we created lighter and darker shades by adding white and black. One of our favourite lessons has been when we used stamps and rollers to create patterns. We are planning our final piece this week. Keep an eye out around school for our display. Mrs Roberts.

World War 2



This half term the children have been learning all about the Second World War in their History lessons. The children first thought about where WW2 came in the timeline of important historical events. The children learned which countries were the allies and axis powers during the war and what caused the outbreak of the war. The children discovered that women played an important role during the war working as land girls and in the munitions factories. The children learned about the Blitz and how people tried to protect themselves from bombing by using Anderson Shelters and the blackout. Alongside their History lessons, the children have been reading 'When the Sky Falls', a novel set in wartime London. This has inspired the children to write their own historical story. The children have also enjoyed looking at artefacts such as a gasmask and medals belonging to Miss McLoughlin's granda, who fought in the war. The children are looking forward to their special World War 2 day at the end of the half term. Miss McLoughlin.

Superheroes, Supertato, & The Little Red Hen!



We have had a fantastic month since coming back to school! The children have enjoyed learning about superheroes and listening to our core stories 'Supertato Veggies Assemble' and 'The little red hen'. We loved learning about everyday superheroes and people who help us. We looked at our dream jobs and discussed the important roles some people have. We loved making hedgehog bread for our little red hen and tasting our finished product! It was delicious. We also loved our Superhero day, where we dressed up and role played as our favourite famous hero. Miss Holyoak.

A busy month in Music!



We've been very busy this half term in Music. KS1 have been busy learning about dynamics and tempo, moving to songs at different tempos and controlling the volume at which we play instruments. They have also learnt to sing some great songs like "Cobbler Cobbler" and "Pretty Little Trees", recognising which notes from the musical alphabet are in the songs. The children have played djembes, glockenspiels, claves and chime bars in large ensembles and pairs. KS2 have been going full steam ahead with their learning. Year 4 have been learning folk songs from around the world, as well as doing some graphic notation. Y3 have learnt about counting in 3/4 and how three beats can be really effective in music. They have also learnt how to sing songs such as My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean. Syncopation is on the menu in Y5, learning how to play in between the beats, and Y6 have started a tour of the world of harmony and are building up to learning some chords and arpeggios. Mr. Browne.

Diary Dates

- Mon 5th Feb - Y1 Hylton Castle Trip
- Mon 5th Feb - Little Butterflies Visit
- Thurs 8th Feb - Y4 Visit to Hartlepool Hough Battery
- Mon 12th Feb - Valentine's Day Discos
- Tues 13th Feb - Y4 Greek Day
- Wed 14th Feb - Y6 WW2 Day
- Fri 16th Feb - Last Day of Half Term
- Mon 19th - Fri 23rd Feb: Hal-term break
- Thurs 22nd & Fri 23rd Feb: HAF Holiday Playscheme, at school.
- Mon 26th Feb - School reopens after half term.

Also, keep an eye on the Calendar on our website:
<https://cranston.sunderland.sch.uk/Calendar/>