

Hey Ewe!



Key Stage 1 children performed 'Hey Ewe' as their annual Nativity and what can I say... it was AMAZING. The story tells the tale of a curious sheep, who notices strange things going on. She tries to tell her sheep friends, but they just won't listen. She sees a bright star, angels, wise men and a young couple on a donkey. The sheep knows there is something up, so she follows them and finds a new King born in a stable. The children were clear and expressive when delivering their lines, and the singing was fantastic. I know all of our parents and carers were just as proud as us. Well done everyone! Mrs Roberts.

Places for September 2025



- We are taking applications for Reception, for September 2025. Applications opened on Monday 2nd October and run until 15th January. See: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline>
- Places are also available in Little Butterflies – our 2 year old Nursery, and in our 3 year old Nursery, throughout the year.
- 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, we hope you will consider GPS!

Look at what we Offer at GPS!

<p>Breakfast Club: Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.50 per day. Book places in advance via the Office, please.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>FREE PLACES FOR 2 YR OLDS! In our Little Butterflies Nursery. 15 hrs a week – check eligibility with our school Office or with Helen in Little Butterflies. For more details, please pop in & enquire at our Office, or ring us on: 0191 814 9820.</p>	

Snowtubing Fun with Year 1!



Year 1 had the most amazing time at Silksworth Ski Slope, where we had the opportunity to go snow tubing! We sat on inflatable rubber donuts and raced down the slope as fast as we could! We went all the way to the top of the slope and this meant we were going so much faster! Everyone was so brave, gave it a go and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Afterwards, we met Santa and had hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows. We told Santa what we wanted for Christmas and our teachers confirmed we had all been good boys and girls. Well done Year 1 for being so brave and for your excellent behaviour during our visit! Miss Tose.

Y5 Singer-Songwriters work with Marty!



During the last two weeks, the year 5 children had the wonderful opportunity to help write and record their own song. Working with singer/songwriter Marty Longstaff, the children worked together to give their own ideas linking to what makes them sad, mad and glad. They talked about how emotions were an excellent start to writing their own song. Marty took away all of our suggestions and ideas and put them into a song, to spread the word of how to take care of others. This week, Marty returned to Grangetown and taught the children their wonderful new song. We then sang each of the verses and chorus, being recorded as we went. Marty is now putting the recording together to create the whole song. We all had a wonderful time, listening to Marty sing and then singing with him, and can't wait to hear the final version of our song. Mrs Millican.

Back to the Stone Age with Year 3!



Year 3 had a fabulous day stepping back into the Stone Age! Each class spent half a day outside learning about the Stone Age and the Iron Age. The children began with a piece of string to show the length of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They then moved on to see how early humans created fire as one of their survival methods. The children were then able to have a 'hands on' experience, looking at real life replicas of the tools and weapons that were used throughout this time period. The children then finished off their session with a little teamwork and built their very own shelters. Well done Year 3! Mrs Bewick.

Arctic Food!



In Design and Technology this term, Year 4 have been researching the types of food arctic explorers eat. We have discussed the nutritional value and how their diets may be different to ours. We have designed posters to show some popular Arctic foods including Pemmican and Expedition cake. We thought about how and where the ingredients are grown and we researched the nutritional elements. Also, we had a go at making our very own Sledging Biscuits, which Arctic explorers still eat today, mainly by scientists who are working away from bases in the Arctic. Miss Humble

Arbor GROWS to 93% uptake! Let's reach 100%!



A fantastic 93% of GPS parents are now registered on our Arbor parent portal or app. This enables you to easily make payments,

and you can send and receive messages to and from school. Could we encourage the remaining 7% of parents to sign up, please? To register, go to: login.arbor.sc and click 'forgot password'.

Party Time in Reception!



The Reception children have all loved our Christmas party this month! We have danced to music, played games and had some delicious party food. We have loved sharing some special memories with our friends. The children loved coming into school wearing pyjamas on Wednesday this week. It was fun to eat popcorn and drink yummy hot chocolate while watching a film! What a perfect day. Miss Holyoak.

Year 5 Engineers Making Buggies!



This term year 5 have been focusing on forces in Science. We started by learning about 4 different forces: gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. In each lesson, they carried out an experiment to find out the effects of each force on different materials. To end our unit, we all made buggies - we thought about the design of our buggy to ensure it travelled smoothly. As a class, we discussed the forces acting upon the buggy. Finally, we raced them. Miss Richardson.

Christmas Celebrations in Reception!



The Reception children have had a fantastic time celebrating Christmas! We have loved practicing for our Wiggly Nativity and learning all the fun songs! We have also enjoyed learning the Christmas story and making cards for our families. The children enjoyed meeting Santa and receiving their special gifts. They

also loved having our class elf - all the way from the north pole! I know they will all be on the good list! The children enjoyed making calendars with special snowflakes on! Miss Toolin.

Christmas Fun in French and German



The festive season brings such a lot of interesting cultural traditions for the children to discover. In German club, we are celebrating by visiting a virtual Christmas market. Delicious Lebkuchen and Stollen add an authentic touch to the experience. Years 1 and 2 have enjoyed finding out that children in France leave their shoes out instead of stockings to receive small gifts. Year 3 have learned that nativity scenes are very popular in homes in France. They have made a card using the key figures in the Christmas story. In year 4, our children have used their knowledge of describing animals to design a garden at Christmas with light-up animals. Year 5 and 6 have practised their reading skills to follow a description of a Christmas tree in French and to draw it correctly. Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année! Mrs Blackett.

Nursery Parent Workshop



We recently invited parents and grandparents into Nursery to take part in some Christmas activities. This was the first time that some of the children have welcomed their families into our classroom. We split the group into two. Half got to play in the classroom and half got to do some crafts in the hall and then we swapped. We decorated Christmas baubles, made our letters to post to Santa and prepared our reindeer dust ready for Christmas Eve. We also decorated biscuits and added Christmas coloured icing and sprinkles. The children also enjoyed making their own Christmas cards and decorating and sharing these with family and friends. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas. Miss Davison and Miss Cruikshanks.

Y3BM Parent Workshop



Year 3BM had a lovely - Christmas themed - parent workshop this month! Parents and carers were invited into school to support their children to complete a variety of Christmas crafts. The children created stained glass nativity scenes, reindeer tree decorations, a baby Jesus ornament, and they decorated a Christmas pudding biscuit using icing and sprinkles. It was lovely to see the children enjoying their Christmas crafts with their adults, and we were really impressed at how creative they were. Thanks to all of the parents and carers for coming along and getting stuck in! Mrs Bracknall and Mrs Mitchell.

2JB re-write 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'!



In 2JB, we have been writing up a storm in our English lessons! Our focus has been retelling 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We began by reading the retold version of the story by

Mary Finch. A particular favourite part of the story for most of us was when the big billy goat 'kicked the troll into the middle of next week!' We found this hilarious! Then we planned using a 'story map' and began to write our own versions. Miss Burn and Miss Duggan were amazed with the fabulous adjectives we used in our stories. If our writing is this good now, we can only imagine how amazing it will be by the end of Year 2! Miss Burn.

Year 6 Boxercise goes down a Storm!



The Year 6 children have taken part in a series of sessions with Victoria, a youth worker, from the Lambton Street Youth Centre. Each session started with the children completing a warm up of running and squats, followed by team games. For the final session,

the coach brought the boxing gloves and pads for the children to practise their sparring skills. The children were taught how to stand in the correct boxing stance and to punch the pads in a safe way. The children enjoyed seeing how many hits they could make and how fast they could do it. The children also completed a series of exercises to build up their stamina, such as burpees, jump lunges and squats. The sessions ended with team races, where the children had to complete a 'duck walk' and a 'bear walk'. The children have really enjoyed the sessions, especially using the gloves and pads. Miss McLoughlin.

KS2 Christmas Singing event



Last week, each class in KS2 came together for our annual singing event. Each class chose a Christmas song to perform and the school council did a fantastic job at narrating the event. There were jingle bells, guitars and some wonderful dancing throughout the afternoon. Our school choir sang two songs beautifully. It was a lovely way to get into the festive spirit. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for coming to join us. Mrs Quinn.

Recycled Christmas Crafts



Y1 had a wonderful visit from Laura from Groundworks, who came to work with us with a session linked to recycling. She brought us some recycled cardboard and wool. We wove the wool around the cardboard in a pattern to create a Christmas bauble. We learned about what can be recycled and what can't. We can't wait to show our Mums and Dads our decorations for our tree! Thank you again to Laura and the team at Groundworks! Miss Tose.

Farewell and Good Luck Miss Holyoak



After four years at Grangetown, Miss Holyoak is moving on at the end of this term. We

know you'll join us in thanking Miss Holyoak for her fantastic contribution to GPS, and in wishing her all the very best for the future. Good Luck Miss Holyoak!



Christmas Magic with the Little Butterflies



We have had such a magical month full of Christmas activities. We had a fun parents Christmas workshop - the children loved having their special adult come into nursery. We also took part in our first nativity - Wriggly Nativity. All the children did an amazing job learning all the songs and actions. We have finished with a very cosy pyjama day with hot chocolate, marshmallows and yummy biscuits. We hope you all have a magical Christmas! Helen and the LB team.

A Message from Mr McAnaney



"What an amazing two weeks we've had, celebrating Christmas! We've also had a very successful Autumn term. I'd like to thank all GPS children for working so hard in class this term, for your perfect behaviour, for giving 100% in school, and for your amazing performances in the Nativities and the KS2 singing event. You're all stars! I know GPS families will join me in thanking our fantastic staff – they're hardworking, highly committed, caring and talented, and I'm sure you'll agree that they've given the children an absolutely wonderful Christmas at school! Well done Team GPS! We'd also like to thank mams, dads and carers for the fabulous support you give your children, and the school, every day – we really value the way you read with your children (and encourage them to read independently), and the way your support good attendance – it makes all the difference! Well done! To all GPS families, from the GPS Team - Have a lovely Christmas, Happy New Year, and All the Best for 2025!" - Mr McAnaney, Headteacher.

Dates for your Diary



Fri 20th Dec: 12 noon, Carol Service at St Aidan's Church. All parents & carers very welcome.

Fri 20th Dec: End of term - children to be collected from St Aidan's Church at 1.00pm.

Mon 23rd Dec to Fri 3rd Jan : Christmas and New Year holiday – school closed.

Mon 6th Jan: School reopens for the start of Spring Term.

For a full set of dates, see Calendar on our website:
<https://grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk/Calendar/>