



# GRANGETOWN NEWSLETTER

February to early-March 2025

## Grangetown Football



Our girls and 7 a side football teams have both played league games recently. The Grangetown girls travelled to Ford Hub to play three league games. Our future lioness Millie had a brilliant night scoring **seven** goals! We were on the wrong side of the result in close games against Southwick and St Cuthberts, Millie scoring three goals in these games. Then we had a thrilling 4-4 draw against Castletown, Millie scoring all four goals. Our 7 a side team travelled to Ford Hub to play three league games. We lost out in close games to league leaders Dame Dorothy and Town End. Then after leading twice we had to settle for a 2-2 draw against Hylton Castle, our goals being scored by Tyler and Keaton. Mr B Newby.

## Butterfly Builders!



This month the Little Butterflies have turned into builders just like the 3 Little Pigs. The children have loved reading our new core story this month The Three Little Pigs. We have a small world area linked to our new core story, the children have loved retelling the story with the pigs. The children have been using the tools to fix everything at nursery. We used the wooden blocks and shaving foam to make some tall towers, we ended up getting the shaving foam everywhere. When we read the story some of the children can help tell the story. We all love saying "I'll huff and puff and blow your house down!" Helen and Donna.

## Places for September 2025



- We are taking applications for our Reception classes, for Sept 2025. Applications opened on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct and initially ran until 15<sup>th</sup> January. Late applications (after 15<sup>th</sup> January) can be made via Sunderland Council. Please contact school on 0191 814 9820, if you need any advice. See <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline>
- Places are also available in Little Butterflies – our 2 yr old Nursery, and in our 3 yr 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!

## Year 5 Scientists explore Centre for Life!



To support our science lessons this half term, and as part of a space programme that the Y5 children are taking part in, we had the opportunity to visit the Centre for Life in Newcastle. It was an excellent visit, with the children exploring different science zones – including science, creative, brain and wow zones. The children also took part in a science workshop, where they controlled a robot to change model solar panels on a satellite. Children had the opportunity to taste different space food and test the absorbency of a Maximum Absorbency Garment (MAG), which would be worn by astronauts. The children then took part in a science show where they watched and voted for lots of different experiments. Our final activity was to visit the planetarium which was amazing. The children learned about our solar system, its planets and different star constellations. Our time at the museum was out of this world! Mrs Millican.

## Look at what we Offer at GPS!

<p><b>Breakfast Club:</b> Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.50 per day. Book places in advance via the Office.</p>	
<p><b>Home from Home:</b> After school care – Mon to Fri 3.15 until 5.00pm. Amazing value at just £3.00 per session!</p>	
<p><b>FREE PLACES FOR 2 YR OLDS!</b> 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 &amp; enquire at our Office, or ring us on: 0191 814 9820.</p>	

## Fab February in Reception!



We have had such a fabulous February in Reception! We had lots of fun learning our core story, 'The Little Red Hen', and creating actions to go along with it. We have also enjoyed lots of celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. We loved getting dressed up for our Valentines disco and talking about who we love! We went on a special visit around our local area to spot the good and bad things in our environment, such as nature and litter and had discussions about how we can help our planet. We even got to play on the park as a reward for all of our hard work. Miss Toolin.

## Y4 Groovy Greek Day



To celebrate the end of our topic on Ancient Greece, Y4 had a special Groovy Greek Day. The children were invited to come into school dressed as

Ancient Greeks and all outfits were fabulous. We started our day by researching the Greek alphabet and creating our own name plaques using letters and symbols. We then made beautiful green and gold olive wreath crowns to wear throughout the day. Throughout the afternoon, we looked at Greek pottery and designed and coloured our own vase. The children also enjoyed our Greek taster session trying out food that they would have had in Ancient Greek times. Overall, the children had a fantastic day. Miss Humble

## Year 1 explore Backhouse Park



We really enjoyed exploring Backhouse Park to look for signs of Winter. On the day we went, it was frosty and when we entered the park the grass was so crunchy with ice - we liked the noise it made when it was walked on! We found lots of fallen leaves and talked about deciduous and evergreen trees. We found many snow drops growing which were beautiful. After exploring different areas of the park, we had a well

earned play in the play area and had a biscuit for snack! Great job Year 1! Miss Tose.

## Valentine's Disco!



Our annual Valentine's Disco was a huge success this year! The introduction of a tuck shop was a hit with the children who enjoyed buying crispy cakes, sweets, mix ups and crisps. Mr Newby was once again our resident DJ and ensured the children danced the afternoon away! The children also enjoyed the heart colouring table which was handy for when they needed a rest from dancing! A huge thank you to our parents' group for organising and supporting at the disco! Miss Tose.

## Year 2 Playground Games



Y2 had so much fun participating in a 'Playground Games' session which gave us lots of ideas for different games they can play outside with their friends. The coach who ran the session showed us a variety of different games by getting some helpers to support her to demonstrate how to play them. One of our favourite games was called 'Donkey'. In this game, we had to stand in a circle with our friends to throw and catch a ball. We had to be careful though - if we didn't catch the ball, we would have to start spelling the word donkey one letter at a time. Over and over again, we had to throw and catch the ball until we had finally spelled 'donkey' using all of the letters. This game was so much fun and we can't wait to trial it on the yard with our friends! Miss Burn & Mrs Roberts.

## Instrumental Tuition set to Start soon!



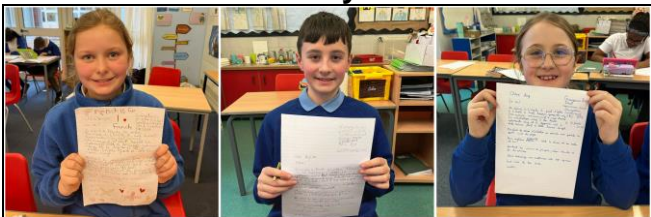
- Exciting news! The children will soon have the opportunity to learn GUITAR and KEYBOARD.
- We have 2 fantastic tutors lined up, plus a set of brand new instruments.
- The families who have already applied will get places, and there will be some extra places up for grabs - first come, first served!
- Just £2.50 per session - great value!

## Year 3 Dance Festival



Year 3 were invited to the Raich Carter on 3rd February to take part in a dance festival with other children from primary schools in the local area. They had the opportunity to try out different dance types including zumba and street dance. They learnt a variety of dance moves and techniques and performed these to music. The children finished the session with some skill games and challenges that worked on their core strength and balances. We were really impressed with the dances the children produced and how well they listened and behaved. Mrs Bracknall.

## French Fun in February



February has been a very busy month for our young linguists. In year 1, our children have been listening to a story in French about a dog who could not bark but could make lots of other animal noises, they loved finding out why. Year 2 were very proud of their ability to remember the names of the months of the year and the seasons. They have excellent memories. Year 3 have begun to write and say short sentence about Paris in French. In year 4 we have been discovering the names of sea creatures in French and using them in sentences describing where they live. Year 5 very much enjoyed a craft activity which showcases their work done about towns and cities. I am extremely proud of the effort year 6 have made when writing a letter in French to describe their school day. They are wonderful at giving their opinions about school subjects and what they like to do at playtime.

## A Busy month in Reception!



Reception have had another busy month! We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our new core book, 'The Little Red Hen'. The children created their own story map to help them internalise the story to enable them to re-tell it to their friends and family. In maths the children have been busy working on counting up to 30, as well as looking at more than and fewer than. We have also enjoyed looking at how the

Chinese celebrate New Year as well as sampling some of the tasty foods they eat. February was such a busy month learning about celebrations, we also looked at the story behind Valentine's Day before enjoying taking part in our Valetine's Disco. Mrs Bewick.

## Instruments! Oh how we love to explore!



This half term Year 1 have looked out how sound is created and how we can make sounds ourselves! We even got very crafty and made our very own instruments! In years 2 and 3 we looked at instrument names and where they came from! We even designed our own and discussed what style of music it might play. In year 4 we explored a wide range of instruments and how they sound together! Year 4's favourite task

was creating a poster for a concert and researching facts about instruments they were interested in! In year 5 we learnt how musicians read their music and understand how to play it! We worked on reading pitch and writing pitch and could even test our friends by playing each other's music. Year 6 had a blast learning about instruments in the Orchestra! They were able to identify and classify instruments into their orchestral family. Year 6 highly enjoyed experimenting with new instruments such as the cello and violin and it inspired students to learn in the future!

## Gas Mask Boxes



This half term, Year 6 have been learning all about life during WW2. In preparation for our WW2 day, all of the children made a gas mask box. We discussed the importance of these during the war and how they would have been carried at all times. The children used their maths skills to carefully measure and draw out the net of the box. They then cut it out and backed it in brown paper before adding string. It was lovely to see the children demonstrating great team work skills by working together and helping each other when needed. Great work Year 6! Mrs Quinn.

## World War 2 Day – Y6 Time Travellers!



The Year 6 children took part in a special WW2 Day. Many of the children came dressed to school as evacuees, pilots and soldiers. The day began with the children making an evacuee name tag and an identity card. The children used a range of materials to make a model Anderson Shelter and even used mini Shredded Wheat as sandbags. On the afternoon, the children learned about rationing and tasted some World War 2 food: Spam sandwiches, a carrot and pickle sandwich filling and a dessert made from apple and condensed milk. The food was not to everyone's tastes. The children also learned about propaganda posters and designed their own versions. They also wrote messages using the Morse Code alphabet. The children really enjoyed their day and it was a lovely way to end the history topic. Miss McLoughlin.

## Nursery Superheroes!



Nursery have had a Super month in February! With our core story being 'Supertato' we have focused on the heroes saving the day. Nursery especially enjoyed their own Superhero Day, where the children came into school dressed as their favourite hero! They were all on watch to make sure the school

was safe from any villains. Miss Davison.

## Year 5 Space Day!

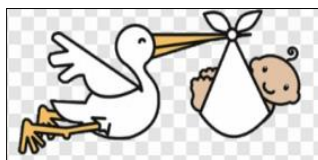


This term year 5 celebrated their science topic space with a space day. After their recent visit to the Life Centre the children took on the challenge of planning and building a moon base, they used a variety of equipment to ensure their base was strong and could

accommodate the astronauts. They followed a design brief and had to make sure all bases kept the astronauts safe and allowed them to do their work in

space. The children then evaluated their moon bases. During the morning, the children participated in a live chat room where they were able to speak to scientists and ask them questions. Also, the children enjoyed completing space activities; they made a planet spinner, solved space riddles and created their own space book marks. Everyone had an amazing day and learned lots more about space. Miss Richardson.

## Best Wishes & Good Luck to Mrs Roberts!



Mrs Roberts started her maternity leave in the February half-term. She had a lovely send off from colleagues, children and parents, all of whom

passed on their best wishes. I know you will join me in thanking Mrs Roberts for her commitment and hard work in school, as Year 2 teacher, English lead, and Phase 2 lead, and of course in wishing her a wonderful maternity leave. We all look forward to her special news! Mrs Roberts is planning to return to school in December 2025.

## Mrs Millican now in Y2, Mrs Bewick in Y3!



Mrs Millican moved from Y5 to Y2, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Mrs Bewick moved from Reception back into Y3, from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Mrs Millican is now Phase 2 lead (years 1-3). Good luck to Mrs Millican and Mrs Bewick, in their new classes!

## Welcome Miss South & Mrs Speight



Miss South started as a Y5 teacher on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, and Mrs Speight joined us as a Reception teacher on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. I know you will join me in warmly welcoming our new staff to Team GPS!

## Dates for your Diary

- Mon 10th-14th March - British Science Week.
- Mon 10th March - Y5 Moon Map Workshop.
- Tues 11th March - Y1 Roots & Shoots
- Tues 11th March - Y2 Back on the Map Workshop.
- Thurs 13th March - Y1 Walkwise.
- Thurs 13th March - Y1 Back on the Map Workshop.
- Fri 14th-16th March - Derwent Hill.
- Tues 18th March - Y2 Roots & Shoots.
- Tues 18th March - Y4 Tri Golf/Athletics.
- Thurs 20th-27th March - Book Fair.
- Thurs 20th March - Y1 Walkwise.
- Wed 26th March - Y5 Harehope Quarry.

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