

GPS Footballers on Tour!



On Thursday 23rd January, our football team travelled to Goals Soccer Centre to take part in the league 5 a side tournament. We were drawn in a very tough group alongside St Joseph's, St Mary's and St Patrick's. The quality of football played was very high. We scored three goals on the night - two from Mason and one from Keaton. As always, our players were a credit to our school. Mr Newby.

Run, run, as fast as you can!



This month 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 (especially "run run as fast as you can"!). We have been baking and making our own yummy gingerbread men. We have been making gingerbread men in our playdough area using a variety of loose parts. We have visited our local bakeries and bought some special treats for our snack time. We have had a very busy few weeks! Helen.

Places for September 2025



- We are taking applications for our Reception classes, for Sept 2025. Applications opened on Monday 2nd Oct and initially ran until 15th January. Late applications (after 15th 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!

Rose Blanche



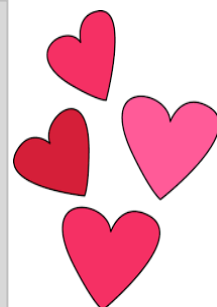
This half term in English, Y6 have been reading and re-telling the historical narrative 'Rose Blanche'. We have thought carefully about our vocabulary choices and how they impact the reader. The children have organised their work into sections to ensure that it had a nice flow. They have also worked hard to ensure that the reader was left in suspense after each section in order to make them want to read on. The children have enjoyed turning their work into mini books for display. This narrative has also helped us with our unit of work in history which is all about WW2. Miss McLoughlin.

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>	

Valentines Disco!

Just a reminder our Valentine's Discos will be held on Monday 17th February. The disco for Early Years and Year 1 + 2 will be 2pm-3pm. Year 3-6 will be held 3.30-4.30pm. Tickets are on sale at the office for just £1. Children can bring money to buy a range of sweets and treats. Tickets are selling fast!



We love instruments!



This half-term, year 5 and year 6 have had a blast learning about instrument families and exploring the instruments in person! Year 5 have been creating their own percussion orchestra and have really enjoyed working together to create music and understand how to use percussion instruments to their advantage. Year 6 have enjoyed exploring the features of an instrument and how to classify it. They have even added in some science and discovered how a string instrument produces its sound! Both year 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to explore a range of instruments and loved being able to hear the sound of a cello in person, even if they did think it sounded like a horror movie! Miss Marchioli.

Superheroes!



What a fantastic start to the New Year in reception! The children have enjoyed learning all about superheroes and listening to our core stories 'Supertato Veggies Assemble' and 'The Little Red Hen'. We also loved learning about everyday superheroes and people who help us! We talked about what our dream jobs could be. We have also enjoyed watching and caring for our class 'pet', Harry Hedgehog. The children have enjoyed watering him and watching his spikes (grass) grow. I am sure they would love to show you him in our window! Mrs Bewick.

Keeping Healthy in Reception!



We have had a very busy start to the New Year in Reception. After reading our core story 'Supertato: Veggies Assemble' we enjoyed lots of fun superhero activities in class. While learning about different superheroes we also learned about how to keep our own bodies healthy. We have practiced lots of different exercises, learned about our skeletons and talked about making healthy choices when we eat and drink. This month, we even had our very own Superhero day with healthy snacks that we made ourselves! Miss Toolin.

Rap Poetry



In Guided Reading, Year 4 have been looking at Rap poetry. The children have read a range of rap poetry focusing on pace, expression, rhythm and vocabulary. The children have discussed similarities and differences between different rap poems as well as which poems they prefer and why. We have identified the meaning of different poems and where a poet has used sound effects or rhyming patterns to support with understanding the meaning. Miss Humble.

People Who Help us



This half term we've been focusing on the topic 'People Who Help Us'. The children have loved discussing different job roles and what they might like to be when they grow up. The nursery children want to be policemen, fire-fighters, teachers, builders and lots more! We've had different areas in our classroom that links with jobs; the nursery children have had such fun dressing up in the role play as doctors and police, ensuring we all stay safe at school and checking on us if we were injured, wrapping us in bandages and checking our temperature. Miss Davison.

Year 6 - Second World War



In their history lessons, the children have been learning all about the Second World War. We began the unit, by looking at medals that Miss McLoughlin's grandfather won as a soldier during the war. We learned about where WW2 comes on a timeline of major historical events and then about what caused the outbreak of the war. The children learned about the important role women played in the war, when they worked in the munition factories and on the farms. The children also learned about The Blitz and what people did to protect themselves from air raids. Along side our history lessons, we are reading 'Where the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle which is set in wartime London. We are learning lots of facts about the war from the book. The children are really enjoying this history unit and are looking forward to our special World War 2 Day on Wednesday 19th February. Miss McLoughlin.

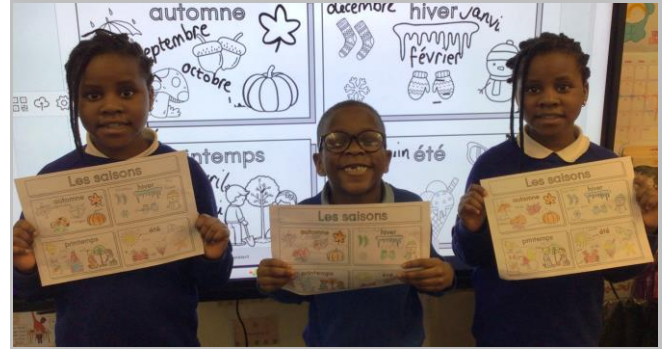
Volleyball in Year 5!



Year 5JR have been learning how to play volleyball in P.E this half term. The children have been learning about different shots/serves. They have been practicing using the dig shot, underhand serve, spike shot and bump pass. The children have recognised the importance of teamwork and how working together leads to success. They have thought about their positioning and how they transition from attack to defence. They have enjoyed applying their new skills in a volleyball class tournament. Miss Richardson.

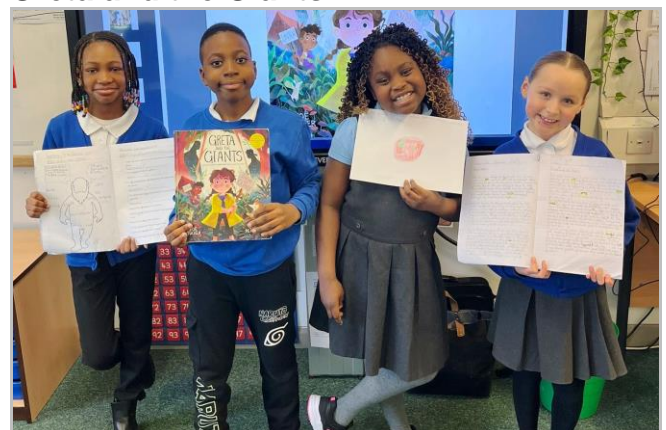
**REMINDER - Mon 10th
February - Staff Training Day -
school closed to pupils!**

Bonne Année



To start the new year, all of our children wished each other *Bonne Année* - a Happy New Year. We have also learned about the Epiphany and how it is celebrated in France. Everyone enjoyed explaining what they would like to do if they found the lucky charm in their cake and they were the King or Queen of their family for a day. We have been learning the words to Old MacDonalD, in year 1, in French with actions to help us. In year 2, we have been singing a song to help us to remember the months of the year. We have also learned the names of the seasons and which months are in which season. Year 3 have been learning a song to help with pronunciation. They are remembering the words very well. Year 4 have been introduced to some insects in French, this has helped to understand the concept of noun gender. Year 5 are discovering how to write a complex sentence about places in a town. Finally, year 6 are building on their work last year on telling the time, to talk about their daily routine in school. Their decoding skills are extremely good. Mrs Blackett.

Greta and the Giants



In our English lessons, Year 3 have been exploring the book, *Greta and the Giants* which is inspired by Greta Thunberg's stand to save the world. We have spent time looking at the different characters in the text and through a role on the wall activity, the children compared *Greta and the Giants* using adjectives and adverbs. The children enjoyed an oracy lesson where they joined Greta's protest and had to write messages on a placard to persuade the Giant's to change their ways and to help protect the forest. The children are writing their own version of the story and we are so impressed with the features they have included so far. We can't wait to read the finished article. Mrs Bracknall.

Year 5 on an 'Information Hunt'!



In science this term, the year 5 children have been introduced to their new focus – the planets in our solar system. As an introduction, we completed an information hunt activity in the school grounds. The children ran around the yard finding out different facts about our solar system. Facts included: the position of each planet, each planet's diameter, the length of day and year and how many moons each planet has. The children really enjoyed our afternoon and are looking forward to learning all about space. Mrs Millican.

Active Sunderland Family Learning



Active Sunderland are currently in school running Family Learning sessions every Tuesday at 9am for children and parents in Year 1, 2 and 3. The sessions are all interactive whereby you learn about the Eatwell Guide, Fats and sugars, Breakfasts and snacks, Physical activities and mindfulness. This is followed by fun games and activities including healthy snack making. The parents and carers attending have said they are thoroughly enjoying the sessions. We have a few spaces left so if you would like to join please see the office or Miss Tose. Miss Tose.

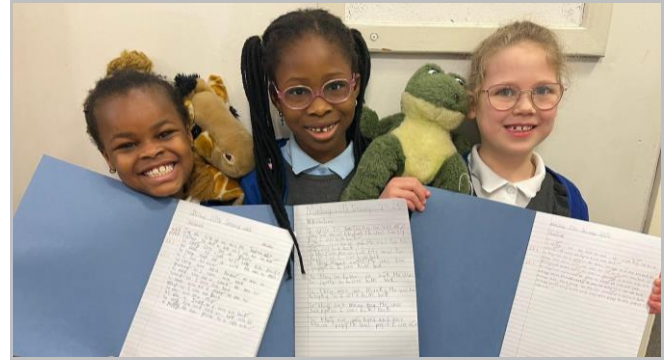
Healthy Bods in Year 2!

In January, the 'Healthy Bods' from Sunderland University came to Grangetown Primary to work with Year 2 and help us learn about how to keep our bodies healthy. First, we watched the 'Healthy Bods' do a performance all about how we can look after ourselves by eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep and plenty of exercise. After that, we took part in an amazing workshop full of



activities to get our bodies moving! We got into groups and we were each assigned an emotion, which the other group would have to guess. This was super fun! The best part was when we had to pretend to be vegetables being mixed into a healthy soup – it was hilarious! Miss Burn.

Dear Zoo



Year 1 have really enjoyed delving into the book 'Dear Zoo'. We have used the book to explore adjectives in English and came up with new adjectives for each of the animals in the story. We rehearsed the story using a story map that we drew, and made sure we knew it by heart. We learnt how to spell some of the trickier words in the story such as 'they' and 'fierce'. We then were tasked with writing the story. We did so well writing the story and are now going to innovate the original story to change the animals and their adjectives. Lots of oracy and writing skills improved this month! Well done Year 1! Miss Tose.

Forces and Magnets



This half term in science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We began by exploring different types of pushes and pulls and how these are used to stop and start movement. Through play, we looked at different children's games that require a force in order to play them. These type of forces are contact forces.

We then moved onto exploring a non contact force. We observed how magnets can move things without touching them. We carried out an experiment to find which materials are magnetic and would create a magnetic force. The children have really enjoyed this topic and have discussed their opinion and findings in a very mature way. Mrs Roberts.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 3rd Feb - Y3 Zumba Festival
Mon 3rd Feb - Y5 Life Centre visit
Tues 4th Feb - Y1 Backhouse Park Trip
Thurs 6th Feb - Reception Learning Walk
Fri 7th Feb - Y5 Space Explorers
Mon 10th Feb - Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Mon 10th-Fri 14th Feb - Science Week
Mon 17th Feb - Y5 Space Day
Wed 19th Feb - Y6 World War 2 Day
Fri 20th Feb - Y4 Greek Day
Mon 24th - Fri 28th Feb - Half Term holiday - school closed
Mon 3rd March - School reopens.

For a full set of dates, see Calendar on our website:

<https://grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk/Calendar/>