

Year 4 are Arctic Explorers!



This month the Y4 children took part in Arctic Day! The children had a fantastic time, learning about many different aspects of Arctic life which linked in perfectly with our story for our narrative writing in English: 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. The children spent the day with a brilliant guest who taught the children all about what life would be like living in the Arctic! The children had the chance to try on clothing which would protect them in the cold conditions as well as cooking and tasting some rationed food! The children learned a lot about life in the Arctic which will contribute to our work in Science, DT and Geography this term. Miss Humble.

Places for September 2025

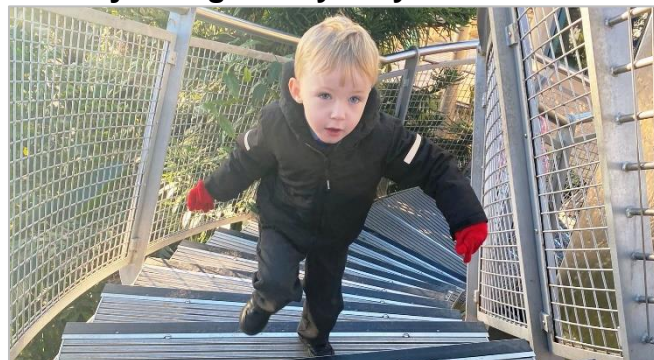


- We are taking applications for Reception, for September 2025. Applications opened on Monday 2nd October and run until 15th January. See: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline>
- Places are also available in Little Butterflies – our 2 year old Nursery, and in our 3 year old Nursery, throughout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

Nursery's Magical Mystery Tour!



This half term we have been learning about journeys including the journey Bear took in the story 'Whatever Next'. We have been on our own very special journey on the bus to Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens. Before we left we looked at the number bus we would have to get and the route it would take. We used Google Earth to follow the route we would take. The children were great at spotting things they recognised and some children even managed to direct us to their house. When we arrived we visited the gardens and looked around to spot the dinosaurs and then read a story at the library. We also spent some time exploring all of the exhibitions and having a walk around the pond and playing in the park. The children were so sensible and it was a lovely first trip of the year.

Goals Galore from the GPS Girls!



With the popularity of girls football, a girls football league has been started for local schools – and we're part of it! Our girls travelled to Ford Hub recently, to kick off their season. We played three games, losing a very close match against Broadway then drawing 3 - 3 with Christ's College, our goals being scored by Millie x 2 and Evie Leigh. Lionel Messi himself would have been proud of one of Millie's goals, a free kick from the left side of the penalty area curled into the top right corner of the goal! We lost our final game of the night to an excellent Benedict Biscop team. As always our team were a credit to our school and can be proud of themselves for playing some really good football in freezing conditions. Mr B Newby.

Year 2 Trampolinists!



This half term, Year 2 had the exciting opportunity to attend a trampolining session at AAA Sports in Southwick. We spent one half of the session taking turns on the trampolines. We had three children spotting on either side of each trampoline to make sure we were safe. Ben, the coach helping us on the trampolines, showed us some different jumps that we could try on the trampoline. We even managed to do some different twists and turns – it was great fun! The other half of the session we spent with a cheerleading coach called Millie. She helped us to learn a cheerleading routine with lots of different moves. After this, we broke off into small groups to create our own routines and perform them in front of our friends. Lizzie-Jo and Harriet even got an award at the end of the session for their great progress and listening! What a fantastic afternoon we had! Miss Burn.

Digital Art in Year 3BM



We have just finished our digital art unit, where we used the Pixil Art website on the desktop computers in the ICT suite to complete 3 pieces of art. We used a variety of tools, such as the fill tool, select tool and the line tool. We even used the select tool to select, copy and paste drawings, enabling us to duplicate parts of

our drawings and speed up the process. We also created a stop motion animation using the different layers and copying the frame.

Year 6 Netball Session



In a PE lesson, the children worked with a netball coach to learn more about the game and to learn the correct techniques needed to be a successful player. The session began with the children learning about what netball is and how the playing court is marked out. The children played some fun warm up games which helped them to develop their speed and to be aware of other players, which is important in team games. The children then learned more about how to move correctly, which included which feet have to be grounded when making a pivot turn. The children played a further game to practise how to land after jumping. They also learned how to make a chest pass correctly both when being stationary and when moving. The children were also taught how to shoot correctly and what position their body needs to be in. They practised using a backspin shot. To end the session, the children played a game to see which team could get the most balls into the net. The children had a great time and enjoyed learning lots of new skills and techniques. Miss McLoughlin.

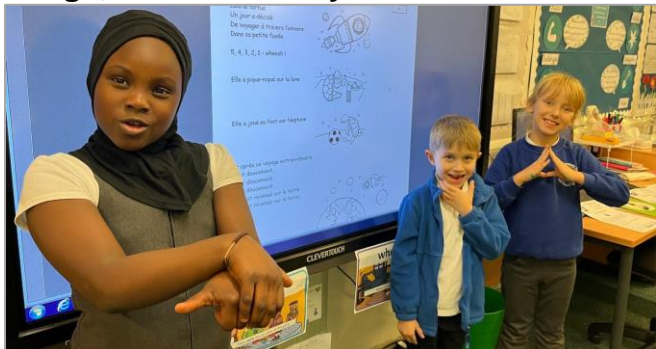
Year 5 Basketball Stars are now in Finals!



This term year 5 took part in a basketball session where they learned some new skills, they learned how to dribble, turn with the ball and shoot. They put these skills into practise when they attended a basketball tournament against other schools. The children played brilliantly and showcased their talent. They demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship skills and were

very successful. Team 1 came first without losing a game all morning and team 2 came third; both have progressed to the finals. Miss Richardson.

Songs, stories and rhymes in French



We start every French lesson with a song, story or rhyme. This helps to embed the language they are learning for any topic. Y1 have been learning a simple song called 'Bonjour, Salut' which introduces greetings. Y2 have been introduced to Berthe the witch in the story 'Bonjour Berthe', they are very good at repeating the story using the correct actions. Y3 are amazing at singing the song 'Lulu la Tortue' about a tortoise who travels to Space. Y4 have been enjoying the song 'Le Chat en Chocolat', which ties in beautifully with our animal theme. The Proclaimers song '500 Miles' provides the melody for an alternative version which is helping Y5 to tell the time in French. Finally, Y6 have been practising new vocabulary by learning a rap about what is in your backpack. Listening to these stories and songs and joining in with them improves pronunciation and the ability to remember new words. The best part is that our children are having great fun at the same time! Mrs Blackett.

Making Levers and Pulleys in Year 5



The year 5 children have really enjoyed their Design Technology lessons this half term. First, we learnt all about the different types of pulleys and levers and how they work. We then made our own information posters to

showcase our understanding. This week, we were able to put our knowledge into practise when we all made our own pulleys using water bottles, card, string and sticks. The children were challenged to use their constructions to transport Lego. Mrs Millican.



Reception Mathematicians!

In the month of November, Reception have shown outstanding progress in maths. Using our Mastering Number scheme, the children have loved making Stampolines to

think about the 'Part-Part-Whole' model. We have discussed which two numbers are the parts of 4 and 5. We have challenged ourselves to write the calculation, too! The children have enjoyed looking at adding 0 and 1 to any number and have realised that 0 means it stays the same. We have also looked at Numberblocks, thinking about the different shapes the numbers can make! Well done our marvellous mathematicians! Miss Toolin.

Stickman – Reception's Core Story



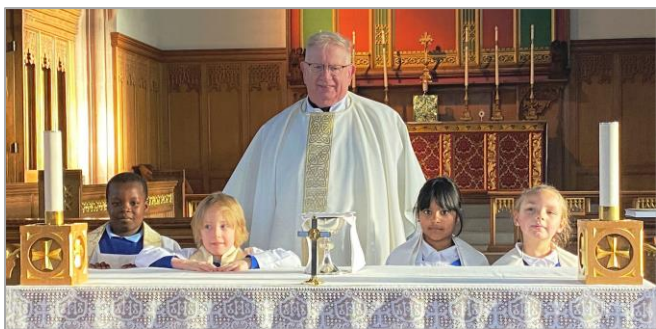
This month, Reception have enjoyed learning about Stickman. This is our newest core story and the children are able to re-tell it beautifully! We made a story map, putting the parts in order from start to finish. The children have also described our main character using full sentences. The children also enjoyed discussing the other books that Julia Donaldson has written! We are using our phonics knowledge to start writing short sentences and longer words. The children have really grasped the concept of a 'Digraph' in phonics and have loved learning sounds such as 'qu', 'sh' and 'ch'. Ask your child what a digraph means and you will be very impressed! Miss Holyoak.

Year 3 Scientists ready to Rock!



In Science, the children are working hard on their topic rocks. The children began the topic by comparing and sorting rocks. The children held a deep discussion on how the rocks should be sorted ranging from size, shape or colour. The following lesson, the children carried out an investigation. The children looked at a range of rocks to find out whether they were durable, permeable or impermeable. They used a nail to detect the durability, and water to detect whether they were permeable or impermeable. Mrs Bewick.

Year 2 visit St Aidan's Church



In Religious Education, Y2 have been learning all about how Christians show love. As part of this topic the children visited St Aidan's church in Grangetown. Father David led our visit and talked about all the different ways Christians show their love to God. Father David started the session by telling us a story about the 'Good Samaritan' and how he showed his love through kindness to a stranger. We then talked about Father David's work within the community and how he carries out God's work by being a good listener and supporting those who don't have what they need. We looked at the altar and the special items used to worship God during Communion. The children had the opportunity to try the bread that is given out during this time. Some children loved it and others thought it didn't taste very nice! We were very proud of the children's behaviour and attitudes. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Father David for his help. Mrs Roberts.

Year 1 are Computing Experts!



This half term, we have been learning all about digital art in Year 1. We have used the programme iLearn2 to create our own digital art pieces which uses pixels. Using iLearn2, we have explored how to change the colour of individual pixels to accurately re-create basic artwork and how to use the zoom controls to help fill smaller shapes. The children enjoyed it that much they asked for the code so they could continue at home. Look at our wonderful pieces of art we re-created using our ipads! Fantastic job Year 1! Miss Tose.



Our new scarves!

We'd like to say a big Thankyou to the knitting group at Pop Recs, for making us 10 beautiful scarves! We showed them off in an assembly this week, and then passed them out to classes. They will come in handy on cold days. Thankyou ladies!

Halloween Disco!



We'd like to say a huge thankyou to our Friends of Grangetown group, for organising our amazing Halloween Discos! They were well attended, by lots of scary looking characters! Everyone had fun! A big thankyou to Miss Tose, too, for taking on the DJ duties – great job Miss Tose!

Reading at Home

Could we remind parents and carers of how important it is that your child reads at home. Please aim for at least 3 times per week. Also, please ensure that school reading books are brought back to school every day. Thankyou.

Dates for your Diary



Mon 9th Dec: Y1 snow-tubing at Silksworth Ski Slope!
Mon 9th Dec - Y5JR Parents' Workshop
Mon 9th Dec - LB Parent Workshop 10.30-11.30.
Tue 10th Dec - LB Parent Workshop PM 2.00-3.00pm
Tue 10th Dec - Y5LM Parents' workshop.
Tue 10th Dec – Y5 working with Marty Longstaff (writing a song!)

Wed 11th Dec: EYFS Nativity - 9.30am-10.30am & 2-3pm
Wed 11th Dec - Y3 Parents' Workshop
Wed 11th Dec - Whole school Christmas Dinner!
Thurs 12th Dec: KS2 Singing Event – parents invited 2-3pm
Fri 13th Dec: KS1 Nativity - 9.15am-10.15am
Mon 16th Dec: Y4 Parents' Workshop
Mon 16th Dec: KS2 Christmas Party
Tue 17th Dec: EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
Tue 17th Dec - Parents' Workshop
Wed 18th Dec: whole school Pyjama Day
Fri 20th Dec: 12 noon, Carol Service at St Aidan's Church. /
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/>