



GRANGETOWN NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Little Butterflies are Getting Sporty!



This month we have been enjoying our P.E sessions. We've noticed the children are becoming more confident to trying new things such as jumping off the big apparatus! We used the balancing beams and climbing equipment to make an obstacle course. At the end, the children had a go at jumping by themselves. Well done everyone! Little Butterflies Team.

Places for September 2025



- We are taking applications for Reception, for September 2025. Applications open on Monday 2nd October. 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!

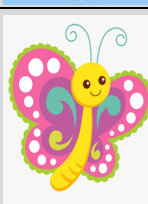
Breakfast Club: Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.50 per day. Book places in advance via the Office, please.



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 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.



Year 6 Step Back in Time – at Beamish



The Year 6 children visited Beamish Museum as part of their history unit about the Victorians. The day began with the children taking part in a Victorian lesson at the Board School. The Headteacher, Mr Hall, took the lesson and the children used fountain pens and ink to practise their handwriting. They also completed some calculations involving pounds, shilling and pence. The Headteacher was very strict and the children had to remember to call him sir and to keep their elbows off the desk. The Headteacher also explained to the children the importance of education in the Victorian times. The children visited the farm and saw animals including pigs, ducks and horses. The children explored the miners' cottages and saw how different they are from our homes today. After a bus ride to the town, the children visited a range of shops including the Co-Op, the haberdashers, the hardware store and the garage. The children enjoyed visiting the dentist's house and learning many facts, including that the Victorians only cleaned their teeth once a week. The children also visited Pockerly Manor and enjoyed exploring the different rooms. The children had a lovely day out and learned lots of new things. Miss McLoughlin.

You Can Join the Friends of GPS!

Parents and carers are very welcome to get involved in our Friends of GPS group. The group helps to raise funds for the school. Look out for a letter & Facebook post from school with details of the date and time of the next meeting.

Parent-Teacher Consultations are in November. You can book a time slot via Arbor.

All the dates are set out here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ndra829j>

Or use this QR code: →



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.

Harvest Festival Success!



This week we held our annual Harvest Festival assemblies, both of which were very well supported by parents, carers and extended families. Each class performed a special harvest song or poem for our visitors and all children did exceptionally well. The new School Councillors, who introduced each performance, were a credit to their classes; they spoke clearly and confidently in their first job of the year. Father David, from St Aidan's church joined us again and discussed the importance of our donations. As usual, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, as we had many donations of tinned and dried food. This will all be donated to the food bank in the city by the end of the week. Thank you once again to everyone – the donations will make a big difference to families in our community. Mrs Hanlon.

Year 1 visit St Aidan's Church



Year 1 visited St Aidan's Church to learn about baptism. We began by learning about the different oils used, the baptism candle, and the shell used in the holy water. We then dressed in the different robes and were assigned characters who would be in a baptism ceremony such as godparents and the parents. We gathered round the font and Father David baptised Dave the minion whilst we helped. We were told the story of Jesus being baptised and this made us fully understand why Christians want to be baptised. A huge thank you to Father David for inviting us to the Church to take part! Miss Tose and Miss Nixon.

The Fox and the Star



In Year 3, the children have worked towards writing a four part narrative with a structured ending linked to the text, The Fox and the Star. They have created paragraphs using demarcated sentences with capital letters and full stops, question marks and exclamation marks. To further

support with their writing and understand the feelings of the character within the story, the children took on

the role of the fox whilst other children put questions to the character. Mrs Bewick.

Nursery - Autumn walks



This half term we have been noticing the falling leaves and the autumn changes. The children have loved collecting the leaves and making hedgehog pictures and throwing the leaves to fall to the ground. This linked really well to one of the songs we have been practising for the Harvest Festival Assembly. We have also used the leaves to practise cutting by 'giving the leaf a haircut' and making our own dream catchers. We have been on two autumn walks around the school grounds and to Backhouse Park. The children walked so well and enjoyed collecting leaves, acorns and sticks on the way. We have finished the half term by celebrating 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' story by making our own bear toast. Well done Nursery, you have had a fantastic first half term in Nursery. Nursery Team.

Y4 St Aidan's Church Visit



The Year 4 children had a fantastic visit to St Aidan's Church earlier this month, where Father David taught us all about Baptism in the Christian Church. This linked in with our recent RE lessons on the topic of Baptism. The children learnt about the importance of the Holy Water and its purpose in the ceremony. The children also had the opportunity to hold the christening shell and candle, as well as witnessing a christening take place... of a minion toy that is. After watching the ceremony the children were able to take a look around the church and have the opportunity to speak to Father David about any questions they had. Miss Humble

Year 2 Oracy Skills



This half term we have been practising our oracy skills in as many subjects as we can. The children are becoming more confident when using stem sentences to help structure their talk.

In guided reading we have been looking at the author Oliver Jeffers. We have been comparing the different stories he has written and used the Talk Tactic strategies to explain what is the same and what is different. In maths, the children have been structuring their language to help clearly explain calculation problems and recall number facts. The children have been able to take on the roles of 'the builder' who adds more ideas to the discussion and 'the challenger' who gives an opposing opinion. Mrs Roberts.

Grangetown Football Update



The Sunderland Primary Schools' football league kicked off on the 3rd of October. So far we have played five games. All of these games have been very close but we only have one point to show from the five games. We got our point from a 2 - 2 draw with St Patricks our goals being scored by Tyler and Evie. As always our team have shown great sportsmanship and team spirit. This season, with the popularity of girls football there is going to be a girls league - this kicks off in November. Good luck to the Grangetown girls when they start their campaign. Mr B Newby.

Party Time - the Smeds and the Smoos!



Reception loved their Smeds and Smoos party! We all dressed up in red and blue and had a purple party to celebrate our new core story! We loved learning all about colour mixing and having some themed food. We added food colouring into the milk to dye it different colours and we wrote special party lists so we knew what we needed to have a party! The children

enjoyed playing with the balloons. They also designed their own aliens! Miss Toolin

A Busy Month of Language Learning



We have been working hard and having lots of fun in French. Y2 have been learning about different ways to travel to France from Sunderland. We have learned the names of types of transport and played lots of games to help us remember the new vocabulary, we even had some help from a former pupil. In Key Stage 2, all of our children have been learning how to use the Duolingo app. This is a great tool to enhance language learning both in school and at home. Y3 have been learning actions to go with the names of places to visit in Paris. Y4 have been working on learning the names of animals with incredible pronunciation. Y5 can now describe the time difference between a city in the U.K and France and Y6 have been practising conversations using opinions and asking each other questions. Mrs Blackett.

Year 3 at Broomhouse Farm!



Y3 had a fantastic first visit to Broomhouse Farm. Despite the weather not being kind to us, it certainly didn't spoil our fun and enjoyment. The children spent the morning observing the autumn changes in the environment and picked a variety of items to bring back to school, including conkers, acorns and leaves. They learnt about a range of animals kept on the farm and they got to see the piglets feeding. In the afternoon, the children explored the Forest Adventure area which had zip wires, tunnels, climbing equipment and sledge races. They had so much fun and were very well-behaved. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day and they can't wait to return to the farm in the spring. Fingers crossed the sun shines for us then! Mrs Bracknall.

Photographers in the making in 2JB!



Year 2JB have been exploring the work of Leon Kossoff, a British artist who focuses on portraits and cityscapes. We decided to base a piece of art-work on the Hendon gas tanks, and spent part of an afternoon taking photographs of them. Our aim was to capture a zoomed in photograph of a part of the structure.

Using the camera on our iPads, we zoomed in to get the best shot of the gas tanks. We were really good at doing this and managed to capture some excellent photographs to inspire our art! Miss Burn.

Year 5 Athletes at Raich Carter!



Y5 visited the Raich Carter, to take part in an athletics competition against two other schools (Hudson Road and Valley Road). They participated in running events including relays and obstacle races. Also, they took part in field events including chest push, standing long jump, triple jump, vertical jump, javelin and speed bounce. All children gave their everything in every event and made their teachers extremely proud. The children showed fantastic sportsmanship and were a credit to the school. Grangetown will find out later this month if their scores/times were enough to be in the top 5 in Sunderland. Everyone had an incredible afternoon and enjoyed taking part in the competition. Miss Richardson.

Shopping for Pumpkins!



Reception headed off to Asda, to pick some pumpkins for our Halloween themed week. We loved looking at all the decorations and looking out for places we recognised on the way. We saw some of our front doors and shops that we visit. Our behaviour was fantastic and so many members of the public even complimented our school! Miss Holyoak.

Year 5 – Sports leaders



Earlier this month, the year 5 children had a fantastic afternoon working with a sports coach to learn how to become sports leaders. They learned all about how to form different teams to make games fair. They then spent time playing and learning games that they could set up and teach other children. The children were given a pack of games and ideas and have been practising how to use them with the Key Stage two children over the last couple of weeks. After half term, they will have regular sessions during breaktimes for the rest of the children to join in. They were all given blue sports leader t-shirts which they are very proud to wear. They are all looking forward to putting what they have learned into practice. Mrs Millican.

The Amazingly Talented GPS Choir!



The children in our new Choir have been learning a selection of popular and well know songs. For our last session of the half term we even enjoyed a dance along to our favourite songs. We're looking forward to learning more songs, and we are hoping to perform them for GPS families and for the whole school! Miss Marchioli.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 25th Oct - Break up for half-term holiday.
Monday 28th - Fri 2nd Nov: Half term break, school closed.
Monday 4th Nov: School reopens for Autumn 2!
Mon 4th Nov: Halloween Discos!
Fri 8th Nov: Y2 Andy's Animals
Weeks beginning 11th & 18th Nov: Parent-Teacher Consultations.
Sign up for a slot on Arbor, or ring the school office to book a slot.
Mon 18th Nov: Nursery Bus Journey (afternoon)
Fri 22nd Nov: Nursery Bus Journey (morning)
Wed 11th Dec: EYFS Nativity
Thurs 12th Dec: KS2 Singing Event – parents invited
Fri 13th Dec: KS1 Nativity.

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

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