



# GRANGETOWN NEWSLETTER

## September to early-October 2024

### What a great start!



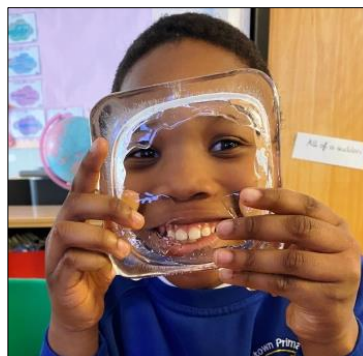
The new school year has got off to a fantastic start! The children are settled and working hard. School is a hive of activity, and every day there are so many amazing learning activities. It's great to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms. As ever, our staff – all of whom are talented and highly committed – are doing a brilliant job. Parents & carers are also positive & supportive – for example we're very impressed to see the support you are giving your children with reading at home. With this fantastic start under our belts, we have a solid foundation upon which to build an amazing year at GPS – well done everyone! Roll on the rest of the year! Mr McAnaney.

### Southmoor Music Project Underway!



In July we were invited to join a very special music project at Southmoor, offering children from three local primary schools the chance to learn to play a 'brass' instrument. Each school was allocated four places. The children are learning either trumpet or trombone, and are attending a special after school session at Southmoor every week, as well as having a lesson at GPS. This is a two year project, and we wish our young musicians 'all the best' as they embark upon their musical adventure! Mr McAnaney.

### Year 4 Scientists!



In science this term we have been discussing the three states of matter and asking 'is it a solid, liquid or gas?' We have completed research and carried out experiments in order to know which materials are solids, liquids or gases. We

have been able to describe the properties of each state and can show the difference between the particles. We recently completed an experiment to see whether or not the size of an ice cube impacts how fast it melts and recorded our findings in our workbooks. Miss Humble.

### Places for September 2025



- We are taking applications for Reception, for September 2025. Applications open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

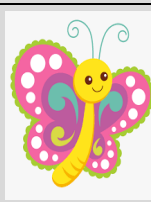
**Breakfast Club:** Every day – 7.45-8.50. Fantastic value at just £1.50 per day. Book places in advance via the Office, please.



**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.



### 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.

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.

## Year 1 on Tour – Museum & Winter Gardens!



Year 1 had the fantastic opportunity to visit Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens to take part in a workshop based on the 5 senses. We worked in the community garden where we tasted herbs, went on a bug hunt, conducted a listening test and did a scavenger hunt. We then moved into Mowbray Park where we made tree faces out of clay and played the blindfold tree game. We then made a sensory potion using all of the natural things we had found. After lunch we explored the Museum and Winter Gardens and loved the coal mining section! We then spent the sunny afternoon on the park. The children were so well behaved- we are so proud of you all! Well done Year 1! Miss Tose and Miss Nixon.

## Reception Visit the Park!



We have all loved going on a special visit to Grangetown Park this month. It was our first time leaving school and going around our local area. We had so much fun! Before going, we looked on Google Maps to see all the shops, buildings and streets nearby and talked about where our houses were. We loved discussing our memories in our city and looking at our front doors. We also talked about who lives in our houses and drew some lovely pictures of our families. We were very impressed to see the children attempting to write their own names, too. Miss Toolin.

## Making Bear Toast in Reception!



Reception really enjoyed following instructions in Maths this month. We enjoyed making bear toast and spreading our own chocolate spread on top. We then counted out two eyes in blueberries and one banana mouth. We then got a chance to do the best bit- eating it! In Maths, we have also started our Mastering Number scheme, and have been using counting wands and counting puppets to work on our 1:1 correspondence. We have started our first core story 'The Go Away Bird'. We loved researching what they

sound and look like. We also discussed the characters and how to treat others. Miss Holyoak.

## Our Busy Little Butterflies!



We have had such a busy month welcoming back and settling in our new Little Butterflies. It has been so lovely getting to know our new children and their families and seeing how much our returning Butterflies have flourished over the summer holidays. We have been reading our core stories "Owl Babies" and "The Tiger who came to Tea". We have started to have a mini-P.E session in the hall, the children have loved this and will be superstars at it by the time they get to big nursery! Such a great start to the new school year, we can't wait to see what the Little Butterflies get up to this year! The Little Butterflies Team.

## Year 5 Investigate!



This term year 5 are exploring the topic properties of materials in science. This lesson they investigated the question - which material is the best insulator? We began by planning an investigation and making a list of equipment we would need. Then we made a prediction. The children chose 6 materials and wrapped them around each cup; we poured in hot water and placed a thermometer in each cup. We set a timer and recorded the temperature every minute for 5 minutes. The children wrote a summary of their results. Miss Richardson.

## Nursery - Blackberry Picking!



This term we have welcomed some new children to Nursery as well as welcoming back our returning nursery after the summer holidays. In the first week we explored the classroom and the outdoors. We also explored the

wider school including the big yard and field. We noticed that the blackberries were ripe and ready to pick so we spent a few sessions picking the fruit and bringing it back to the classroom. The children then really enjoyed making our own crumble to eat using the blackberries we picked. Over the next few weeks we will be finding out about Autumn changes and exploring the outdoors. In a couple of weeks, we will be visiting Backhouse Park to look at Autumn changes and to hopefully release our butterflies. Mrs Hanlon.

## Budding Scientists in Year 2JB!



This half term, our science topic in Year 2JB has been 'Everyday Materials'. We began our topic by recapping our knowledge from Year 1 and sorting materials based on our prior knowledge. Miss Burn was very impressed by how much we remembered! Then, we took part in a scavenger hunt, exploring the playground for examples of different materials. We found so many different uses of materials such as glass, plastic and wood! Last week, we investigated how some materials change shape, and we tested to see if a range of materials were elastic or not. Our favourite material to test was Play-Doh! We can't wait to learn more about everyday materials! Miss Burn.

## East End Art Workshop for Year 6!



The Y6 children visited Seventeen Nineteen at Holy Trinity Church to take part in an art/DT workshop. The workshop was called Sunderland and the Sea. It began with the children thinking about the different types of boats and vessels that we would find on water.

The children then thought about the shapes of these

vessels and their uses. The children then designed their own boat or vessel and it could have any theme they wanted. They then used a range of materials, such as plastic, cork, straws and foam to build it. The children enjoyed using all the different materials and enjoyed helping each other with their designs and models. Miss McLoughlin.

## The Great Fire of London in Year 2



This half term in History we are learning about The Great Fire of London. We have learnt that the fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane. The oven fire wasn't put out properly and a spark jumped out and set the building on fire. Because of the dry wood and strong wind the fire spread very quickly. In those days they did not have the proper tools to put it out. The children have enjoyed learning about the timeline of events and can recall the facts very well. We have looked at and tried on artefacts that would have been used in 1666. Mrs Roberts.

## The Fox and the Star



Year 3BM have started their narrative by looking at the story of 'The Fox and the Star' in their guided reading and English lessons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the detailed illustrations and the accompanying narrative. The story describes the journey a lonely and timid fox takes to find a star in the night sky. The children are using their knowledge from the book to create their own four-part narrative with a forest animal of their choosing. They are using a story map to help internalise the narrative, before they

innovate it and make it their own. In Design and Technology, linked to our stories, the children will be creating their own pneumatic animal using a balloon and syringe to make it move. We can't wait to see the finished products! Mrs Bracknall.

### New Reading Awards in Year 3!



In Year 3NB, we have begun our new reading incentive. For every three reads the children complete at home, they will earn a raffle ticket. The raffle tickets are then put into a box and will be drawn each half term. The prize will be a new book from the basket which the winner will be able to keep. The children enjoyed discussing some of the reading books they would like to see added to the basket. Happy reading Year 3! Mrs Bewick

### Year 5 Coals to Goals



The Year 5 children were recently given the wonderful opportunity to visit the Beacon of Light to take part in a history workshop – Coals to Goals. The children learnt all about the history of mining and how the area of land on which the Stadium of Light stands used to be Wearmouth Colliery. They learned all about the difficult life of a miner and how important the introduction of the Davey Lamp was to protect miners – by detecting methane or other flammable gases in the air. The children even sang some pitman songs. We then went on a Heritage Hunt, around the ground, finding out about the Pit Shaft, the Colliery Wheel and some history of Sunderland AFC including the statue of Bob Stokoe. In the afternoon, children learned all about the history of the club and found out about how the football badge had changed over the years. They also had a fabulous PE lesson – collecting ‘coal’ and playing Grandma’s steps. We had a fabulous day and all received a wonderful colourful book showing everything we had learned in the day. Mrs Millican.

### European Day of Languages



Every year, in September, we embrace the European Day of Languages. This year, our children in year two have learnt how to say hello in other languages with the help of a catchy song. In Key Stage Two, children have discovered that words which we use in English, can originate from different languages. Using their language detective skills, our children have solved puzzles and learnt about links between words in a variety of European languages such as German, French Spanish and Italian. These activities have given our children who speak an additional language outside school a lovely opportunity to share their languages with others. The children have approached the tasks with enthusiasm and great interest.

# Welcome!

This term we welcomed Miss Toolin (Reception teacher), Miss Burn (Y2 teacher), Miss Marchioli (Music teacher), Mrs Kontovounisiou (Teaching Assistant), Miss Young (Teaching Assistant), and Mr Pickering (Site Supervisor/Caretaker). They have all settled in well, they've made a great start and they are now very much part of Team GPS!

### Dates for your Diary

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Butterflies - Library Visit (am)</li> <li>• Y1 - Andy's Animal Adventures</li> </ul>
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y3 Broomhouse Farm</li> <li>• Y2/5/6 - NSPCC Class Workshops</li> <li>• Y4 St Aidan's Church</li> <li>• Y1 School Nurse Visit</li> </ul>
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rec – Y6 Flu Immunisation Session (for children where signed parental consent has been received)</li> <li>• Y3 - Football at Hudson Road</li> <li>• Y1- St Aidan's Church</li> </ul>
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.15-11.30 - Reception walk to Asda</li> </ul>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.15-11.30 - Nursery walk to Backhouse Park &amp; Butterfly release</li> </ul>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.00-3.00 - Nursery walk to Backhouse Park &amp; Butterfly release</li> </ul>
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y6 - Beamish Museum Visit (children get back approx 4.30)</li> </ul>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Butterflies to Backhouse Park (am)</li> </ul>
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Butterflies to Backhouse Park (pm)</li> </ul>
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest Assembly - EYFS &amp; KS1 (N,R,Y1,Y2) - 9.15am</li> <li>• Harvest Assembly - KS2 (years 3-6) - 2.15pm</li> </ul>

We have recently issued a full set of Autumn Term dates to parents & carers – see it here: <https://shorturl.at/baCFm>

Also, keep an eye on the Calendar on our website: <https://grangetown.sunderland.sch.uk/Calendar/>