



# Fulwell Junior School



*Respect, Aspire, Achieve – Be the best that you can be!*



## *Artsmark Success...*

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November we held a very special event in school to celebrate our Platinum Artsmark Award from Arts Council England. This is an incredible achievement for the school as we are one of only a very select few across the country to have been awarded the highest achievement of Platinum.

Our celebrations included extracts from our production of Oliver, pupils' reflections on their participation in Macbeth, alongside dancing including a Diwali dance routine, performance poetry and of course singing!

During the assembly, the Mayor of Sunderland, Cllr Alison Smith, presented the children with their Artsmark Award which will take pride of place alongside our Platinum plaque in our Reception Area.

Cllr Smith was joined by Sunderland Central MP Julie Elliott who awarded our newly appointed House Captains with their badges.

Our achievement was recognised by Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council stating that, 'Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates through offering a broad, ambitious and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills.'





# Faculty of STEM



What an exciting term it's been for STEM! Our 'Wheels in Motion' project is now well under way. During the first half term, as part of our science learning, we worked in teams to put our construction skills to the test. In Year 3, we worked together to build and construct Lego cars. In Year 4, we had a slightly trickier task of building vehicles using Meccano. Year 5 and 6 both had the challenge of using K'Nex to create models. We thoroughly enjoyed having our adults visit us in school at the end of the half term and really welcomed their help to continue building our models.

In October, a group of Y6 children were lucky enough to attend the 'Bring It On' event at the Foundation of Light. This was a day full of all things engineering and brought together a variety of companies from across the North-East including Nissan, Unipres and Marelli. The children loved the hands-on STEM activities including fixing parts, using tools and even using VR to practice their welding skills.



After half term, all children took part in our Art & DT focus week. As part of the DT project, a group of Y5 & Y6 children enjoyed a brilliant opportunity to visit the College of Mechanics in Sunderland. The children took part in two workshops: one, focusing on the exterior of the car including spray painting; and the other focusing on the mechanical aspect of repairing a vehicle. Children were able to demonstrate their mechanical skills whilst learning about careers in the mechanics industry.

This half term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed their science learning. In Year 3, they began with a trip down to our fantastic beach where they explored the different types of rocks. Year 4 and 5 were fortunate enough to have Professor Brainstorm in to launch their topics on the States of Matter. This was an incredible experience and a fantastic start to our new units.



As well as a wealth of STEM opportunities this term there have been lots of enrichment opportunities too. A select group of Y6's have been chosen for our VEX Robotics Club and will take part in a competition later in the year.

Some of our Y5 & Y6 parents and grandparents have supported our Engineering Club where the children have been building their own V8 Engines. A group of Y4 children have been chosen to be in Mr Speck's photography club and area heading off to Woodhorn Museum soon to put their new found skills to the test. There have also been computing masterclasses at Sunderland College and University for our lower phase children.



*"STEM is amazing! I love all the STEM learning we do at school and can't wait for more next term!"  
Beau (Y6).*



# Faculty of STEM



This term our learning within our Design Technology has focused heavily on mechanisms, what they are and when we use them. The children explored the use of different types of mechanisms used in 'real life' including levers and linkages, cam mechanisms, gears and pulleys. At the end of the weeks learning all children had the task of inventing their own product that works using a mechanism. This project linked fantastically to our Faculty of Communication sessions whereby children were to use their learning and knowledge of effective presenting skills to communicate their designs clearly to their peers. The enthusiasm shown by all children during this task was fantastic and to hear about so many children taking their learning home to

create more resources from Powerpoints to annotated sketches to prototypes, all of which they used to support them when presenting their design to their class. Just amazing! Here are only a few of the fantastic invention ideas that cropped up across the school:

- 'A moveable stationary pot' designed so children never have to ask for stationary again. The pot would move towards them when they required it using a pulley mechanism. Designed by Lily Year 5.
- 'A jacket that changes temperature to keep you warm or cool when needed' designed to be worn all year round using a gear mechanism. Invented by Jenna Year 5.
- 'A face recognition doorbell' designed to help avoid the frantic look for door keys and eliminate the event of anyone getting locked out of their house. This design featured a lever mechanism in the form of a switch. Designed by Florence and Darcie Year 5.



- Max and Georgia (Year 5) worked together to invent the 'Personal Birdie' a private one or two-seater plane powered by solar and wind panels. This was a particular favourite in class with the bird design using the nose of the plane for the 'birdie's' beak!

- Sebastian (Year 3) designed and created a prototype of a pencil case that ejects pencils at the turn of a wheel. Sebastian kept the wheel visible on top so that you could see it in motion as he said "this adds to the curiosity of the design"

- Harrison (Year 6) invented "Saltricity" where sea water would be evaporated with the steam used to power generators for electricity and then condensed to get fresh drinking water and left over salt. He wanted to end droughts in Africa!
- Beau and Finley (Year 6) came up with the diet plate, which weighs your food then a lever mechanism tips it if you have put too much on.
- A hands-free page turner so that you could read your book in the bath was designed by Maisie (Year 6). A very popular idea amongst the many readers across school!
- Scarlett in Year 6 invented a 'Teacher Assistant' marking machine for teachers. This one definitely sparked some questions from intrigued teachers!



# Year 3



## Authors in the Making!

This term, we have produced some fantastic pieces of writing in year 3! First we looked at the traditional fairytale of Hansel and Gretel and retold the story but with a twist. We looked at recounts and wrote a diary entry as one of the character from the story. After half term, we learnt the tragic story of Romeo and Juliet. We were inspired by the plot to do some persuasive letter writing. At Fulwell Junior School, we love our opportunities to do our 'free writes' where we can let our imagination free and to be creative.

*'I like doing our free writes because we can write what we want. My favourite was when we had a free write for Anti-bullying week!'* Anna Butler



## Savage Stone Age



In history, we have been learning about the Stone Age. We have been fascinated about how they were nomadic tribes and how different our life is to then.

Although life has dramatically changed, we looked at some similarities. We loved trying some of the foods that we still use today from the Stone Age and enjoyed looking at the some of the monuments and artefacts that are still around today. Did you know that there is a village in the Orkney Islands in Scotland

which is from the Neolithic times?

*'My favourite history lesson was learning about Skara Brae. I didn't know that they used animals skins for so much!'*





# Year 3

## We dig fossils!

As part of our Rocks topic in science this half term, we have been observing fossils and looking at the process of fossilisation. We can describe the fossilisation process and talk about which type of rock it involves!



## Wheels in Motion

To kick start our year, our science topic was Wheels in Motion! We investigated force and engineers our own sports car using lego. We then used these to explore our own critical thinking questions such as: does the size of the wheel affect the speed? We loved being able to use our teamwork skills to tackle tricky problems and reach a conclusion.

## The Unique UK

We became geographers, using maps to locate the main human and physical features of the UK, including: rivers, mountains and seas. Ask us about the UK flags and capital cities!

## Year 3 are getting musical!

In music this term we have been focusing on different genres inspired by our wheels in motion whole school project. We have explored musical styles including Brazilian orchestral piece "little train of caipira." Children have loved having the opportunity to play tuned and untuned instruments and singing along to the fabulous 'proud Mary.'

Our amazing choir have welcomed some brilliant year 3s this year and we are so excited to perform our carol service at St Peter's church on Mon 19th December.



# Year 4



## The Lion, The Witch and...The Wonderful Year 4's!



Our focus this half term has been based around the text *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis. We used it to inspire our setting and character descriptions and developed our skills in writing exciting dialogue between 2 characters. We also wrote an instructional text on How to Care for a Baby Hobgoblin!

*"I really liked English especially when we were learning about how to take care of a hobgoblin. It was fun!"*  
Torin.

*"I enjoyed *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* especially when we were writing the character and setting description because you could choose which one to pick."* Rosa.

*"I liked having the story read to us because I liked to hear the story and I liked all the pictures in the books and the new words in the book I didn't know."* Archie.

## The Enchanting Egyptians

Year 4's History topic has explored the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. We loved delving deep into some of History's most significant artefacts such as Tutankhamun's tomb, the book of the dead and The Rosetta Stone. The children produced some incredible artwork...in profile! Just as the Egyptians did and we debated the impact of the ancient civilisation on the world today.

Can your Year 4 pupil tell you the meaning of these words?

Sarcophagus, Shaduf and Peret

## Open afternoon

We were so excited to welcome our adults into school to share all of our exciting learning so far this year. We were very grateful for the help they gave us with the Meccano sets we had been building in our science lessons to develop our understanding of the mechanisms of wheels! We also got to show off our books, that we are so proud of!



# Year 4

## We are geographers!



This term, we have learned about Our Place in the World and have focused on the similarities and differences between some European countries and our own. We have used atlases, maps and websites to discover facts and even learned about Christmas traditions around Europe.

*"We learned about the countries in Europe and I found it really interesting. Learning about Christmas traditions was good." Jacob.*

*"I loved Geography and I liked when we found out where countries in Europe are and some of their capital cities." Arden.*

*"This term in Geography I have liked learning about where countries in Europe are." Ella.*

## Ryhope Engines Museum

Back in September, Year 4 kicked off their Wheels In Motion project with a visit to Ryhope Engines Museum. They got to see the enormous wheels in action and found out so much information about how water reached different areas of Sunderland. We even spotted a picture of Fulwell Pumping Station from 1852! We were fascinated about the precision of the machines – a pound coin was balanced on one of the machines and it stayed completely still as the machines turned.

## Science: Wheels in Motion

We carried out lots of investigations this term about the motion of wheels. We wanted to find out whether the circumference of a circle affected the speed at which it rolled. We also had the opportunity to plan and carry out our own investigations linked to forces.

## Science: States of Matter

We have been learning about solids, liquids and gases in science and learning about what makes them change state. We carried out investigations, like placing containers of water around areas of school with different temperatures to see if the temperature affected the rate of evaporation – we

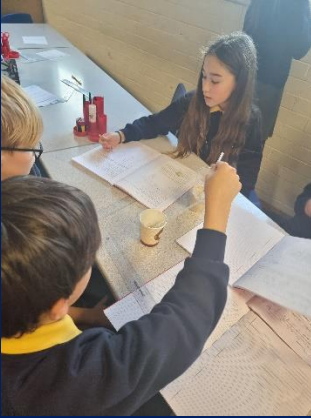


found out that it did!



# Year 5

## Coming to America...

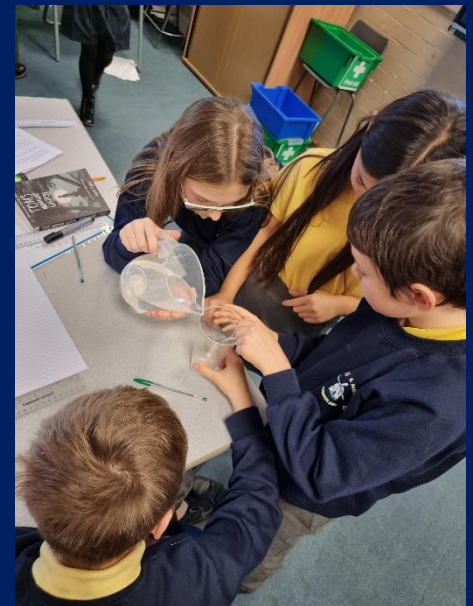


During the first term, we have explored North America. We have discovered which countries make up North America and used our atlas skills to find where they are located. We have investigated the different geographical features and biomes of North America and compared them to features we find in Sunderland. We learnt about the different time zones compared to the UK and how they are calculated. Finally, we located the main ports in North America and identified which goods are exported and imported.



## Year 5 Super Scientists!

In Science this half term Year 5 have been busy learning about their topic of materials. They have studied materials closely focusing on the properties of each and how knowledge of these help to determine how different materials are more suitable for different jobs. We went on to link this learning of properties to investigate which material would be best as a thermal insulator. The last two weeks have been spent exploring soluble and insoluble materials alongside how to effectively separate mixtures back into their separate substances when possible. Year 5 have been focusing on recording their results and working scientifically to think about variables when planning investigations! Fantastic work Year 5!



## Dazzling Dancers!

With the support of our specialist coach, Year 5 have been studying dance in PE. The children's skills have progressed each week and they are now able to perform routines with confidence. Children have expressed how much they have loved their dance lessons, and many have shared their learning with their parents at home.





# Year 5

## Year 5 out and about...

Year 5 have enjoyed not one, but two trips this term! Firstly, the new school year got off to an exciting start with a visit to the Ryhope Engines Museum where children marvelled at the huge scale of the old Victorian pumping station which supplied water to much of Sunderland. It was a great introduction to our whole school 'Wheels in Motion' project and we lost count of the number of wheels and cogs around the building. Milo enjoyed it so



much he said he'd like to go back again. A few weeks later and Year 5 were off on their travels again, this time to the Foundation of Light for the 'Coals to Goals' workshop. We explored the history of both Sunderland AFC and the old Wearmouth Colliery on which the Stadium of Light now stands. Of course, no visit to SAFC would be complete without some sport and the children enjoyed a range of activities including an obstacle course. In the words of Georgia, *"It was the best school trip ever!"*

## The Smashing Saxons

In history this term, Year 5 have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons. Highlights included exploring the legend of Beowulf and learning about the Battle of Hastings which dramatically ended this period of English history. The children were surprised to discover that St. Bede, known as 'The Father of English History', lived at nearby St. Peter's Church.



# Year 6



## The Mysterious Mayans

In History, Year 6 have looked at the Maya and how they are intelligent. There are many links to the Egyptians through glyphs and pyramids, which is remarkable as they never met! Their STEM and Art skills made them an advanced civilisation. We looked at the reasons why 90% were wiped out in 900AD and who were really the savages when the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in 1521.

*'They had architects and made different buildings such as temples, pyramids and even sports grounds. They had very organised cities.'* Frankie

*'They were astronomers and knew how long the Earth took to go around the Sun. They watched the stars from the top of their temples.'* Finley



## Amazing Amazon

We have loved finding out all about the human and physical geography of the amazing Amazon Rainforest. We have learned about the natural resources of this fascinating biome as well as what it might be like to visit and even live in the rainforest. We were concerned about how endangered some species are due to deforestation and learned about ways to protect the rainforest.

## Court is in order!

We have been doing some serious writing this half term! We took advice from a real solicitor (Thanks Matilda's dad!) about how to write an argument to win our case for our discussion topic: "Who was to blame for the murder of King Duncan in Macbeth." We have also enjoyed scaring each other (and ourselves) when writing short stories with a theme of suspense.



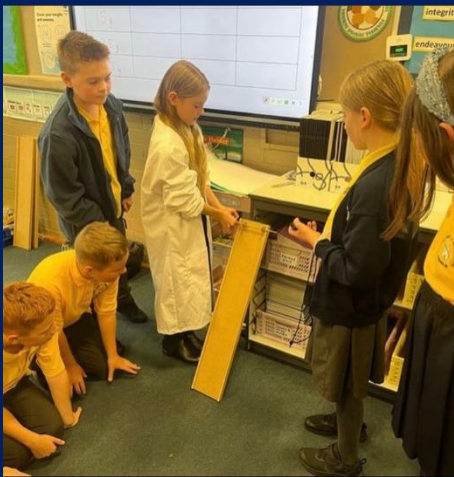


# Year 6

## Marvellous Maths

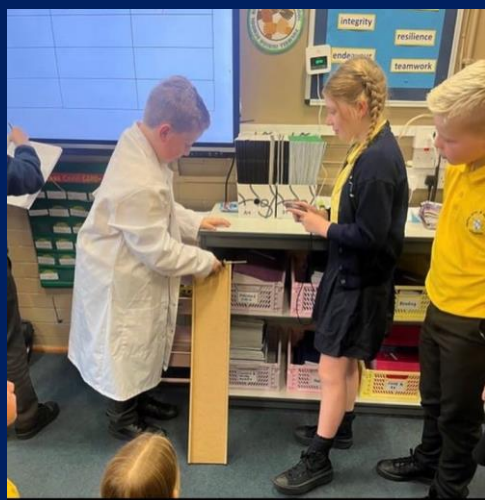
In Year 6 Maths, we have been revising our number and place value knowledge to help us with some tricky concepts such as fractions. We have been tackling some tricky problems, working systematically to ensure we have found all of the possible solutions.

## How have we evolved?



In Year 6 Science, we have been learning about Evolution and Inheritance. We have researched a famous scientist (Charles Darwin) and looked at his theory in detail. We have observed fossils and recorded scientific findings from them. We have particularly enjoyed a science experiment where we investigated which type of bird would survive longer in the Galapagos Islands, thinking about natural selection.

*'I would like to be a palaeontologist because I am interested in fossils and want to learn more about them and where they come from.'* Isaac M



# Careers and Aspirations



## Faculty Focus and Money Matters

Monday afternoons continue to be dedicated to Faculty Focus, which is our unique take on personal development and employability skills. Autumn Term's focus is the Faculty of Communication. So far this year, children have worked on their presentation skills, asking questions and positive listening behaviours. We have also worked really hard on our presenting skills and improving how well we can speak in front of a group of people. Year 5 even tried their hand at debating!

In Money Matters, children have learned about the role of banks and how we can earn interest on our money. After Christmas, we are going to working with an amazing charity called Redstart to deliver a financial literacy programme called Change The Game, so watch this space!



## Rubikon

To launch our Wheels In Motion project in style, we were given an awesome demonstration of skateboarding skills and were then given the opportunity to try it for ourselves! It was a great way to experience wheels as part of our physical education.





## The Word Masterclass

As part of this year's Wheels In Motion project, a group of children were taken to The Word to complete a masterclass in 3D printing. This showed our children how careers in Art and STEM can work together, as they designed their own products and then used the technical equipment to make them out of plastic.



## RAF Lieutenant

Children were given an assembly from John Richardson, an RAF Lieutenant. He spoke to the children about his career path, his experience of working in the Armed Forces and also how our school values link to a range of jobs within the RAF. He brought a lot of equipment in to show the children, and they used their questions skills that they had been working on in the Faculty of Communication to ask his brilliant questions.



## Parent-Pupil Green Skills Safari

FJS were the first school to experience the Green Skills Safari with Re:Gen and Re:Geon. These companies are trying to address the skills shortages in sustainable jobs by increasing the awareness of future jobs in net-zero construction for both primary school children and their parents and gave our children another great opportunity to visit a workplace.





# Special Events

## Parliament Week

Once again, we improved our understanding of UK Parliament by participating in UK Parliament Week. We voted for Class Councillors, debated issues, discovered how laws are made and Year 4 and 6 pupils applied to be House Captains. At the end of the week, we had a visit from our local MP who presented the House Captains with their badges.

*"I enjoyed getting to know how to do an application and speak in front of people. I am now a House Captain" Cole.*

*"I enjoyed learning stuff about the Houses of Parliament and how there are two sides, the red side and the green side." Lola.*

*'I applied to be a class councillor because I thought I could improve the school and any problems, to help change things for the better and speak up for people who are nervous' Harry Class 12*

*'I applied to be class councillor because I think it is a special position. I am a good listener and want to make a difference.' James Class 12*

## Be a buddy not a Bully!

Pupils of FJS 'Reach Out' to fight bullying across our city.

This November, 12 of our incredible pupils were selected by their class teacher to take part in an anti-bullying conference which involved schools from across the city coming together to tackle bullying together.

The terrific twelve took part in workshops linked to healthy relationships and peer pressure, as well as chatting with other children from across the city about how to celebrate anti-bullying week. Each and every one represented FJS superbly!

Back at FJS, we worked together to really talk about how we can reach out to those in need of a friend. The children, as always, showed how kind, caring and respectful they are. We also explored some anti-bullying apps!

*'I enjoyed learning about peer pressure at the conference because it's important that you don't just do what your friends do or tell you to do...even if you trust them. You should always follow with what you want to do and what is right.' Aoife*





# Special Events

It's just a bunch of Hocus Pocus....



It was a spooktacular day at FJS on October 21st. Children enjoyed themed lessons and learned all about the origins of Halloween. Some children in year 3 and 4 were even accused of witchcraft during our Salem Witch trials history lesson! Thankfully, they were able to join the rest of their classmates and the whole school, in some Autumnal wreath making and

Halloween activities. There were some amazing costume ideas and the whole cast of Stranger Things were spotted in year 5! Everyone had a 'wicked' time and as an extra yummy treat, our lovely lunch ladies provided everyone with a delicious, iced biscuit. Roll on next Halloween.

*'On Halloween day, I was dressed a dragon! My favourite part of the day was making the autumn wreaths because it was really fun to use something from nature and make it man-made.'* Ben C (Year 5)

*'I was dressed a spider witch and my favourite part was sketching the pumpkins from different angles. I loved it because I love sketching...it is one of my hobbies!'* Lili-Mae (Year 4)



*Just one more thing...*

*On behalf of all the staff at Fulwell Junior School, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas (or as Miss Whitfield says 'Joyeux Noel!') and all the health and happiness in 2023.*

*See you all on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023*



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