



# Fulwell Junior School



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



## A Welcome Return to Sunderland!

In September, our prize winning Coronation Bench was returned to the North- East, following a little clean and polish after its instalment at the

Tower of London in the Summer. Our pupils enjoyed a civic reception with the mayor as the Coronation bench they designed was returned to Sunderland to take pride of place in the City Hall.



As part of the celebratory ceremony, the school's choir performed a range of traditional local

songs and the mayor, Councillor Dorothy Truman congratulated their efforts in promoting the city. She said, 'I think we need to do more to promote how fantastic our city is and hopefully people seeing this bench in London will have helped do this.'



Pictured: Councillor Linda Williams



# Faculty of Arts



In the Autumn Term we launched the Whole School Project for 2023 – 2024 '**Designs for Life**'. The theme of the project is linked very closely with our refurbishment / building project taking place in school. This term children have been learning about the architectural styles of our school and local buildings, undertaking 'architectural trails' around the local area and the city deepening their appreciation and understanding of some of the wonderful architecture we have on our doorstep!

This focus for learning has continued in our 'Chimney Week' 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December where children have explored the architecture and history of the chimney using their sketches and drawings to create effective print designs.

The project will continue in the new year with an exciting opportunity to work with architects at BDN architects in Simpson Street Sunderland. January will see the launch of an inspiring **design competition** working in partnership with architects at BDN who have also invited us to visit their Sheepfolds Stables site in Sunderland when it is completed in February / March 2024.



## Faculty of Film:

To coincide with the announcement of planning proposals for a £450 million film studio complex in Sunderland being submitted to the city council, we held a special Focus day where children learned all about the film industry and related careers and jobs. During this day children watched the premiere of our film '**Macbeth – The Fulwell**

**Witches Trial**' which was made as part of the Shakespeare Schools Film Festival.

We gave the story of Macbeth a bit of a twist taking the form of a court case where the three witches stand accused of the crime of aiding and abetting Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in the murder of King Duncan.

Evidence for and against their case was presented through a series of flashbacks which took us from the courtroom to the 'cauldron', caves and coast!

We wanted our film to showcase some of the stunning coastline we have here in the North-East. The weather helped to add to the dramatic scenery with the aftermath of storm Ciaran leaving 'witchy' pyres made from driftwood washed up on the shore.

The cast was made up of pupils from Year 6 who worked alongside Mark Lloyd who supported us in the technical elements of making a film.

You can watch the film via this link:

<https://shakespeareschoolsfilmfestival.org/films/fulwell-junior>



# Faculty of Arts



During the Focus day pupil's were given the opportunity to write a review of the film, here's what we thought...



'The music supports the plot of this film capturing every movement of the accused.'

*Matilda Smith Y5*

'The actors leave a great impression of their characters and the two different perspectives, keeping your eyes fixed to the screen.'

*Liv Ellis Y5*

'The cast portrayed the roles of the characters excellently, keeping serious expressions and great

body language.'

*Rosa Aiken Y5*

'I love how Macbeth was writing the letter and you could hear him saying it, when Lady Macbeth was reading it, you could also hear her saying what she was reading.'

*Lizzie Bowmer Y6*

'The best part is when the magic trident starts talking, adding a bit of humour to the horror.'

*Isaac Warrener Y6*

'It was such a thrilling performance and I enjoyed how they acted out their roles with amazing expression.'

*Grace Clark Y4*

'The smoke made it feel eerie, the drums added drama. I think the bagpipes gave a victory effect.'

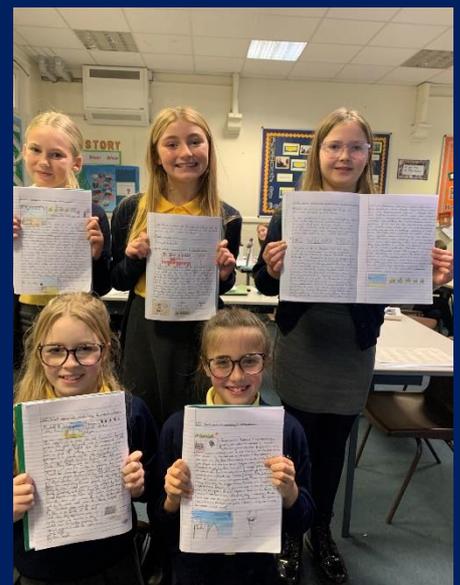
*Manny Mowbray Y3*

'I enjoyed how it was spooky because I love spooky movies.'

*Year 3*

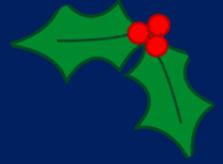
'The story is very exciting because it creates a suspicious mood and atmosphere.'

*Year 3*



We are hoping to hold a red carpet event early in the new year at a special location to celebrate and recognise the wonderful talent we have at Fulwell Junior School – watch out Hollywood!!

# Year 3



## The Perilous Prehistoric!

This term, Year 3 have loved learning all about the prehistoric times in history. We have learnt all about what life was like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron age including how they traded, the importance of weapons and tools as well as how Stonehenge plays a key part in their beliefs. We have also been looking at links with our local area and whether prehistoric people were ever in Sunderland. We could not believe that there have been Neolithic burials found in Ryhope, a Bronze Age urn in Penshaw and even a Bronze Age skeleton found in Fulwell! This definitely got our historical enquiry skills going!

## Fabulous Writing

Wow...our Year 3's have been working so hard in their English lessons this term to shine in their writing. First, we read and retold the traditional fairytale of Hansel and Gretel using some fabulous vocabulary as well linking our science topic of rocks and writing a recount of our trip to the beach. This half term, we have loved reading the story of The Snowman. We first looked at the original by Raymond Briggs and began reading another version by Michael Morpurgo. This inspired us to write the Snowman in our own way using similes, expanded noun phrases and even trying to include personification!



## We are mathematicians!

In Year 3 maths, we have looked at place value and we have been learning how to use the formal methods of column addition, subtraction and multiplication. Children's arithmetic skills have progressed leaps and bounds and we are so incredibly proud!



Year 3 have also started to develop their problem-solving and reasoning skills which is such a great skill to have! We cannot believe that some Year 3 children have already got their platinum certificates!

# Year 3

## UK Experts!

This term in Geography, we have been continuing our learning on the United Kingdom. Pupils have been locating the 3 highest peaks in the UK, describing different settlements and land uses within the UK, as well as learning about trade! We have also been brushing up on our local area knowledge and can describe physical and human features of Sunderland, it's location within the UK and which county it belongs to!



## We are geologists!

In science this term, we have been learning about rocks and light. We visited our beach to sort rocks into Venn diagrams, based on their properties. We know the three types of rocks (metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous). Within our rocks topic, we also looked at how fossils are formed! In our light topic, we have investigated how shadows are formed and how the distance of an object to a light source can affect the size of a shadow. We made our very own shadow puppets to investigate this and we completed our own prediction and conclusion.



## Special Treat!

Year 3 were so fortunate that they were given an amazing opportunity! Mr Speck ordered 30 trees to be planted in our school garden as part of our building work so our Year 3's were put to the task of planting them. They worked fabulously in teams and now their job is to care for them and watch them grow until they leave us in

Year 6. I wonder what will be taller, the children or the trees?

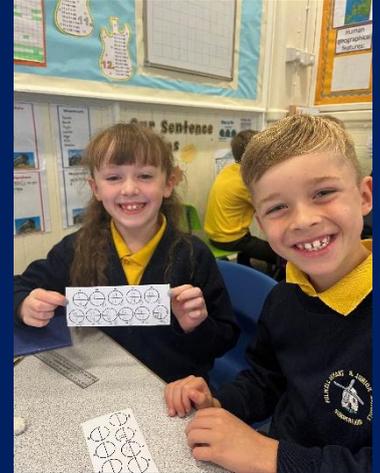




# Year 4

## Marvellous Maths

The term began with place value. We explored place value, learning to represent, compare and order numbers up to 10,000. We then discovered some new Roman Numerals and used them to represent numbers to 100. Some of us even managed to work out larger numbers all the way up to 1,000! After that, we moved onto rounding. This was the first time Year 4 had been taught rounding, so we started with rounding to the nearest 10 which quickly lead to rounding to the nearest 100 and 1,000. Then, we moved on to addition and subtraction. Year 4 were amazing at adding and subtracting numbers with up to 4 digits as well as beginning to develop efficient subtraction and estimating. Next, we moved on to multiplication and division. We explored multiplication and division facts and used our learning to apply strategies to solve calculations. Year 4 are maths superstars!



## The Gracious Greeks?

This term, Year 4 have explored the features and layouts of Greek traditional homes by looking at the layout of homes, the use of each room and what the houses were made from. We then looked at Mount Olympus and the 12 famous Greek gods and goddesses who live there. We all studied a different god or goddess, and wrote some impressive fact files about them. Not only that but we compared the city-states Athens and Sparta by comparing their daily life such as their education, location, life for girls, life for boys and what the government system was like. Finally, we analysed their attitudes towards Greek women and wrote up a diary entry for a Greek woman either from Sparta or Athens, explaining what life was like as a Greek woman.

In English in Year 4, we have read *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* - which we started reading before we knew it was going to be the theme for Fenwicks window this year! We absolutely loved finding out all about the adventures of Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund in Narnia, and used this story as the basis for our own character and setting descriptions. We also used *Farther* as inspiration for our narrative writing; this is a stunning picture book which sparked so much beautiful figurative language. We stopped reading when the boy finally took flight, and wrote the next part of the story using similes, alliteration and imagery.



# Year 4

## What's that noise?

We have been learning all about states of matter in science this term. First, we explored the different states of matter and what their particles looked like and categorised everyday objects into the three states of matter. We then explored melting and freezing and how applying different temperatures to matter can change their state and worked scientifically to investigate what happens when heat is applied to a solid. Next, we moved on to investigating sound. We identify how sounds are made, associating them with something vibrations. Then, we recognised that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear and investigated how our brain recognises the sound. After that, we made homemade musical instruments to find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it. Finally, we explored how sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.



In geography this term, our topic has been Europe, focussing primarily on France. We looked at trade and imports and exports to and from the UK. We discovered that Rotterdam in the Netherlands is the biggest port in Europe and where the major ports are located in the UK. Next we compared features of the UK and France and concluded a tourism survey within FJS. We found that France is the most visited country in Europe but most people in FJS visited Spain as a tourist. The most popular activity was visiting the beach and most pupils would like to visit France on holiday. Finally we compared Sunderland with its twin town in France: Saint Nazaire. We were surprised by how similar the two places were.





# Year 5

## The Dark Ages...or was it?



In history, Year 5 have been learning about the Anglo- Saxons and Vikings. We've been pondering the big question of was it really a "Dark Age"? As part of our topic, we've discovered who these people were, why they settled in England, how they travelled and traded, what they did for leisure (we REALLY enjoyed the legend of Beowulf!) and some of the great battles they fought. The photos show our Year 5s sailing in their Viking longships to carry out a raid of St. Peter's Monastery! Don't they look fierce?



## Our Outings!

Year 5 have been on three outings this term! Firstly, there were our architecture trails- one around the local area and another into the city centre. We discovered that there is lots of lovely Victorian and Edwardian architecture around us to admire. Most recently, we went on the Coals to Goals trip at the Beacon of Light. On this visit, we learned about the history of the former Wearmouth Colliery, what it was like to be a miner and the development of the SAFC badge. We also enjoyed a PE session and best of all, got to go behind the scenes in the Stadium of Light with a visit into the dressing rooms and even peeked down the tunnel towards the pitch!



# Year 5

## Fabulous Fantasy Writing!

In English Year 5 have been reading Dragon Rider and faced the challenge of conveying character through dialogue in their most recent narrative writing! Not an easy task but they have risen to this challenge well, using dialogue purposefully and accurately - it was lovely to hear their imagination come to life when creating their own fantasy creatures!



## Super Science

In Science this term Year 5 have blown us away with their knowledge of materials and their properties! They have worked tirelessly to ensure they are using key vocabulary when explaining their scientific learning and have gained confidence in carrying out multiple investigations!

## We're off to North America!

Our geographers have been exploring the continent of North America. We have looked at the physical geography and climate, which Year 5 will know is very varied! We even had a go at remembering all 23 countries' flags! The children have also looked at the lives of explorers and their expeditions

including the incredible life of Matthew Henson. We have loved looking at lines of latitude and longitude. Can your child tell you how many degrees north of the equator the Tropic of Cancer is? Finally, we explored reasons for settlements and migration to North America, including European settlements on the East Coast in the 1500s and 1600s and the lives of Native Americans.



# Year 6



## Learning about the Amazon

In Geography we have been learning about South America and focusing on the Amazon River and rainforest. The Year 6 children have become experts in the life of the Amazon rainforest and have learnt the key aspects of day-to-day life of the tribe's people that live there. Each lesson the children's map reading skills have been tested and children have loved identifying where the Amazon River flows and the vastness of it. Our fact files were a triumph and the children's wealth of South American knowledge shone. We also had a class debate on deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest, where children had a chance to voice their opinion. A fantastic term has been had in Geography!



## Marvellous Maths

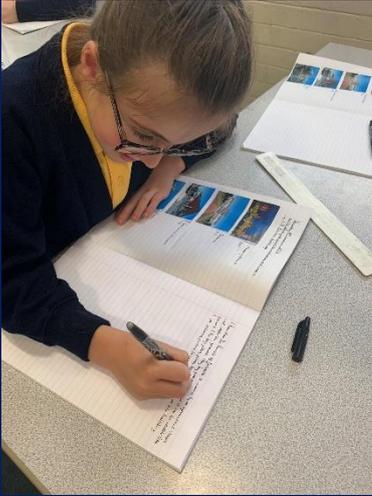
Our Year 6 mathematicians have been working none stop to raise their arithmetic levels in preparation for SATs, showing great resilience to debug, use the correct method and find the errors in order to progress. Of course, the children have also developed their reasoning skills and have used mathematical language to explain concepts and clarify their thinking. Difficult areas of maths, including decimals, fractions and percentages have provided challenge and the children should feel confident heading into Spring Term.

## The Terrifying Tudors

Divorced, beheaded and died, divorced, beheaded and survived! Yes, Year 6 have had the pleasure of learning about a new topic at Fulwell this year: The Tudors. The children have been fully immersed in the horrors, renaissance, beauty and developments of England's most colourful Golden Age. From houses to the English Reformation, explorers and the rise of the theatre, the children have been challenged to explain their thinking and understanding of the decisions made by the key players of the age. Without doubt, the break from Rome and the subsequent development of the country caused a sense of wonder - from the raising of the Mary Rose and Sir Francis Drake's (the pirate) exploits, the children discussed that all was not what it seemed in the past. An amazing attitude and thirst for knowledge made for the most vibrant learning environment.



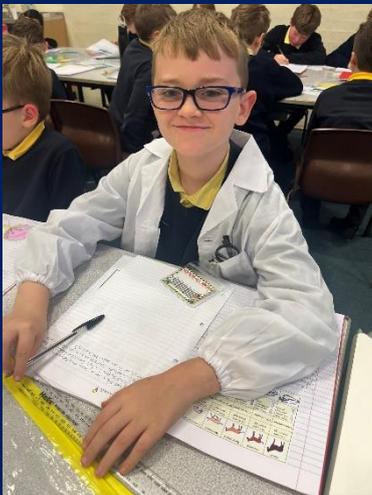
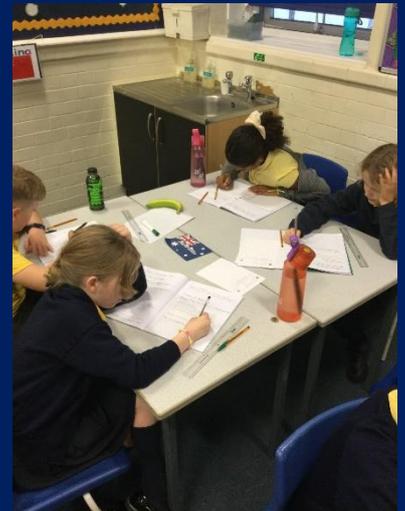
# Year 6



## Spooky Writing in Year 6!

Our Year 6 writers have been fully immersed in the spooky world of Anthony Horowitz and Shakespeare's Macbeth this term! The strange tale of Twist Cottage really had us intrigued and we had a tough time trying to advertise this haunted house in our Air BnB advert writing! We have written stories inspired by the characters of the Scottish Play, practised formal writing skills

with a courtroom discussion about who was ultimately responsible for the death of King Duncan and have reviewed our incredible film production. We continue to enjoy Free Writes and in Year 6- the darker the better! We produced some fantastic spooky writing and entered a writing competition set by the Foundation of Light. Our purple books are teeming with super writing!



## In the science lab!

In Science we have been learning all about Evolution and Inheritance, as well as studying our topic, 'Let it Shine', all about Light. The Year 6 children are becoming experts at coming up with their own ways to investigate scientific theories and come up with their own hypotheses. Each lesson we include a practical investigation to help develop our scientific understanding. So far we have investigated how birds beaks are adapted to

the different Galapagos Islands; how the Peppered moth avoided being wiped out during the industrial revolution; how biscuits can help us to understand survival of the fittest; How Mr Potato Head can help us to understand inheritance; how light travels; how shadows are formed and how our eyes allow us to see colours and shapes. A very busy term in the Science Lab indeed!



# Careers and Aspirations



## Year 3 Archaeologist talk

Because they were learning about the Stone Age in History, Year 3 were lucky enough to meet Steph, who is an Archaeologist at the University of York! For many of us – including our teachers – this was the first time any of us had ever met an archaeologist! We were so interested in what an archaeologist does, and we were amazed to find out that there are so many things you can do! You can teach at a university like she does, or you can excavate – but that's not for everyone, because you can get very dirty! If you like Science, you can work in a lab and carry out scientific testing – did you know that we can tell where in the world a person is from just by looking at the chemicals in their teeth? If you're a fan of Geography, you can look at the way landscapes have changed over time. Steph told us that she loves her job! She thinks it's so cool to be the first person to find something in thousands of years.



So many of us were interested in a career in archaeology after speaking to Steph!

## Nissan Robotics Coding Club

30 Year 6 children were invited to Nissan to take part in their Robotics Coding Club workshop, where they learned how to programme their own robot cars. The tasks set required teamwork, resilience and trial and error to perfect the coding for their robot. There were obstacles for their robots to overcome and the children worked hard to make sure their cars were moving in the right direction. A fantastic day was had by all!



# Careers and Aspirations

## Faculty of Film Careers

As part of our Faculty of Film day, we were lucky enough to meet not one but two people who are involved in the film industry.

Firstly, we met Tim Zaccheo a Vision Effects Supervisor and co-founder of Rumble VFX. He has worked on some very successful films and TV shows such as Gladiator, Band of Brothers and The Crown. He spoke to us about roles in the film industry and the importance of art and science when creating visual effects. He told us about his career and how unique his role was for almost thirty years, and how CGI has grown and is used in almost all productions these days. He encouraged us to follow our dreams and explained that many jobs will be available in the future of this field that currently don't exist.



We also met Laura, the STEMM Outreach Officer from Sunderland University, and Mrunali, who is currently studying for her degree in Film Production. Mrunali was always interested in film but not in acting, and so studying film production was the perfect choice for her. She told us all about the three stages of production – pre-production, which is when all of the planning takes place, production, when the footage is shot, and post-production, when the film is edited and finalised. She loves attending Sunderland University, and she feels like she is gaining hands-on experience to help her pursue her career – hopefully working for the BBC as an Assistant Director, which is her dream.





# Derwent Hill

Year 6 take on Derwent Hill!

Between 25-29 September, Year 6 spent a school week at Derwent Hill. A fine mix of English weather and a cloudburst of enthusiasm resulted in the most memorable week. Children participated in gorge walking, hill climbs, canoeing, big swing and much, much more. Teamwork was shown in abundance and personal challenges were met but the most amazing feedback from the staff at Derwent Hill is what made the week worthwhile. They said that the children from Fulwell Junior School were the politest group of young people they could remember, and the endeavour shown was second to none. They would have Fulwell children every week, reinforcing the fact that this group of Year 6 children are a very special bunch, indeed.



# Derwent Hill



*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 2024.*

*See you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024!*



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