



# Fulwell Junior School



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



## Bridging Our Future!



knowledge and appreciation of the design element of architecture, 'Bridging our Future' focusses on the engineering side of it.

On returning to school, the children spent two weeks taking part in lots of exciting learning linked to bridges. They really impressed their teachers with how much they were able to learn about the history of the bridges in our local area!

We produced some fantastic pieces of silhouette art, which is now on display throughout our school hall. Years 3 and 4 made their bridge silhouette out of chalk pastels and charcoal, whilst years 5 and 6 made theirs by cutting a silhouette out of card. We were so proud of our pieces!



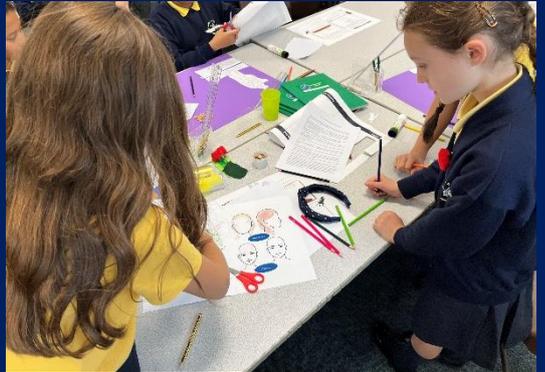
We were lucky enough to be visited by a Civil Engineer and Quantity Surveyor from Volker Stevin to introduce and excite the children about jobs and careers in the STEM industry. The children also took part in a 'Knex Challenge', where they were tasked with taking on a range of construction roles in their groups - such as project managers, quantity surveyors and contractors - and building a bridge of their choice that was able to hold a substantial weight.



# Faculty of Arts

## Faculty of Performance

We launched our brand new 'Faculty of Performance' with a day of whole school performance fun! We got the chance to be directors with some theatre reading. We also worked as teams of designers to create mood boards of our vision for the set and costumes for A Midsummer Night's Dream.



## A Midsummer Nights Dream

FJS has a long-established relationship with the Shakespeare Schools Foundation, producing several plays and a movie over the last ten years. Of course, it has become a firm favourite amongst children in Fulwell, where their wonderful performance skills can be honed and celebrated.



This year is no exception. The performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will take place in Durham on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025, where a half-hour abridged version of the play will be performed alongside productions from two other schools. Over 150 children auditioned for a part in the play, but unfortunately only 30 could be selected. To gain a part, the children had to perform scenes from the play, and we are fortunate to have such a wonderful, dedicated cast who have thrown themselves into the rehearsal process with gusto. We are confident that this production will be wonderful, building on the fabulous performance work in the school curriculum.

Grace, Y5 *"I wanted to audition because I like acting, and it is a chance to meet new people! It's great because all the actors are on the stage at once and no one is left out"*

Anna, Y5 *"I enjoy acting so I wanted to audition. I have been really enjoying the rehearsals because they are so fun!"*

## Art

In Art this term, the children began by developing their observational drawing skills. Children brought in their own seaside discoveries and took their time to study their items, and to create their own sketches of the item. The children then explored how they could use shading, stippling or cross-hatching to add tone and depth to their drawings. Later in the term, children enjoyed creating their own winter-inspired prints. Children used polystyrene tiles which they either pressed into, or added string to, to create their very own repeated patterns. We've all been so impressed with their completed pieces!



# Faculty of STEM

## STEMFest



In October, 30 lucky Year 5 children attended the STEMfest exhibition, where they were given the unique opportunity to meet over 50 businesses from STEM industries and complete hands-on, engaging activities with them.

As well as engaging with exhibitors, children were able to participate in various workshops throughout the day. These activities included Trailblazers, where

children were introduced to jobs in the Cyber Security field; an e-sports session at Sunderland College, where children were shown that they can study e-sports in further education; and a session in Flannery's Digital Training Unit, which gave our children the chance to try excavator, dozer and ADT operation.

Skye: "The best part of the day was going into the small planetarium because it was so small on the outside but when you stepped in, it felt enormous!"



## STEMfest Space Competition

In addition to attending the exhibition, 10 children from Year 5 and Year 6 were invited to take part in the event's Space competition. The group of children attended an after-school club for several weeks prior to the event, where they researched a problem that space explorers may face in their work and designed an innovative solution that they then presented to a

panel of judges at STEMfest.



The children decided that the issue they wanted to focus on was "space junk" and created a "space bin drone" as their innovative solution. The judging panel were extremely impressed with not only the children's idea, but also commented on their excellent communication skills. They won second place in the competition, which was £150 for our school.



# Year 3



## Super Science

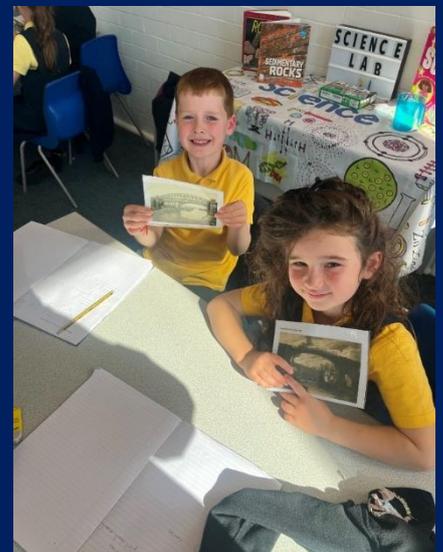
Wow! What super scientists we have in Year 3! We started our rocks topic with a visit to our beach to identify different rocks in our local area. We know the three types of rocks (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) and we can tell you how they are formed! Within our rocks topic, we also looked at fossils and how they are formed! We even wrote a recount of our trip in English. Such an interesting topic!



In Science this half-term, we have been learning about light and how shadows are formed. We carried out a fun investigation making shadow puppets which helped us to identify how the size of a shadow varies according to the distance of the object to the light source. We are developing our investigation writing skills by recording our predictions, results and conclusions. We can tell you the meaning of scientific vocabulary such as transparent, translucent and opaque!

## Our Country

In Geography this term, Year 3 have been studying the U.K. We have explored human and physical features of the country, looked at the special features of each region, learned about the highest peaks and even started to learn about trade, import and export. Trade is a theme that runs throughout Geography each year and the children are keen to learn more. Our topic ended with a look at Sunderland Port and a discussion about seasonality. What a fantastically fascinating subject Geography is!



## Year 3 go Prehistoric!

Our prehistoric history journey started with a trip back in time all the way to the Stone Age! Year 3 have been amazing archaeologists- investigating and making enquires about artefacts from this period including tools and weapons. Can your child tell you how bronze is made? We have also looked at how trade in the Iron Age has changed our world today! Coming up in History, we will be looking what we can learn about sustainability from the Stone Age people as well as looking into the mystical history of Stone Henge.

# Year 3

## Delving into Fairytales

Year 3 loved their first English topic of the year- Hansel and Gretel! We explored Anthony Browne's version, full of clues and amazing illustrations to inspire our writing. The children created some beautiful setting descriptions, describing the spooky forest and some incredible character descriptions which really brought the characters to life.

We were also inspired by our recent science trip to write diary entries of the day- the children really got to grips with non-fiction writing and developed their skills in writing feelings and emotions.

We have been so impressed by how well the children are developing their sentence structure and description where they have



used expanded noun phrases and time adverbials.

*"I really like writing up my stories in my polished piece book. We didn't do it in the infants and it is something new!"* Bella



In Year 3 maths this half-term, we have started learning our 3 and 4 times tables. Some of us have even achieved our platinum times tables certificates which is absolutely fantastic! Starters each day involve five arithmetic questions known as Fluent in Five and this has supported

children with their fluency of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions of amounts. Year 3 have made a great start developing their reasoning and problem-solving skills and we have worked systematically to find all possibilities. We have been amazed at how hard Year 3 are working with their maths. Keep up the hard work everyone!

*"My favourite lesson as Fulwell Junior School has been maths! I love answering questions and learning my times tables."* Leo



# Year 4

## States of Matter

Science in Year 4 began with the topic 'States of Matter'. Children have explored the differences between solids, liquids and gases and been able to classify different materials by their state of matter.

We had great fun pretending to be particles and moving in different ways! The children have discovered that a material can change its state, and we proved this by investigating what happens to chocolate at different temperatures. Best of all there was some chocolate left over to eat after the experiment! Our next topic was 'Sound'. We learned that sound is caused by vibrations and struck tuning forks then placed them in water so we could see the vibrations in effect. In another experiment we made musical instruments and altered their features to investigate how volume and pitch can be changed.



## The Gracious Greeks!

The children have shown great enthusiasm towards The Greeks with many children producing work at home without being asked. They have looked at themes of leisure, trade and at the great ancient Greek hero and leader – Alexander the Great. Discussing mature themes such as Empire building and invading other countries has

shown the children's moral compass and sparked differences of opinion. Whilst exploring these themes, children have looked at links to our local area such as shipbuilding – understanding how Greeks also built ships to a high-standard. How they constructed huge stadiums like the Stadium of Light to be used for theatre and entertainment.



## Year 4 are European Experts!

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to geography this term, our topic has been Europe. We have researched numerous countries within Europe and found the key information about the places. We always start every lesson by learning the key facts about a country and even hearing the country's national anthem! The children got to grips with importing and exporting and discovered what we buy and sell to other European countries. We have also learnt about tourism and what tourism attractions are and found out where pupils at FJS like to visit. A fantastic start to the school year!

# Year 4

## Creative Writing

As part of the 'Bridging our Future' project, the children visited the beautifully designed Spire Bridge, walking up Sea Road, before taking the Metro to Pallion. All of this is important, as the children wrote a recount of their trip as a piece of non-fiction writing, showing individuality in the things that they remembered and what was important to them. We then delved into the book FAR<sup>T</sup>HER by Grahame Baker-Smith, about a man



who wanted to fly and used his mechanical skills to create wings. His son took over the mantle and the children have crafted story boards and story maps to build a 4-part adventure story where a character takes flight. Children have applied emotion words, pathetic fallacy, onomatopoeia to craft paragraphs cohesively and produced some marvellous stories. During this half-term, children have been reading The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by CS Lewis. This has led to writing linked to the classic novel. The children have described the magical world of Narnia and investigated the emotional state of the characters when they are alone in this strange environment. Of course, Chapter ten sees



the sudden arrival of Father Christmas, and this provided the children to show the opposite emotions in their writing. Many children are working on improving their joined cursive handwriting, which not only enhances presentation but makes a teacher's marking workload much more pleasant!

## Marvellous Maths

We begin every maths lesson by practising, or singing, a times table. Then we use our arithmetic skills in "Fluent in Five" where we solve 5 calculations and maybe even a challenge problem in just 5 minutes!

In the main part of our lessons, we've explored the place value of 4-digit numbers by partitioning the numbers in different ways and learning to round. The children have also developed their use of formal column methods for addition and subtraction with numbers up to 4-digits. Year 4 are also working incredibly hard to earn their platinum certificates and learning their times tables so they are ready for the Multiplication Tables Check in June.





# Year 5

## Authors in the Making!

Year 5 have made an incredible start to life in the upper phase of Fulwell Junior School! Their attitude to learning has been fantastic and they have produced some incredible pieces of work. After our project enrichment weeks, Year 5 got stuck straight in with their first English text, *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. It's all about a little boy living in Victorian London, who must overcome many obstacles in his life including losing his parents, his sisters and escaping the dreaded workhouse. We compared this text with *Way Home* by Libby Hathorn, which is about a young boy called Shane who also has obstacles to face in a modern-day bustling city. This inspired our Year 5's to retell the story of *Way Home* with their own ending. It was a huge narrative but their ideas, language choices and dedication to making their writing the best it could be was fantastic! We also used this knowledge to write a letter to Queen Victoria requesting the closure of workhouses. Finally, we have followed Ben, Sorrel and Firedrake's journey in the story *Dragon Rider* to write our own narrative extract to express character through dialogue.



## North America

In geography, we have been studying the continent of North America. Every lesson, we have learned about a country to create mini fact files before using the atlases to locate the countries. Year 5 enjoyed studying the climate of North America as it was so varied as well as creating non-chronological reports about the physical regions, including the Canadian Shield and the Great Plains. We discovered so many amazing facts! This half term we have looked at how North America became the place it is today by learning about trade, the early European explorers such as Christopher Columbus and the impact that it had on the indigenous people. Finally, we looked at push and pull factors of the continent and looked in-depth at the most popular tourist cities in North America.

Some of our keen geographers had an amazing opportunity in October to meet some students who live in Washington DC. It was fascinating to learn about how their life and education is similar and different to our lives in the UK.

*"I really liked learning about what life is like in America and what clubs they do. I found out that they have a field where they play all their sports...including a frisbee team!" Aoife*



# Year 5

## The Invaders!

This term in history, we have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We started off the term by placing the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons on a timeline and we investigated where they invaded and settled in Britain. We then examined different artefacts that were buried at Sutton Hoo. We then discovered the importance of storytelling during the Dark Ages, and we learned about some interesting myths they believed in. After that, we looked at the significance of the long ships and the children got into role and acted out what it would have been like to be in a long ship! We then explored the struggle for power in England when the Normans invaded in 1066. The children looked at the Bayeux Tapestry that explains what happened in The Battle of Hastings. Finally, we researched about the different religious beliefs of Christianity and paganism, and we created a leaflet about their Gods and Goddesses.



## Out of this World!

This term in Science, Year 5 have been busy exploring the world around them during our first topic of Earth and Space. Discovering lots of interesting facts about our solar system whilst challenging some ancient theories proposed by Aristotle and Ptolemy. Our next topic of Forces followed on from this learning superbly where we explored the work of Sir Isaac Newton and carried out different investigations including

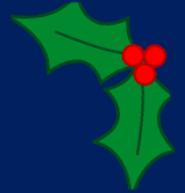


making parachutes to test air resistance and exploring a link between an objects weight and mass. Did you know that an objects weight (measured in Newtons) is approximately 10 times its mass (measured in Kilograms)?

Year 5 on ice! What a trip! Year 5 had the opportunity to visit the Life Centre in Newcastle to follow on from their learning of Space and Forces. Here, we had the opportunity to discover different mechanisms, games and puzzles that linked to forces. They also took part in a Space workshop 'A Day in the Life of an Astronaut' discovering lots about the food they eat and of course the MAG (giant nappy!!) they wear. All this and a chance to test our skills on the ice rink! Check out our recent YouTube video to see more photos of our amazing trip!



# Year 6



## Great North Museum



In order to enrich their Science topic of Evolution and Adaptation, Year 6 attended the Great North Museum to take part in an engaging, interactive Adaptation workshop. They got the opportunity to see first hand the differences between the beaks of a variety of different species of birds, using taxidermy animals, took part in an activity which allowed the children to

develop a much deeper understanding of how different species adapt to survive.

## The Terrible Tudors



Year 6 have been fascinated with their History topic of the Tudors. They began by re-enacting the Battle of Bosworth, and understanding how the Tudors came to reign. They loved learning about Henry VIII and his six wives - we certainly had a few renditions of songs from SIX the musical during that lesson! They enjoyed learning all about the attitudes people had towards women



back in Tudor times, and investigated how some Tudor women began to have influence. Our topic may be over for now, but stay tuned for more exciting news about our Tudor topic...

## Fair is Foul, and Foul is Fair

We have been detectives in reading lessons and barristers in writing lessons this half term! We have hunted for clues and evidence in the story of Macbeth to write our court room discussion 'Who is to blame for the death of King Duncan?'

*'I really enjoyed writing both texts for Macbeth! I think the witches were to blame for King Duncan's death because they set out to meet Macbeth, so it was their intention for the King to be killed. Our narrative was fun was because we got to be creative with our character choices.'* Matilda



# Year 6

## VEX Robotics



Over the course of this half term, Year 6 pupils have been involved in VEX robotics as part of their computing lessons. This equipment was kindly loaned to us by Nissan and the Reece foundation. During VEX sessions, pupils have been creating a competition field and building their own customised robots. They had the opportunity to apply their knowledge of coding to write an algorithm for our VEX robots to successfully complete mazes they designed. Children had to use decomposition and debugging to create a

code in which was the most efficient to get our robot through the maze and avoid obstacles!

## Bikeability

Last half term, Year 6 took part in Bikeability training. During this course, children learned how to be safe on their bicycles whilst on the road. It involved lessons about road signs, bicycle skills and riding on the roads in the local area as well as a fun cycling games session. Hopefully, this course will help our children to cycle safely and independently.



## South America



Geography in term 1 has been all about exploring the continent of South America! Children have been using their map skills to investigate the physical features of various parts of South America, whilst comparing the climate and location to our home of Sunderland. Ask us to name any of the countries and their capital cities! Additionally, children have thrown themselves into exploring the diversity of the Amazon River and its rainforest, researching tribes that live there and even looking at the impact deforestation can have on our environment on earth. We have been so impressed at the children's skills and enthusiasm throughout this topic!

# Wider Curriculum



## A Visit from Lewis Atkinson

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, our local M.P, Lewis Atkinson, visited our school. After touring our beautiful building, he met with the House Captains and a representative from each class in the Aspirations Gallery and answered questions. Each class had prepared a question for Lewis, as part of their Parliament Week discussions and our M.P was very impressed with the range of topics and quality of questions asked. Our pupils got insights



into what life is like as a newly elected M.P and careers in politics. We discovered that he used to work for the N.H.S, supports S.A.F.C, has made new friends at the Houses of Parliament and even had lunch with the Prime Minister!



As part of his visit, Lewis announced the winner of the Christmas card competition. F.J.S House Captains launched the competition in Parliament Week, where all pupils had the opportunity to design a Christmas Card for Lewis Atkinson to send out in 2024. We had dozens of entries. The House Captains created a short-list of designs, sent them to Lewis and he chose a winner. Josie Matthews in Class 7 was the talented winner and her design is now on 600 Christmas cards, ready to be sent by the M.P to people across the U.K and beyond! Lewis loved the blend of Sunderland and London on Josie's design. Congratulations Josie!



## Helping our Local Area!

Our school council have had a busy first term! Back in September, FJS appealed for tinned goods for the Harvest Festival which we donated to the local Salvation Army food bank. Our councillors helped to count and sort them. They've also been shopping at the Sea Road charity shops to buy games for indoor breaks, made Halloween decorations for their classes, been litter picking around the school grounds and debated some important school issues. Most recently, they made beautiful Christmas cards which we hand delivered to nearby homes and businesses on Sea Road.



# Wider Curriculum

## We are Creators!



In Year 4, children have had the opportunity to join cross stitch club. Children have worked hard to follow patterns to create their own pillows. They have shown resilience and creativity to persevere with their designs. The children were all delighted with their completed pillows.

*I loved being able to choose all of the colours for my design. Emilie*

*I enjoyed doing cross stitch club because it was*

*really relaxing. Chloe*

## We are Performers!

Choir have been working extremely hard towards this year's annual Carol Service. With well over half of our 70+ member choir auditioning for solos, we have managed to put together a real spectacle of a show, with talented singers and confident readers/actors and we're sure this will be such a wonderful way to kick off the festive period! As well as many more exciting opportunities in the pipeline, in the summer term we are aiming to put on the musical, Matilda, and we can't wait to get straight into those rehearsals in the new year!



## We are Gardeners!

This term, our green fingered gardeners have been working incredibly hard to get our school garden in tip top shape! First, we started by emptying the greenhouse, ready for the delivery of our brand new one, tidying the garden up and weeding the flower beds. We made sure to rescue our strawberry and rhubarb plants as we are keen to try them in the summer!

Recently, we were lucky to have some wonderful volunteers who came to help tidy the pond area and woodland area. We now have so much more space!

After Christmas, our plan is to plant new seeds and keep the weeds away!



# Sporting Success!

## Football

The girls have made an outstanding start to the term! This year we have been entered into a league where we play other schools from



Sunderland. The girls have had a fantastic start, winning all three of their games putting us top of the league!



We also competed in the ESFA County Girls football final, where we battled the awful rain to secure 2 wins. The girls have also enjoyed our weekly training sessions at The Beacon of Light!

Meanwhile, the boys have made a tremendous start to their league, already in second place! Working incredibly as a team and winning many of their early matches. Recently they came third in the EFL cup and no doubt are ready to tackle any more competitions or matches that come their way!

## Netball

Our school netball squad have got off to a flying start this year. After only training together for a matter of weeks both of our teams took part in the Monkwearmouth Academy Primary Netball Competition in October, which saw Fulwell 1 grabbing 1st place and Fulwell 2 snapping up 3rd. Training together has been great fun with everyone putting in 110% during each session. We can't wait for the 2025 Primary Netball League to start!



## Swimming



In November, some of our fabulous Year 5/6 swimmers took part in a swimming gala at Monkwearmouth. Competing against three other schools was a challenge but so many of our children came back victorious with medals and we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall! Amazing sportsmanship and resilience!

*I really enjoyed doing the freestyle and the medley race! I liked cheering on our team and I was proud to get a medal! Eve*

# Halloween Day!





*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 2025.*

*See you all on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025!*



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