



Fulwell Junior School



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



Fulwell Fringe – Your Voice is Your Superpower!

If there's one way to launch a school project, this was it! This year, we proudly launched our Fulwell Fringe, inspired by the world-famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The aim of the project is to develop children's performance skills, oracy, and confidence, while celebrating the wide range of talents our children have. Everything they do throughout the year will build towards a spectacular final festival, which promises to be an unmissable event! The first two weeks of term were truly exceptional. Our children had the chance to take part in a wide variety of workshops, including spray painting, circus skills, acting, dance, as well as creating an audiobook, which will be available for everyone to listen to very soon. Pupils also explored pop art techniques and enjoyed experimenting with slapstick comedy, learning the art of timing, expression, and audience engagement. Every child fully immersed themselves in these experiences, showing creativity, enthusiasm, and a real willingness to try new things. The energy, imagination, and excitement across all year groups have been infectious. We are thrilled to see how the children are developing their skills and growing in confidence as performers and creators. With so much already achieved, we are eagerly looking forward to seeing how the Fulwell Fringe Festival will come together at the end of the year—it promises to be a truly unforgettable celebration of talent, creativity, and fun!



Faculty of Arts



The Launch of Fulwell 50

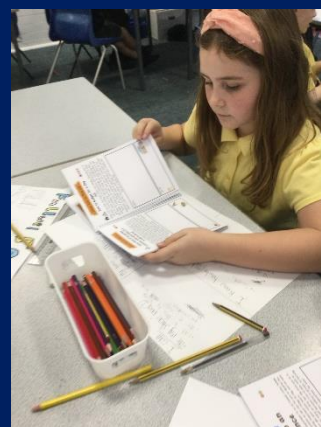


Last month, we launched a new initiative that has been almost two years in the making – **Fulwell 50!** All our children now have their journals, and it has been wonderful to see their excitement as they begin exploring this unique project. Fulwell 50 has been created to enhance our broad and balanced curriculum by offering pupils meaningful, real-life learning opportunities and the chance to develop key life skills.

The 50 thoughtfully chosen goals fall into four categories—**'I know', 'I can', 'I know how to find out', and 'I have experienced'**—ensuring that every child can find

something that interests and inspires them, while also giving us opportunities to celebrate our fantastic local area. This long-term project will follow children from Year 3 to Year 6, with many goals designed to be completed in partnership with home, providing a rich and enjoyable addition to their home learning.

Following our first faculty afternoon, where we shared and celebrated the challenges completed so far, we have been delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils. We look forward to seeing families continue to enjoy these experiences together as the Fulwell 50 journey unfolds.



Aspirations Gallery

Our Aspiration Gallery is officially open, and what a wonderful event it was! We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Sunderland, members of our local community, and former pupils to share in what we have created. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate both the children's work and the art of our talented local artists.

Many of our pupils shone in their roles as curators, confidently guiding visitors through the exhibits and explaining how each piece links to our school projects, local history, and the wider community. Their pride and knowledge were outstanding, and it was a joy to see them showcasing the creativity and talent we have here at FJS.

We can't wait to continue developing the gallery and adding more fabulous pieces in the months ahead!



Faculty of STEM

Girl Powered



In November, 8 girls from Year 5 and 6 attended a STEM competition called Girl Powered, which was all about encouraging girls to get involved in engineering and robotics. We spend some time together in school building our robots, and during the event we put it to the test by driving it through a series of missions. Although we didn't win any awards this time, we represented our school brilliantly and showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm. We are so proud of the engineers, designers and programmers we are becoming — the future of STEM is definitely girl powered!

We are set creators, engineers, puppeteers...the list continues!

During our focus DT Week, the whole school took on an exciting creative challenge: designing and building our own theatres and puppets. This linked closely to our focus on performance for the Fulwell Fringe, giving every year group the chance to contribute to a school-wide celebration of storytelling and design.



We began by working collaboratively to choose a story we wanted to bring to life. Each group shared ideas, discussed themes, and agreed on a narrative that inspired us all. Once the story was selected, the design process truly began. Children across the school worked imaginatively to create their theatres, props, backdrops, and puppets, using teamwork, problem-solving, and experimentation with different materials.

The week wasn't without its challenges. We had to show perseverance and resilience to refine our ideas and ensure our final products were of the highest quality. Year 5 and 6 even took on an extra task: incorporating a moving mechanism into their theatre designs, leading to some fantastic engineering achievements.

As the year continues, we will build on these skills by producing and performing scripts with our puppets. Some of these performances may even appear in this year's Fulwell Fringe Festival—so keep your eyes peeled!





Year 3

It's hard to believe our Year 3 pupils have been at FJS for just one term—it already feels as though they've been part of our school community for much longer! They have settled in brilliantly and are already proving to be a real asset to the school. Their dedication and enthusiasm have shone through in every area of their learning, and they consistently demonstrate our school motto: "Be the best that you can be." We are incredibly proud of the fantastic start they have made and look forward to seeing all they will achieve throughout the rest of the year.



Crumbs, Christmas, and Creativity: Year 3's Writing



What a wonderful start to the year we have had in English! We began by exploring the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel, focusing on writing detailed character and setting descriptions. The children worked hard to enhance their writing by using expanded noun phrases, carefully chosen vocabulary, and descriptive techniques to bring the story to life. Most recently, we turned our attention to the heartwarming story of The Snowman. Year 3 have shown a keen interest in the story and have particularly enjoyed writing from James' viewpoint, imagining his thoughts and feelings as the adventure unfolds. In their narratives, the children have included speech, varied sentence lengths, and

descriptive detail to make their writing engaging and expressive. Throughout the term, the children have shown great enthusiasm for storytelling, demonstrating creativity, imagination, and a real enjoyment of developing their writing skills. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we look forward to seeing how their narratives continue to grow and improve.

Mapping the UK: Learning About Our Country

Year 3 has had an impressive start to geography and has thoroughly enjoyed learning about the UK. We have learnt about the four countries in the UK, their capital cities, and the human and physical features that encourage people to live in certain areas. We have used keys and symbols to show where places are on maps and coordinate grids. Whilst also making links to our local area and trade, and how we import and export items into our city.

Year 3



Prehistoric Experts!

This term, our amazing archaeologists used their powers of discovery to learn all about life in prehistoric Britain. The children showed their amazing understanding as they examined ancient artefacts, learning about how Bronze and Iron changed Britain forever. We also learned about life in the Stone Age, where children acted as hunter-gatherers, tasting some palaeolithic food as well as creating their own cave art!

Year 3 Reads Aloud: Growing Fluency and Confidence



We have loved hearing our excellent Year 3 readers really develop their fluency this term! Autumn has been all about improving and showing brilliant read-aloud skills. Children have had many opportunities to share their reading experiences, and we have already seen some fantastic progress! The children have also started to develop their retrieval and summarising skills!

Year 3 Rocks! Learning About Light and Local Geology

Year 3 have shown fantastic enthusiasm for their science learning this half-term! We began by exploring rocks, learning to identify different types and understand their unique properties. We were also very fortunate to have our school expert, Mr Hughes, who shared some of the fascinating and unique facts about the rocks from our local area, helping us see how geology connects to the world around us. Next, we focused on light, carrying out investigations to explore how the size of



shadows changes and how light can be blocked or reflected. The children even created shadow puppets and put on a mini theatre show, linking their learning to our whole-school project, 'Fulwell Fringe'. Year 3 have demonstrated curiosity, creativity, and excellent scientific thinking throughout both topics, and we look forward to discovering what the next science topic in the New Year will bring!

Year 4

Year 4's Trip to Narnia!



English in Year 4 has been so exciting this term. We got lost in the magical world of Harry Potter and Hogwarts and used this imaginative stimulus to help to write some fabulous recounts and descriptions. We wanted to continue with this learning all year; however, we then had something equally as engaging to move on to...

Year 4 pupils (and staff) were so lucky to get the opportunity to visit the Sunderland Empire to watch the incredible production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. We were wowed by special effects and gripped by the story. It was the perfect hook in to the



learning in our new reading and writing unit and was enhanced even further by the beautiful snow fall we had. What could be a better way to imagine being in Narnia than to actually step on freshly fallen snow and feel the chill in the air ourselves! We are currently busy writing our own Narnia inspired stories, and we cannot wait to read the finished products.

The Groovy Greeks!

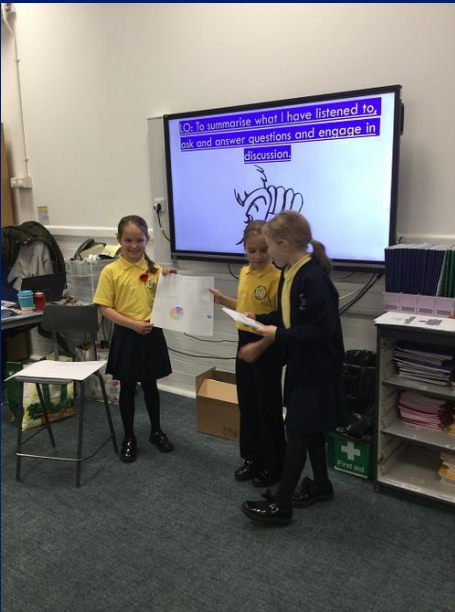
In history lessons, Year 4 have been learning about the Ancient Greeks. The children have explored topics such as the birth of democracy in Athens, amazing inventions, the fierce Spartans, the Olympic games, Alexander the Great and much more. By the end of the topic, children were able to decide if they thought the Ancient Greeks were really civilised and give their own opinion. History is very popular in Year 4. Josh from class 5 said, "It's my favourite subject because it's really fascinating and I love the topic!"



Year 4



Solids, Liquids, Gases... and Sound!



In science, Year 4 have been busy exploring the fascinating world of matter and sound this term. They began by identifying the different states of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—and investigating how the particles in each state behave differently. Through a range of practical experiments, the children observed how particles are arranged and how they move, helping them understand why solids hold their shape, liquids flow, and gases expand to fill their containers. Building on this learning, we moved on to our second topic: sound. The children discovered how sound travels in waves and explored how it moves through different mediums, such as solids, liquids, and gases. They

carried out practical activities to see how vibrations create sound and how changing the medium affects the way sound is transmitted to our ears. Throughout the unit, Year 4 have been developing their scientific skills, such as observing carefully, making predictions, and recording their findings. They have thoroughly enjoyed linking their knowledge of matter to their understanding of sound, making connections between different areas of science and gaining a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Exploring Europe

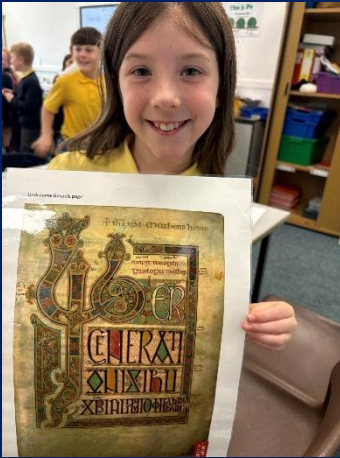
In geography this term, we have continued our work on Europe, deepening our understanding of the continent. We explored the different countries within Europe, learned to identify their capital cities, and even investigated some of the foods that the UK imports from across Europe, helping us understand how interconnected we are with our neighbouring countries. We also learned more about our twin town—Saint-Nazaire in France. Do you know why Sunderland was twinned with this town, or when the partnership began? The children have enjoyed uncovering the reasons behind this special link. In addition, we explored what it would be like to be a tourist in Sunderland and quickly realised just how much our city has to offer visitors. From our coastline to our cultural landmarks, Sunderland is full of exciting places to discover!



Year 5

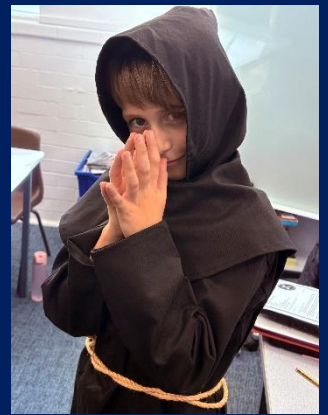


Did the Vikings visit Sunderland?



They most certainly did – there are still scorch marks at St Peter's Church! Anyone who has been to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) will know the tale of those raiding Scandinavians. Studying the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings is such a great topic to see how our locality is central to several of the great civilisations in History. We learned about groundbreaking technology, such as longboats and how the Vikings loved to raid, trade and invade – they had many strings to their bow. We explored how the fall of Rome led to the Celts inviting the

Anglo-Saxons to Britain, yet as they were so good at fighting and their homeland was under threat to flooding, they decided to move here permanently. Discovering how the Anglo-Saxons converted from Paganism to Christianity gave rise to the emergence of Bede as the Father of English History, re-emphasised the role the North-East played in our History. A great topic, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed – the outstanding presentation of a Bede-like Bible page (as a fact file) showed great skill and care by many children.



Beowulf and Charles Dickens – storytelling at its best!



Building on the independence and creativity developed in Year 4, our Year 5 writers have produced some fantastic pieces this term. Using the novel *Street Child* as a stimulus, they explored Victorian times and the role of the Workhouse, learning about the harsh conditions and treatment of children. This inspired expressive character and setting descriptions, as well as emotive letters to Charles Dickens, inviting him to witness the squalor and suffering firsthand. Linking to our Anglo-Saxon and Viking

topic, the children engaged with the epic poem *Beowulf*, learning about the hero and his nemesis, Grendel. We focused on perfecting speech punctuation, incorporating movement, thoughts, and action into dialogue, and using a mix of long and short sentences to build suspense. A very productive and creative term for writing!

Year 5

Year 5 are out of this World!

This term in Science, we began by exploring the topic of Earth and Space. Students learnt about the solar system, including the order of the planets, how they orbit the Sun, and Earth's unique position within it. We also



studied the Moon, describing its phases and understanding how its movement around Earth creates predictable patterns, such as day and night. We enjoyed an *amazing* trip to the **Centre for Life**, which really brought our learning to life - and we even got the chance to go ice skating, which was a highlight of the day! Our current topic is Materials and Their Properties. Children have been comparing and grouping everyday materials based on characteristics such as hardness, solubility, transparency, and whether they are magnetic. We have also carried out investigations into the solubility of different substances, developing our skills in predicting, observing, and drawing conclusions from practical scientific enquiries.

Across the Atlantic

This half term in geography, Year 5 have been learning about the continent of North America. We put our map skills to the test by locating the countries of North America using atlases. We have also explored the different climates in North America, as well as the human and physical features of the continent. As part of one of our lessons, we created some outstanding fact files, detailing the physical features, flora and fauna that can be found in the different physical regions of the continent. The presentation in books was truly outstanding and showed our determination to be the best geographers we can be!



Year 6



As Year 6 begin their final year at FJS, we are focusing on developing the key skills they will need as they move on to secondary school and, eventually, into their exciting future careers. To support this, we were visited by Steve, who shared stories from his varied career journey. He spoke about the different roles he has had over the years and highlighted the transferable skills that helped him succeed in each one. During his

visit, we took part in a range of engaging and enjoyable activities designed to strengthen our critical thinking, resilience, teamwork, and communication. These experiences helped us recognise how important these skills are—not just for school, but for many different areas of our lives. Year 6 left the session feeling inspired, motivated, and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

South America

This term, our curious geographers have been exploring the incredible continent of South America! We learned that, because it lies in the Southern Hemisphere, its map, countries and capital cities look very different from ours in the UK. Year 6 have taken excellent notes while researching two major physical features — the Amazon River and the Amazon Rainforest. The rainforest proved especially fascinating as we studied the tribes who live there and how their daily lives differ greatly from our own. We finished the unit by comparing South America's human and physical features with those of the UK, including how climate and geography affect trade, lifestyles and the way people live.



From Twist Cottage to Macbeth: Year 6 Masters Suspense

This term, our Year 6 writers have amazed us with their enthusiasm and creativity! We explored two brilliant spooky texts — Twist Cottage by Anthony Horowitz and Macbeth by William Shakespeare. For Twist Cottage, the children produced vivid, detailed descriptions and then switched gears to create persuasive, "Airbnb-style" adverts enticing visitors to stay at the eerie cottage! After studying Macbeth, we focused on the build-up to King Duncan's tragic death, writing from a range of perspectives including Lady Macbeth, the witches, the guards and even King Duncan himself. Finally, the children tackled the big question: Who was responsible for King Duncan's death? We are incredibly proud of their insight and imagination, and we can't wait to see what they produce next term.

Year 6

The Study of Evolution



This half term, our Year 6 scientists have been exploring the fascinating topics of evolution and inheritance. They learned about influential scientists such as Charles Darwin and investigated how animals and humans have changed and adapted over time. Their learning was brought to life during a fantastic visit to the Great North Museum, where they took part in an

evolution workshop. The children examined different animal beaks and discussed how each one has adapted for survival. They even took part in a hands-on activity, using a spork to collect beads, to experience just how challenging it can be for birds to gather food. By adding environmental changes to the activity, they were able to see the powerful impact these factors can have on survival. It has been an exciting and insightful unit, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed becoming evolution experts!



The Terrible Tudors

This term in History, Year 6 have been fully immersed in the fascinating time of the Tudors! We explored Henry VIII's dramatic break from Rome, which was an event that certainly proved one king could cause quite a stir when he didn't get his way! The children also learned about Elizabeth I's reign and the Spanish Armada, discovering how England's smaller, quicker ships managed to outsmart a much larger fleet. We can even explain why Elizabeth's reign is also known as "The



Golden Age". We also investigated the everyday realities of Tudor life, comparing the grand homes of the wealthy with the smaller homes of the poor. In addition, we discovered why Tudor trade and military developments helped shape the country we know today.



Wider Curriculum



U.K Parliament Week



Once again, FJS took part in UK Parliament Week. We spent the whole day of Friday 28th November discovering all about UK Parliament. We also debated issues prepared by the House Captains and chose our ideas for which Whole School Awareness Days we wanted the House Captains to plan. We shared ideas in class and then voted for our choices. We also had the chance to show off what we knew about UK Parliament by creating a leaflet, poster or presentation. What a knowledgeable school of citizens we are! Year 6 House Captains and Year 5 & 6 Class Councillors also attended the Sunderland Youth

Parliament debate during Parliament Week. Schools from across the city sent delegates to the City Hall to discuss issues important to the city and the young people in it. Our representatives made us very proud.

Anti-bullying- Power for Good

Our children truly impressed everyone during our Anti-Bullying awareness afternoon by using their voices as their superpower to spread messages of kindness, respect, and standing up to bullying. Across the school, pupils engaged in a range of creative projects that showcased their ideas and talents while promoting a positive, supportive school community. In Year 3, the children produced inspiring movie trailers featuring anti-bullying superheroes, highlighting ways we can all support others. Year 4 wowed us with a song and music video about kindness and standing up to bullying, full of energy and creativity. Year 5 delivered powerful speeches imagining a fair and caring world, showing how much they value making a positive difference. Meanwhile, Year 6 planned exceptional podcasts linked to the theme of 'power for good,' reflecting on how our voices and actions can have a positive impact in school and beyond. Across all year groups, the anti-bullying message was loud and clear. From videos and songs to speeches and podcasts, the children demonstrated that using our voices for good truly is a superpower. It was an afternoon full of creativity, reflection, and empowerment, and we are incredibly proud of the way our children embraced this important message.



Choir

Best in the city...? Of course!

What a fantastic year it has been for choir so far! Building on our whole-school project, "Your Voice is Your Superpower," the children have been developing their vocal skills through a variety of uplifting songs, with a strong focus on blending harmonies, improving tone, and performing with confidence. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring.



Some of our choir members had the incredible opportunity to perform in front of the Mayor of Sunderland at the opening of our FJS Art Gallery. He was so impressed by their performance that he invited them to sing at his Civic Carol Service at Sunderland Minster—a wonderful honour and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!



Back at school, we celebrated a fantastic turnout at our own Carol Service at St Peter's Church. The children sang beautifully, showcasing their growing skill and confidence, and it was wonderful to see so many parents joining in with the carols. Some even took part in the actions for The 12 Days of

Christmas, bringing extra fun and festive spirit to the occasion.

Our choir's achievements continue to grow. We are thrilled to announce that we have been selected by Sunderland Music Hub to represent the city at the Vocal Festival at the Glasshouse in the new year. This exciting event will bring together schools from across the region to perform in a competitive format, giving our singers a fantastic opportunity to shine and learn from others.

With so much already accomplished this year, we are incredibly proud of our choir and can't wait to see where their superpowered singing takes them next! The dedication, teamwork, and joy they bring to every performance truly show the power of music in our school community.



Sporting Success!

Here come the girls...

There was no time to waste at the beginning of the season, the girls' football team were straight in with games! We started by playing in the first stages of the County Cup and won our games to progress into the next stages. Our season got off to a great start in our first three games – we won 6-0, 3-0, and 5-1. What a



fantastic start to the season. Most recently, we were asked to represent Sunderland schools in the ESFA County Cup final. The games were tough, and we battled for our three draws, sadly not making it through to the national rounds. As always, the girls showed brilliant positive attitudes and teamwork. We look forward

to the rest of the season!

The Boys are Back!

Alongside the fantastic achievements of our girls' football team, our boys have also continued to go from strength to strength. Our Year 4 team recently secured the Julie Ann Thompson Trophy and will now proudly represent Sunderland in the County Cup.



In addition, our Year 5/6 team have been working incredibly hard and have celebrated numerous league victories. With their teamwork, determination, and commitment, we have no doubt they will continue this success in the new year.

What about netball?

It has been a bit quiet on the netball front for our Year 5/6 team this term, but our girls have been putting in every effort during training and are growing stronger with every passing week. We cannot wait to see what they achieve in 2026!



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 2026.

See you all on Monday 5th January 2026!



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