



Fulwell Junior School



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



Spreading Love on Valentine's Day!

Back in February, our lovely school council showed an excellent sense of care and community spirit when they visited Glenholme House Residential Home on Valentine's Day. The children enjoyed sharing some of their best work with the residents as well listening to their life stories. What fantastic role models we have at Fulwell Junior School!

Will M – "I really enjoyed talking to one of the men who told me about his life and how he spent 6 years at sea!"



Esmae – "My one word to describe it would be FUN!"



Faculty of STEM



Computing Coding sessions with Mark Lloyd:

Year 3-5 have been lucky enough to take part in a computer science workshop where they were coding crumbles! We linked this learning to our whole school project 'Designs for Life' through using Crumble software to code household items. Pupils were also using

their scientific skills by making successful circuits and connecting these to their crumbles!

Whole School Engineering Day

We dedicated a day to children becoming engineers as part of the annual "If You Were An Engineer, What Would You Do?" competition. Children first explored careers within the Engineering field – such as Broadcasting Engineers, Biomedical Engineers, Mechanical Engineers and Software Engineers – and then they put their skills to use by thinking of a solution to a problem and designing it. The standard of entries was exceptionally high, and designs included inventions to; stop children swinging on their chair, be able to fall asleep quickly and receive support with their spellings. It was clear that children really considered problems that they encounter in their everyday lives, and really thought as engineers! The top entries have now been submitted into the national competition, so let's keep our fingers crossed that we hear some good news soon!



British Science Week



We dedicated an afternoon linked with our Faculty of Critical Thinking this year as part of British Science Week. Linking with the theme of time, we created our own pendulum timers and investigated how to both speed these up and slow them down. As part of British Science Week 2024, our Year 4 children participated in a carousel of exciting experiments in the science labs at Monkwearmouth.



Additionally, Year 3 visited Fulwell Infants to support the Year 2 children with their investigations. We made our own growing rainbows- we had so much fun!

Faculty of the Arts



'Designs for Life – An Architect for a Day'

As part of our on-going 'Designs for Life' Whole School Project, we spent a day in school dedicated to learning about the work of an architect. This Enrichment Focus was supported by BDN architects (Building Design Northern) based at the old Simpson Street building in Sunderland. Filip Young from BDN came into school on Monday 5th February where he talked

about his passion for design and buildings and how he became an architect before launching a special competition in school.

Children were set the 'design brief' of coming up with a new design idea for the Simpson Street building. They needed to embrace their communication skills, working in design teams to generate their ideas. Children explored other re-purposed buildings across the city and local area as part of their research prior to creating their own design.

The children's ideas demonstrated tremendous creativity and imagination – these were captured on mood boards developed by each team. Amongst these were designs for a Sea Life Centre, Observatory, Museum, Pet Café etc. Each team were asked to present their idea to their class as part of the shortlisting process. Shortlisted teams then presented their designs to the 'client' Ryan Doyle (Director of Operations) from BDN.

The 12 teams that presented their ideas to Ryan have been invited to a very special VIP trip to the Sheepfolds development in Deptford which is due to open in the summer.

Ryan chose the design for a space themed bowling alley as the winning design which was created by a team of Year 4 pupils: Walter Veti, Yasmin Haq, Ella Calvert and Josephine Matthews. These children received a £10 Amazon voucher in addition to the VIP trip. He was very impressed with, not only the originality of the design, but also on the children's ability to present and articulate this to an audience.

With such brilliant creativity from our budding architects, it looks like the future of our city could be in good hands!



Year 3



Exploring the Ancient Egyptians

This term, Year 3 have loved learning about the Egyptians in history. We have discovered about the importance of the River Nile and how it was essential for trade and the Egyptian army. Not only that, but we have looked at the roles in Ancient Egyptian society, particularly the Pharaohs, including the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb. The children worked in teams to create their own pyramids as well as learning about the mummification process...it was a very gruesome process indeed!



We are authors!

Since Christmas, Year 3's writing has gone from strength to strength! We loved reading the story of Beaver Towers by Nigel Hinton and were always wondering what was going to happen next. This inspired us to write the next part of the story...there were some incredible ideas! We also fell in love with some of the characters, particularly Baby B and were intrigued by the villain of the story, Oyin the witch. Year 3 did a marvellous job creating their own witch and writing a non-chronological report about them. We had water witches, toxic witches and even witches that could disguise themselves as anything!



Marvellous Meteorologists

We have been learning all about weather and climate! Pupils have explored the climate zones of the world and can identify where the equator is located. We have also explored the 5 different biomes of: desert, rainforest, deciduous forest, tundra and savanna! Pupils can identify different types of flora and fauna found in these biomes as well as locating them on a map. We are currently becoming meteorologists through analysing and presenting our own weather forecasts!

Le Petit Chaperon Rouge

In French we have been studying the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We have learned the French vocabulary related to the story and have been practicing reciting it. How many words can your child remember?

Year 3



Fantastic Fractions!

In Maths this term, we have been learning about fractions, mass and capacity. In fractions, we have looked at equivalent fractions and how to find fractions of amounts. We have also counted fractions on a number line! In our mass and capacity topic, we have been learning about converting between measurements and how to read scales accurately. The children have been absolutely fantastic and demonstrated great resilience with our maths topics!

Super Scientists!

In our first topic (Forces and Magnets) we found out that opposite magnets attract, and alike magnets repel. We investigated friction and found out that a rougher surface will have more friction. In our next topic, we have been learning about the growth of plants and how water and nutrients are transported in the stem. We can tell you the function of the main parts of a plant. We have investigated whether the temperature impacts the speed of water transportation using food colouring!

Nissan

Year 3 were really fortunate to get a visit from Lois, who works at Nissan, to tell us all about how the company works and an insight to the factory. She challenged us with some tasks called 'Lesson in a Box'. This included: creating our own Pokémon, designing our own Daruma doll to reflect our goals and achievements as well as some tasks that linked with our critical thinking. We had a chop stick challenge and an origami bird to attempt as well as assembling and disassembling a small version of a Nissan car.



Year 4

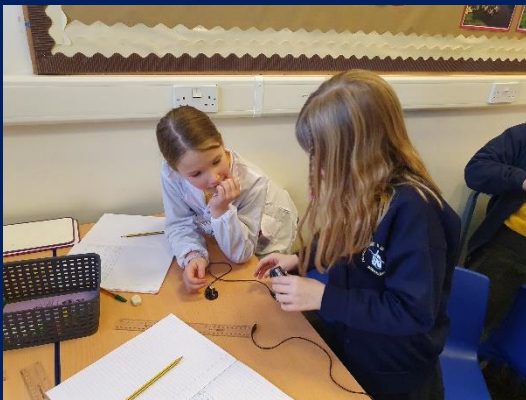


Vicious Volcanoes!

In Geography this term, Year 4 have been learning all about earthquakes and volcanoes. We found out how and where earthquakes occur and what people do to stay safe in earthquake zones. We had great fun designing an earthquake-resistant tower using linguine, Blu Tack and tape, using real-life examples of architecture to inspire us.



More recently, we have explored volcanoes of the world, including the extinct ones in Edinburgh, which some of us have climbed without even realising they were volcanoes! There was a 50/50 split in the year group between those of us who would want to visit an active volcano and those of us who wouldn't. Children were able to give great geographical reasons for their decisions. It's been a fascinating topic for Year 4.



Year 4 are Problem Solvers!

Year 4 started the Spring Term by continuing to develop their understanding of multiplication and division. They were fabulous at applying their previous learning to multiply and divide 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. How tricky!

Following that, we moved on to our measurement unit which began with exploring kilometres and metres, learning about what they are and when it

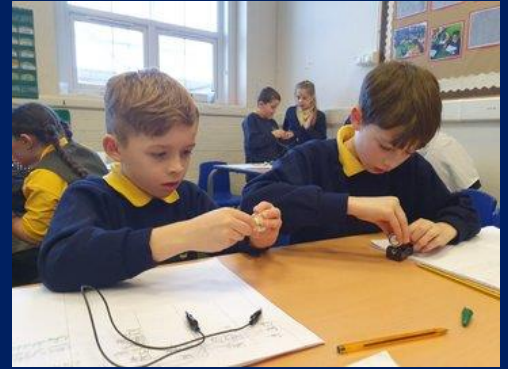
would be appropriate to measure using these units. Year 4 then focused on perimeter and learnt about strategies we can use to calculate the perimeter of a wide variety of shapes. Top tip! Measure **a**ll the sides.

Our final topic this term has been fractions! We began with what a fraction is, before moving on to how we can use fractions. We worked extra hard to improve our ability to answer a wide variety of questions using our fractions knowledge. We began by understanding improper fractions and mixed numbers before learning how to convert between the two. Following that, we studied equivalent fractions and how to identify and calculate equivalents. Year 4 then used their understanding to add and subtract mixed numbers and fractions. During this term we have also challenged ourselves by exploring several problem solving and reasoning tasks to build on our already fantastic mathematical skills.

Year 4

Super Science!

Year 4 began the Spring Term with our electricity topic. At first, we began by learning about what electricity is and identified common appliances that run on electricity as well as spotting differences between mains and battery powered appliances. Following that, we began to explore circuits and what



components make up a circuit. We then put our knowledge to the test and investigated which circuits were complete and which were incomplete. Finally, we learned all about conductors and insulators. We used our excellent understanding to predict and investigate which materials would act as a conductor when creating a circuit to allow our bulbs to light up.

After half term, we began our living things topic. Year 4 loved learning about what all living things need to survive before exploring how scientists group living things in a variety of ways. Following that, we learnt about vertebrates and invertebrates and how scientists use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. We even had a go at creating our own classification keys!

Is it a fox or a worm?

For reading this term in Year 4, we have been reading as a class the Midnight Fox by Betsy Byers. We have completed a range of activities around each chapter, for example, using VIPERS skills, creating story boards and writing predictions. After finishing the Midnight Fox, we have explored the Lambton Worm and looked at local newspapers for our local area.

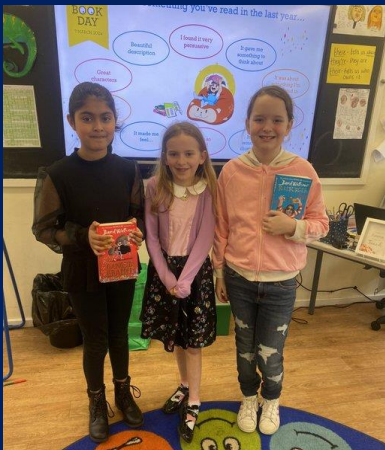


Rotten Romans

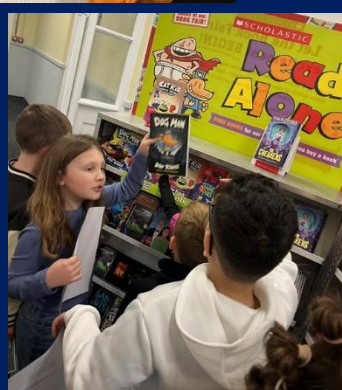
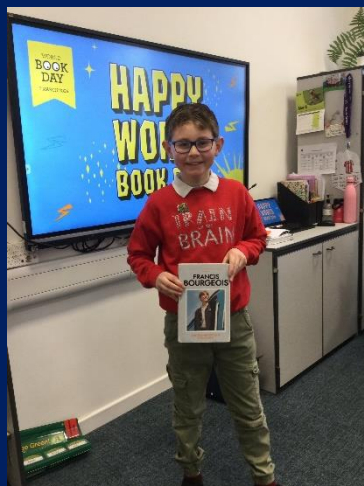
In history this term we have been learning all about the Romans. We have looked at Hadrian's wall and different Roman forts around the North East. We then looked at the Roman army and how they were so successful in building their Roman Empire. Our big history question is 'What have the Romans done for us?' We explored all of the Roman inventions, and what they brought to Britain for us. We looked at the similarities in structure with the Roman army and FJS, making links to our everyday life. We are currently looking at the Roman legacy and how important their inventions are to us.



World Book Day!



World Book Day!



Year 5

Mysterious Mayans

This term in history, we've enjoyed the fascinating topic of the Ancient Maya who lived in Central America. We've learned about their amazing inventions, including the use of zero, their religion and fashions. Did you know that it was considered beautiful to have a sloping forehead in Maya times and parents would even bind the heads of babies between wooden planks to try and achieve the desired look! We were astonished to discover the mystery of their disappearance around 500AD and analysed the many possible theories historians have about this. We've also found out about the Spanish invasion and conquest of the Maya and the effect this had on the people.



Meanwhile, in maths we've recently been discovering how to read and understand decimals and percentages and find their equivalent fractions. Earlier in the term, we got to grips with using the long multiplication method and refining our accuracy with short division.

Qu'y a-t-il dans mon sac? *What's in my bag?*

In French, we've been learning how to say the names of some classroom items and equipment and found out how to say what we do and don't have in our pencil cases or backpacks. Is your child able to say what un stylo and un livre are in French?



Year 5 Vehicle Project

As part of the Faculty of Critical Thinking, Year 5 have been designing and building their own battery-powered vehicles. Later in the month, a group of Year 5 children will be showcasing their vehicles in the final competition in April, which will be held at Sunderland University. Hopefully we will return from the event with some awards!





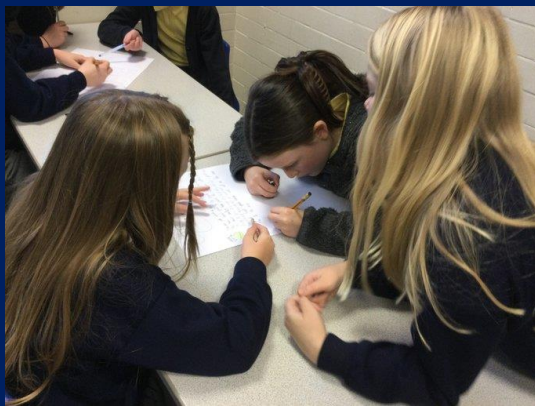
Year 5

Mountain Ready!

This term, our geographers have been learning all about marvellous mountains! We have explored many of the most prominent mountain formations throughout the world- what can your child tell you about Mount Everest? The children worked incredibly hard to create their own video climate report video, where they applied their skills linked to our faculty of communication superbly. We definitely have some budding meteorologists in Year 5!

Recently, we have been looking at how different kinds of mountains are formed and reminding ourselves of tectonic plate boundaries. We will now be looking at the amazing Lake District!

We love space!



This term in science, we have explored the link between our two most recent topics Space and Forces. We have taken on board different philosophers views such as Aristotle and Galileo Galilei and challenged their theories through investigations. Did you know with no air resistance if you drop a hammer and feather simultaneously, they will fall at the same time?

Year 5 are Dragon Experts!

Meanwhile, in English we have become Dragonologists. Year 5 have created their very own species of dragon and are working hard to write a Non-Chronological

Report full of details about their dragon and where to find them! If you could create your own species of dragon, what would it be?



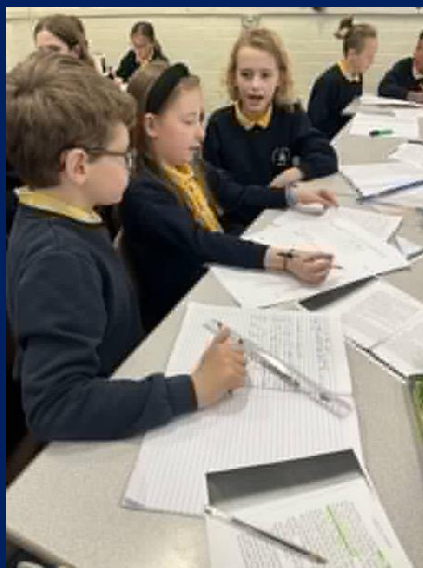
Year 6



Firstly, the year 6 staff would like to say a huge thank you to all staff and parents who have supported Booster classes in the build-up to SATs. This invaluable afterschool activity allows children the space to learn with a trusted adult, who provide insights and techniques to support children's own bespoke learning needs.

Getting SATS Ready...

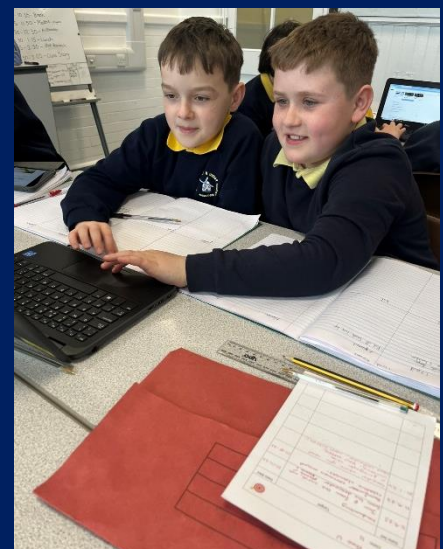
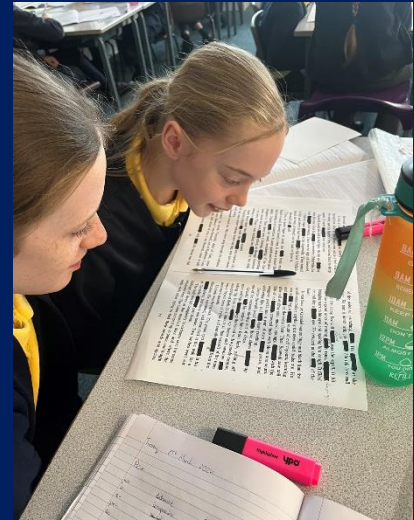
In English we have been sharpening our reading skills- being reading detectives and becoming experts in vocabulary and word class. We have also been doing some Theatre Reading- working on our 'non-fiction' voices and conveying information clearly and with expression. Our writing has required us to become herpetologists (that's a lizard expert for those not in



the know!). We have researched reptiles and produced a webpage, including extra hyperlinks all about our own imagined lizards. Watch out- they bite!

In Spring Term, the children have focused on Reading for Purpose, understanding a text's layout and locating information. With the SATs in mind, the children have spent the majority of their time focus on exam technique – finding the correct word, scanning texts for tone and meaning, reading selected sections for relevant information, discussing the author's

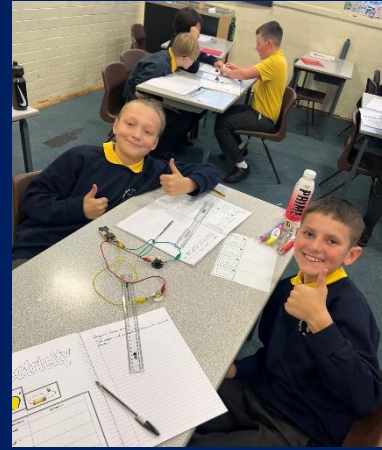
intention and pacing themselves. Although these skills are essential for learning, becoming a lifelong reader is encouraged, so children enjoyed World Book Day, where they discussed their own favourite books. Children were encouraged to share their thoughts on their favourite authors, characters and settings and spend time persuading others to pick up books of their choice.



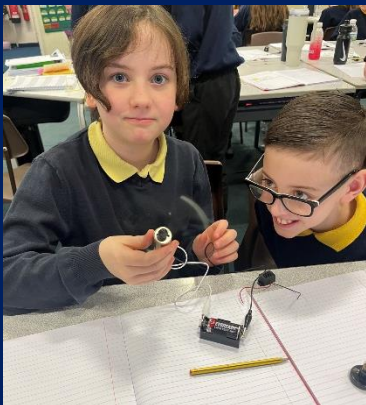
Year 6

Year 6 have gone eco!

In Geography we have been learning about Economic Activity and Trade, predominantly focusing on the UK and its trade links around the world. The Year 6 children are becoming trade experts and have explored what the UK import and export from other countries. Each lesson the children's map reading skills have been tested and children have loved identifying why we import products from certain countries depending on their positioning in the world. We discovered why Fair Trade is used and highlighted the difference the money raised from it is helping families in poorer countries. Year 6 have been so engaged in this topic and are becoming fantastic geographers. A fantastic term has been had in Geography!



Sparks flying in Science.



Science this term has been 'Electrifying!' We have created circuits and tested for the effect of reducing and increasing the voltage in each circuit. We ended our unit with a heated debate about who deserves the credit for the invention of the lightbulb. Who would you choose? Joseph Swan or Thomas Edison.

We are mathematicians!

In Maths the children have been perfecting their skills in arithmetic, with superb increases shown by most children. Delving into the world of reasoning and problem solving is a challenge; however, with children applying their critical thinking skills and logic, patterns have begun to emerge with children recognising the type of questions asked.



World War I

In History, the children have shown such great enthusiasm and engagement with the curriculum. This term we have focused on World War 1, looking at the thoughts and reasons as to why the war took place. Children have studied the development of technology to understand the stalemate and will go on to look at propaganda, poetry and the legacy of the war.



Careers & Aspirations

Faculty of Film: Sophie Butler

As part of our Faculty of Film, which we started before Christmas, we had a zoom call with Sophie Butler. Sophie told us all about her fascinating career in the film industry which lasted for 14 years. She started as a Trainee Television Researcher for Endemol in London, and she completed her training working on The X Factor. She went on to work as a Researcher, a Celebrity Booker and even a Producer, working on lots of TV shows. She always wanted to work in media, and she started off by doing lots of unpaid volunteering work so that she could gain the experience she needed. After the Pandemic, Sophie left the TV industry. She realised that she had gained many transferable skills through working in the TV industry, so she joined the NHS as a Communications Officer. She now works on the media campaigns for the NHS in Greater Manchester and sometimes the National campaigns.



Nissan Eco Schools trip

In February, 30 Year 5 children visited the Nissan Skills Foundation to take part in their 'Eco Schools' workshop. They learned about Nissan's efforts to be more environmentally friendly through their production of electric vehicles such as the Leaf car and their use of wind and solar energy to power their factory in Washington, directly linking children with jobs of the future. They took part in a range of scientific experiments and activities to explore electricity and climate change; for example, they discovered that lemons, apples and potatoes make good electrical conductors and used kinetic energy to generate power for electric model cars.



Our Sporting Superstars!



Netball



It's time to show off our sporty side! Training together since Autumn 23, our FJS netball squad have grown into two fantastic teams that are currently representing our school in the SPSNA Primary Netball league. Our school values are consistently shown towards one another and extended to pupils and staff from competing schools. Both teams have had a fantastic start in round 1 and are scooping up plenty of points in round 2. A massive well done for everything that they have achieved so far and a big thank you to our no. 1 supporters, parents and grandparents. We couldn't do it without you! Fingers crossed for finals.

Football

The football team have been training weekly at The Beacon of Light in preparation for our upcoming 7-side and 9-side fixtures. They have made an amazing start to the season, firstly qualifying for the finals of The McAuliffe Cup, and then by producing a breath-taking performance in the finals to be crowned champions. During the 4



games in the finals, the team managed to score 21 goals while only conceding 3. The night was made even more special when Noah Little was named player of the tournament. Well done Noah!



The girl's football team have also been training weekly at The Beacon of Light in preparation for their upcoming fixtures. They

have managed to make an impressive start to the season. They were given an amazing opportunity to represent Sunderland AFC in a regional Premier League tournament. The Premier League trophy was there on the day and girls tasted what it was like to compete on a



Premier League platform. They wore the Sunderland strip with pride as they took on Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Carlisle. After a narrow defeat to Hartlepool, a draw against Middlesbrough, a great victory over Carlisle and an outstanding 3-0 victory over Newcastle the girls qualified for the semi-finals. Unfortunately, it was not to be with Middlesbrough eventually winning the competition. However, the girls were recognised for their attitude and respect and received the Fair Play award.



On Friday 8th March our school took part in the biggest ever event to promote girl's football. The national initiative, Let Girls Play, asks schools to provide an opportunity for all girls to take part in some form of football activity. The event was met with great excitement and even girls who were initially hesitant seemed to really enjoy the opportunity. Following the event, many have expressed a desire to take part in football activities in the future which is amazing to hear.



Fulwell Junior School
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 @fulwelljuniors

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We wish all of our families and friends a wonderful Easter break!

School closes on Thursday 28th March and re-opens for pupils on Monday 15th April 2024.

Best wishes,
All at F.J.S

