



Fulwell Junior School



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



If we shadows have offended, think but this, and all is mended!



On Wednesday 5th March, the most remarkable ensemble from FJS participated in The Shakespeare Schools Festival at The Northern Stage at The Gala Theatre in Durham. To say that the abridged performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was *a dream* is an understatement; this was no ordinary ensemble, as the cast shone and bounced with an energy that lit up the whole evening. The rapturous applause that followed was just reward for such a professional performance that even prompted a

reaction, in an email, from the Dean of Durham University, who was entertaining the lead from the Shakespeare Schools Foundation that evening, watching our marvellous children perform. The play was appraised by Eireann Devlin from the Shakespeare Schools Foundation who agreed, stating, *'I thought the ensemble were really striking throughout your performance. It was fantastic how you added clear physical actions throughout, particularly during the Narrator's parts, to help tell the story and add depth to the Shakespearean language. As an ensemble, you were very supportive of each other on stage and really elevated the action throughout. I was particularly impressed with how engaged you all were, especially when you did things in unison. This is not easy, even for professional performers, but you nailed it every time!'*





Faculty of STEM



Building Bridges Workshop

Following on from DT week in December, 60 children were selected to take part in an exciting bridge building workshop with Infinite Arts. The children were chosen on the basis of them demonstrating an outstanding attitude to learning and engagement with the whole school DT focus week.

Children were tasked with working as a team to build bridges strong enough to hold a specific load. Not

only did this allow our children the opportunity to further develop the DT skills that they worked on in DT week, but it also allowed them to demonstrate our values of teamwork, resilience and confidence.



Engineering Day

For the fourth year, we dedicated a full day to all of our children taking part in the "If You Were An Engineer, What Would You Do?" competition. This year, each year group was assigned a theme: Helping Me (Year 3), Helping You (Year 4), Helping Us (Year 5) and Helping Everyone (Year 6). Throughout the day, children explored careers within the engineering sector and then they themselves became engineers, designing a solution to a problem that they may encounter in their everyday lives. Once again, we were able to submit a high standard of entries, and we await news on how successful our children have been!



Change and Adapt

As a whole school, we also celebrated British Science Week in March. Years 3 and 4 launched their week with an interactive workshop from Professor Brainstorm, in which the children took part in science experiments involving electricity and changes in state, using liquid nitrogen to freeze a banana and flowers.



Year 5 and 6 launched British Science week with a visit to a STEAM Careers Fair at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. The children were given the opportunity to meet STEAM employers from a range of companies across the North-East, such as the Institution of Mechanical Engineers,



Unipres, Accenture and Tyne Coast College. The children were so engaged with the employers, who allowed them to discuss pathways and careers and also interact with some of the equipment they brought along. The children got to experience a 3d printer, welding and woodwork, and came away from the event feeling inspired and so much more informed about a wider range of career opportunities there are in the North-East.

Faculty of STEM

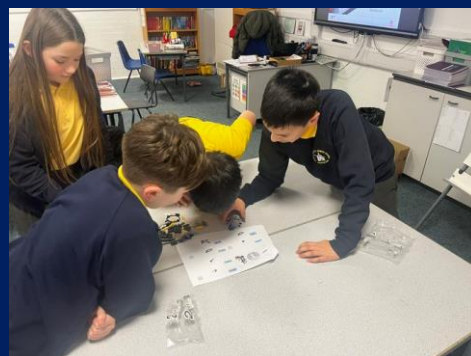


Lego League

For the first time ever, we were invited to enter the First Lego League competition this year. *FIRST®* LEGO® League Challenge is a STEM programme where young people work together to explore a topic and to design, build and program a LEGO® robot to solve a series of missions.

The challenge had at its centre a group of “Core Values” that very much align with our school vision. We drew attention to these values each time we met as a team and discussed how we were developing these skills throughout the project.

We began the process in December by inviting children to apply for the opportunity to be a part of the team of 10. The standard of letters we received was exceptional, and children were able to articulate why they wanted to be a part of the team, how they had demonstrated the core values in the past and what they thought they would bring to the team. We then held interviews where children elaborated on their ideas and from there, we chose our team.



Children attended an after-school club after Christmas to prepare for the competition. We began by building 18 mission models that our Lego robot would need to navigate and interact with, completely autonomously.

Children worked together weekly on building the robot and then coding it to interact with the mission models. We were able to use instructions to build the basic frame for the robot, but in order for it to complete the missions we needed to design and

build attachments, such as levers and “grabbers”. We then needed to code the robot, so it was able to complete the missions completely autonomously; if we touched the robot, we were penalised.

The team attended the Regional Lego League competition at Nissan on Friday 7th February. Their resilience, critical



thinking and teamwork skills absolutely shone on the day when they encountered several unexpected problems. The team was competing against primary and secondary schools from across the North-East, but the children did not let this phase them at all. They maintained such a positive attitude throughout the day and made their teachers extremely proud.

Although they weren't successful in gaining a place at the national tournament, the team were awarded the Rising Stars award for their fantastic robot design and outstanding attitudes on the day.



Faculty of the Arts

A Midsummer Night's 'Dream Cast'

FJS have worked with their fabulous partners at the Shakespeare Schools Foundation since 2014, producing six plays and one movie in that time. The foundation offers scripts and training in all aspects of stage and performance, then it is down to the school to interpret the play using their own creativity and direction. The schedule going forward will see a play every three years and a movie every three years, meaning a Shakespeare production every eighteen months.



In October, over half the children in the school auditioned and caused unrest between directors Mr Peat and Mrs Sainthouse, as the formidable task of condensing the talent into an ensemble began. Despite a hardworking week in school, the children pushed themselves through the demanding schedule with endeavour and teamwork; it was obvious that the fairies' spell of A Midsummer Night's Dream had taken over and the actors were poised to deliver an unforgettable, dreamy performance.

Once rehearsals began on those long, dark evenings in November, it was obvious that this was a rather special group of young people who accepted that the ensemble was stronger than the individual. The children worked tirelessly to ensure that every movement, piece of characterisation and body language was sequenced to precision. Mr Peat taught stagecraft and the projection and clarity in pitch of the entire cast was beyond their years.

On the day that the children performed their wild and wonderful production, they had travelled to Durham, changed in actors' changing rooms, ran through an arduous technical-rehearsal and executed a first-rate dress-rehearsal in full costume. Durham was later invaded by parents from FJS. This skilled and committed ensemble's hard work had paid off, as their active and inspired storytelling blew the place apart: outstanding, brilliant, dreamy. The focus and commitment, as well as the significant talent, shone through. This was a truly memorable and life-affirming piece of specialised theatre. All the cast shone in fabulous scenes: the Athenians, the Fairies, the Mechanicals and the crazy play at the end of the production. To celebrate the performance, the children were invited with their parents / grandparents to a screening of the play, filmed by Mr Speck where they were able to see their performance for the first time. This special event will live long with all those who took part, until one day it will feel... like a dream – A Midsummer Night's Dream.



Faculty of the Arts

What is Grey?

We spent a week building upon our knowledge of colour by experimenting with all things grey. We mixed different shades of chalk pastel to create the perfect hues for our representations of steel bridge parts and produced some incredible work- fit for our soon-to-be-opened gallery!

'I really liked the observational drawing of the rocks because you had to focus on every detail' Anna.

'I enjoyed looking at the images of bridges in monochrome because it was so interesting to see what the world would be like without colour.' Ethan



In this week we also developed our inference skills in our reading lessons. Linking with De Bono's Thinking Hats, we created our own 'Grey' thinking hat. We thought about the grey areas between the black and white and how to 'read between the lines' in a text.

We Are Curators!

We had a wonderful virtual workshop with The Norwich and Castle Museum, who helped us to evaluate our artworks and taught us all about some of Turner's paintings of Walton Bridge. We asked questions about the careers in curating and working for museums and galleries.

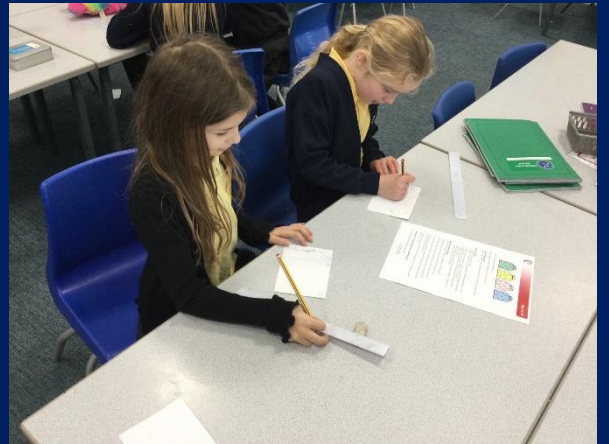


Year 3



Marvellous Maths

This term, we have been learning how to find the perimeter of a shape using our addition. We have also been learning about fractions and how to find $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of an amount. This is an important skill to have in Year 3. Our arithmetic skills are improving every day because of our daily Fluent in Five. We even have a Fluent in Five song!



Magnets

In science this term, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We know scientific words such as attract and repel, and we can explain the meaning of friction. We have loved the science experiments and working in teams to complete our investigations.

Some of our budding scientists even had the opportunity to go back to Fulwell Infant Academy to share their science knowledge for 'British Science Week'.



Learning Musical Notes

In music lessons this term, we have started to learning how to play the glockenspiel. We can read the notes B, A and G on the staff and play simple rhythms along to an accompaniment. We are looking forward to learning about different genres of music in a few weeks as part of our music enrichment week.

The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff...

Hughes and loved creating their own robots and writing about its encounter with two children in the forest. We focused on using expanded noun phrases to specify and describe, figurative language, speech punctuation and a variety of sentence starters to make our writing more colourful and exciting for the reader. We have some fabulous writers in Year 3 and are looking forward to showing their parents their fabulous polished piece books before Easter!

Year 3 have just finished reading Iron Man by Ted



Year 3



We are Meteorologists!



This term, Year 3 have been learning about Weather and Climate and have been exploring and locating different biomes around the world. They are desert, rainforest, deciduous forest, tundra and savanna. We have also been identifying different types of flora and fauna found in these biomes. We are coming to the end of the topic now and are finishing off by recalling times when the weather has played a positive and negative part in our lives.

Awful Egyptians

Year 3 have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians this term. We have discovered ancient artefacts, learned all about their gods &

goddesses, debated over the pros and cons of tomb raiding and learned all about the process of mummification...it was a very gruesome process indeed. Not only that but we have explored the importance of the River Nile and how it was essential for trade and the Egyptian army! What an exciting term for our Year 3 historians.



Finding friends in the Pond!

Year 3 have been exploring our lovely garden area and pond this term as part of our plants learning in science. We have been looking at parts of a plant as well as the functions. We have all enjoyed taking our learning outside this term.

Martha- I liked visiting the pond as part of our science lesson.

Leo - We spotted many frogs and frogspawn. I even touched the frogspawn- it felt like jelly!

Elijah - I found the lifecycle of a frog poster

around



Year 4

Spring term has simply flown by with several wonderful opportunities for children in performance, science and art. Children excelled in the continuation of the 'Bridging our Future' project producing some stunning artwork in the 'What is Grey' week, using charcoals in art and



learning how to hold their pencils to produce shades of grey, which they applied to producing still life drawings of pebbles and stones. In PSHE, children have looked at the importance of positive mental health and positive self-talk and how to deal with those 'worrits' (little negative voice in the head). The maturity shown is worthy of mention, as the children have demonstrated the ability to self-reflect, and support others through empathy and understanding.

Year 4 are Seismologists!

This Spring term Year 4 have showed amazing enthusiasm for our earthquakes and volcanoes topic! The children have really enjoyed learning the key

elements of what makes earthquakes and volcanoes and have produced some fantastic work throughout the topic. The children have loved finding out about a different volcano at the start of every lesson and have showed great interest in visiting them one day. We have developed our map reading skills and have showed that we can locate numerous locations around the world where volcanoes and earthquakes have impacted people's lives. What a wonderful term we have had!

Super Scientists!

Our first topic this term was electricity. We did lots of investigations using circuit kits to build simple circuits with different components such as bulbs and buzzers. We also explored which materials are conductors and insulators, learned how to stay safe around electricity and explored how electricity is generated in power stations for the National Grid. In the second half of the Spring Term, we've been exploring the topic of Living Things- learning about the seven Life Processes and exploring different ways to categorise living things by their characteristics. Aden said that this is his "favourite science topic!" and impressed Miss Whitfield with his amazing knowledge of animals.



Year 4



What have the Romans ever done for us?

The children have immersed themselves in all things Roman. We were fortunate to be part of Sunderland Winter Gardens 'Museum in a Box' project, which provided artefacts and replicated Roman items. The children loved trying on helmets and making interpretations about Roman life through touching and discussing the objects. Learning how the Roman Empire is so significant to the North-East of England with it being its most northerly point, has been the overriding objective of the lessons. The children have learned about Hadrian's Wall and Segedunum, alongside the other fabulous infrastructure that the Romans left as part of their legacy. The children commented on the amazing Roman Gods, recognising how much they were influenced by the Ancient Greeks. Borrowing a line from Monty Python, the children asked,

'What have the Romans ever done for us?' They should be able to tell you.

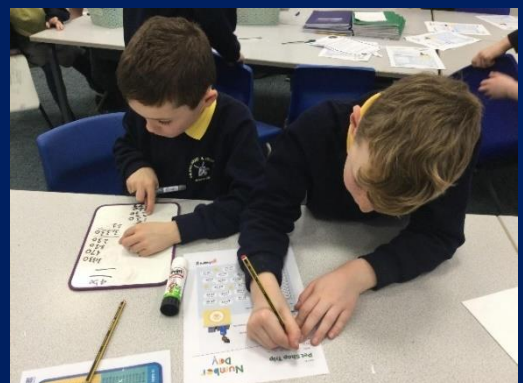
Whist! Lads, haad yor gobs!



The teachers in Year 4 have been blown away by the effort, enthusiasm and diligence of the children to make progress in their writing. Using the timeless *Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars, which is even older than Mr Peat, the children focused on rewriting a section of the novel in their own voice. They were also introduced to the issue of fox hunting, having to offer a balanced discussion regarding the positive and negatives of a blood sport. This was very challenging but produced some extremely thoughtful writing. Moving onto the second term, the children have learned about the Lambton Worm and have used that as an inspiration to create their own monsters; some of which are equally as terrifying! Children have enjoyed the opportunities for 'Talk for Writing' where they have been hot-seated, built sentences verbally and have had the opportunity to build a character, setting and lifestyle. These lessons have been a joy to teach.

We are Problem Solvers!

Most recently in maths we've been learning all about fractions and the children have amazed their teachers with how much progress they've made in this tricky topic. We've also been enjoying our Reasoning and Problem Solving sessions to explore different problems by trying to visualise and represent our ideas and solutions.



This term, Year 4 have really focused on techniques to help develop answering test questions, skimming and scanning texts to find key words and phrases. We have enjoyed a variety of texts when following these techniques and children have gained confidence in this. We also got to enjoy World Book Day 2025 this term where the children enjoyed dressing as their favourite book character or even author, it was a joy to see Year 4 talk to one another about their favourite books and characters. A great spring term had by all!

Year 5



Exploring The World Around Us!



In science this term we have explored Materials and Their Properties! The children started by identifying different materials, including those within our local environment, grouping them and exploring their suitability for different purposes based upon their individual properties. We have since tested different materials for their solubility and investigated different separation processes before we are now moving on to discover more about reversible and irreversible changes.

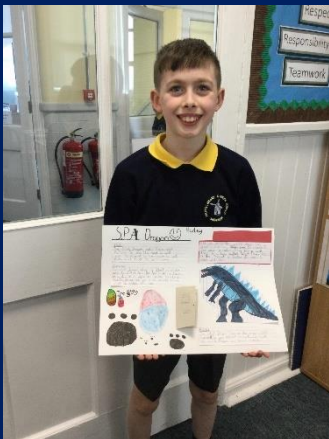
Greenpower

Meet the Greenpower Formula III Team 2025!

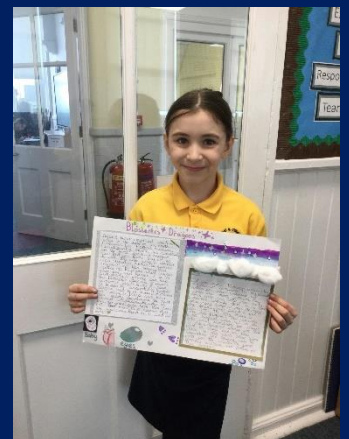
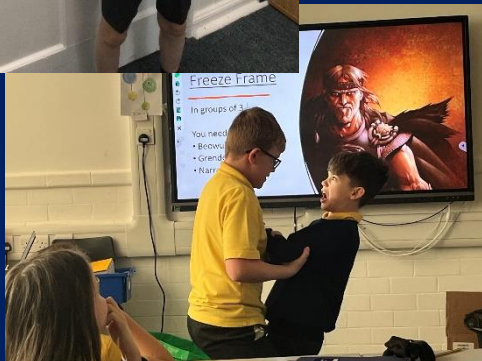
A huge well done to all of Year 5 who put themselves forward to join the team this year! We were overwhelmed by the children's enthusiasm, and it left us with the very

challenging task of choosing this year's team. With Race Day up and coming in May, the team have been busy with beginning the build and discussions surrounding the portfolio and design are well underway. Stay tuned for more updates soon!

The Mighty Beowulf and becoming Dragon Experts!



In English this term, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed stepping into the world of Dragons which began with their narrative writing, written from a dragon's perspective and inspired by their reading of Beowulf. We even got into character with our own freeze frames. Year 5 then became 'Dragon Experts' themselves, challenged with the task of writing a Non-Chronological Report about their very own species of Dragon! Their creativity was outstanding! We are currently enjoying our new stimulus Kensuke's Kingdom which has inspired us to write a persuasive holiday advert for a web page.





Year 5

Marvellous Mountains

Year 5 have absolutely loved learning about mountains in geography this term! Each lesson begins with learning about the highest mountains in countries around the world, chosen by our geographer of the week. We've looked at countries all over the world from New Zealand, Italy, India and Colombia. We have looked at the ways that mountains can form such as tectonic plates, volcanic ash and through erosion. Year 5 have been excellent at labeling the parts of a mountain and have even created their own vocabulary booklet to help others. Since half term, we have looked more closely at the Lake District and used our yellow and black thinking hats to discuss the pros and cons of living near the mountains as well as comparing Keswick with our city of Sunderland. We now know some of the mountains that 71 of our Year 5's may be climbing in June for our residential trip to Derwent Hill! We can't wait to see them show off their knowledge!

The Podcast Team



A small group of our fabulous Year 5's have been selected to join a school podcast team. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming podcasts from FJS! They have had a session with Mark Lloyd for training on how to use the equipment, technology and software used to create podcasts.

'I really enjoyed the training! We recorded some people talking and were taught how to edit it. Mark also showed us how to add background music and fade it so you can still hear people talking.'
Alex M

We are looking forward to listening to what they produce!

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.

'I have learnt that the Mayan people thought the Mayan temples were alive. One of my favourite lessons was investigating what happened to the Mayan people!' Eve



Year 6



This term Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATS. They have shown amazing commitment and resilience in their attempt to be the best that they can be. It



has been incredible to see children taking responsibility for their own progress and committing themselves to boosters and their homework. The feedback from booster teachers has been fantastic and the children have really impressed everyone in school with their attitude to their learning. I am certain their outstanding attitude will continue as we get even closer to SATS, and all children will complete their assessments knowing they have tried their very best.

Trade and Economics!

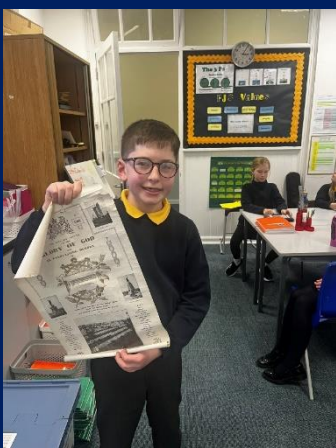
This term, our Year 6 pupils have been diving into the fascinating world of trade and economic activity in their afternoon geography lessons. They have been learning about how goods and services move around the world, exploring the concept of globalisation, and discussing the impact of international trade. A key focus has been Fairtrade, where children have considered how ethical trading practices support farmers and workers in developing countries. They have also studied trade in El Salvador, looking at how this country connects to the global economy. Through various activities, debates and discussions, children have deepened their understanding of how trade shapes our daily lives.

Exploring Ratio and Algebra

In maths this term, our Year 6 pupils have been busy developing their mathematical thinking through challenging lessons on ratio and algebra. In our ratio unit, children have been learning how to use ratio language, compare quantities, scale recipes, and solve problems involving proportion. In algebra, they have been introduced to using symbols and letters to represent numbers, forming and solving simple equations, and identifying number patterns. Through problem-solving challenges, the children have gained confidence in these key areas, preparing them well for their upcoming SATs. We have been SO impressed with the children's hard work in Maths this year!



World War



Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their history topic of World War I. They began by thinking about the causes of the war and looking at which countries were involved. We were lucky enough to be sent a box of genuine artefacts from the Discovery Museum, and we got to look very closely at some World War I soldier's uniforms and weapons – including some shrapnel! We also looked at some propaganda and designed our own propaganda posters. We have been thinking really carefully about why World War I is still so significant today, and in the coming weeks we are going to be thinking about what good came from it.

Year 6



Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Empire to see Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors- linking in perfectly with their previous history topic! The show was jam-packed with fun facts and told the story of the Tudor reign. The children loved joining in with



the songs and interacting with the actors on stage! Read some of the children's thoughts about the show below:



"I'll never forget singing at the top of my lungs: 'Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived!'" – Edie Harrison.

"My favourite part was when Queen Elizabeth said she defeated the Spanish Armada, unlike Gareth Southgate!"- Henry Hancock.

"I learned a new fact- after Mary Queen of Scots was executed, the executioner lifted up her head, not realising that she was wearing a wig, so her head dropped out of his hand and rolled along the floor!"- Penny Flatley.



PSHE – Being Safe Online



As part of our learning in PSHE this term, we have responded to pupil concerns about the use of group chats on social media. We have

learned about the rules around social media usage and talked about how being involved in group chats can affect the way we feel, both positively and negatively. The children came up with a list of tips for how to avoid being negatively affected by the use of a group chat:

- Only be in a chat with someone you know and trust.
- Have the settings on your apps set to private or restricted to people you know.
 - Set time limits on apps.
- Leave your phone in another room or switch it off after the time you want to sleep.
- Set the app or your phone to 'Do not disturb' mode.
- Do not feel like you need to respond to messages immediately; it's okay to set time aside to do so.



Sporting Success



Girls Football

The girls have had a brilliant spring term! We have continued our great run in the league, and we were held to a 0-0 draw with Bernard Gilpin, a 7-0 win against Hill View and a 2-0 win against Barnes.

We have also competed in the first stages of the Girls County Cup, where we secured two wins against St Cuthberts and Dame Dorothy to make it through to the semi-finals. The semi-finals were held on Monday 31st March 2025, where the girls showed amazing teamwork and determination but narrowly missed out on making it to the finals.

Year 4 Football

A Year 4 football team was created during this term to compete in The County Cup. After the trials, where all the children impressed, a team was selected to compete on behalf of the school. In the first round of matches the team were dominant, scoring 22 goals in three games resulting in a place in the finals. Where once again, the team performed excellently and after some great teamwork, finished as runners-up.



Year 5/6 Football



The Year 5/6 football team have continued to impress this term with some excellent performances. They managed to reach the finals of The McAuliffe Trophy, eventually going out in the Semi-Final on the night. Following that, they successfully made it through to the Semi-Final of The Watson Cup, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Most recently they have qualified to play in the Grimes County Semi-Final, an exciting and well-deserved opportunity to face some teams from outside of the Sunderland area.

Netball

It's been another great term for netball at Fulwell. Both of our teams have been training together every week since October 2024 and their hard work has paid off. Playing against over 20 teams between them since the league started in January, we played our last games on Wed 26th March. With both Fulwell 1 and Fulwell 2 confirmed as finalists, we continue to work hard in training and look forward to the end of season tournament in the summer.



World Book Day!



Brave isn't how you feel, it's what you do!



FJS have welcomed marvellous 'Melva' to our school! This term, children have been learning all about healthy minds and how to tackle those pesky 'worrits'! The children have loved exploring Melva's home and following her epic adventure up to the third spike of Mount Scratchicle. We have been so impressed by the maturity and curiosity children have shown when accessing lessons linked to mental health, we have

seen such enthusiasm for learning across all year groups. We can't wait to see what happens next in Melva's adventure. If you would like to know more about this programme or supporting your child's mental health, please see the link below.

<https://melva.org.uk>

Emmeleia – 'It's not really about her journey up the mountain; it's our journey through life.'

Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous.

Our wonderful 100+ member choir has made an absolutely fantastic start to our rehearsals for Matilda the Musical Jr. The excitement and enthusiasm in each rehearsal has been so contagious and we have been blown away by the talent. We are sure that the hard work we're putting into it already is going to pay off when we take to the stage on the 2nd and 3rd July at Monkwearmouth Academy.



Fulwell Junior School
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 @fulwelljuniors

 @FulwellSchool

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

School re-opens for pupils on Monday 28th April 2025.



Best wishes,
All at F.J.S