



Fulwell Junior School



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



Fulwell's Festival of Voices



Since Christmas, our school choir has gone from strength to strength, with over 100 pupils bringing fantastic energy to rehearsals. They are now preparing for a lively Summer Showcase featuring songs from films and musicals. A major highlight this term was performing at The Glasshouse; proudly representing Sunderland in the North East Primary School of the Year competition- an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Music has flourished across the whole school too, particularly during our vibrant Music Focus Week, where pupils explored musical styles from around the world through live performances and hands-on workshops. The week ended with a



fantastic whole-school showcase celebrating creativity and confidence. We are also excited to have launched our FJS band in partnership with Monkwearmouth Academy, who will begin rehearsals after Easter and perform at the Fulwell Fringe this summer. Keep your eyes peeled for more updates!





Faculty of STEM

Lego League

A group of Year 5 and 6 children once again took part in the FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge, a STEM programme in which young people work together to design, build and programme a LEGO® robot to complete a series of missions.

We attended weekly after-school clubs to prepare for the competition. We began by building the 18 mission models that the robot would need to navigate and interact with completely autonomously. Each week, we worked collaboratively to build the robot and programme it to complete the missions.



While we were able to follow instructions to build the basic frame of the robot, we needed to design and build our own attachments to enable it to complete the different tasks. We then coded the robot so that it could carry out the missions independently; touching the robot during a run would result in a penalty.

We attended the Regional LEGO League competition in March and had an amazing day. We demonstrated fantastic teamwork and resilience throughout the event and achieved an impressive score of 210 points — the highest score Fulwell Junior School has ever achieved!



British Science Week



We celebrated British Science week in March. The theme this year was "Curiosity: What's Your Question?", and to mark, Year 5 were invited to the science department of Monkwearmouth Academy to carry out some investigations linked to our current topic of forces. We investigated the pull of gravity using weights and a metal spring, and we also carried out an investigation into water resistance using

model shapes and viscous liquid. We learned about a new force – upthrust – to give us a little taste of our next steps into Key Stage 3 science. We loved learning in such a hands on, practical way, and we were supported excellently by some Year 9 students.



Faculty of STEM

Sunderland Software City Innovation Challenge

A group of Year 5 children have been given the exciting opportunity to work with Sunderland Software City and enter this year's Innovation Challenge. The Tech Team has begun working with Caroline from Sunderland Software City to develop our ideas and begin to work on our entry. We recently received our design brief from the company we will be working with, Accenture, who are a technology consulting company. After brainstorming several options, we decided to design an app that uses AI to support children in completing and organising their homework. We are excited to be able to work with industry professionals as part of this project, while developing our skills in technology, innovation, and problem-solving.



Police and Forensic workshop

For our writing unit this term, Year 6 wrote police reports based on a crime scenario. Following this, some children who had already expressed an interest in careers in law and science took part in an exciting Detective and Forensics Workshop. During the session, we learned about different techniques that are used by real police officers, including fingerprint analysis, DNA sampling and collecting evidence from a reenacted crime scene.

We worked together to solve problems and investigate realistic scenarios. One of the activities we took part in was solving a mock theft – we gathered clues, analysed the evidence and even managed to identify and “arrest” the suspect... who turned out to be Mrs Dryden!

We thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it gave us a great insight into possible future careers in policing, forensic science and criminal investigation.



Faculty of the Arts

Tie-Dye Workshops



We have loved working with the art teachers at Monkwearmouth to learn a new skill of Tie-Dye. We wanted to make sure that everyone has something bright and colourful to wear at our Fulwell Fringe Festival to reflect the fun and creative vibe of the event. We began the project during one of our Faculty sessions, where we learned about logo design and children created logos, which could be turned into a stencil using a laser printer.



Then the fun part really began! Thanks to all of our families for sending t-shirts to school to facilitate this project. The children chose colour schemes and learned different techniques to create various patterns. The t-shirts were brought back to school to dry and the project will continue after Easter, when the children's art lessons will teach the technique of sponge printing. The stencils that the children designed will be used to print the children's own logo designs on to the t-shirt. We can't wait to see the finished product!



Fulwell 50

Our Fulwell 50 project is now fully underway with so many fantastic entries into the journals so far! Huge thanks to families for supporting children with these challenges and for sending in evidence to share with others. Some of the achievements of our children have blown us away and we love hearing about the experiences that they have had. We hope that the Fulwell 50 challenges are helping children to learn valuable life skills that we can't always devote significant time to in school, but we believe are very important for junior aged children to gain. Hearing about the memories that children are making when they spend time with families achieving these goals fills us with joy and pride. We want to offer as much support as possible to help people to be able to facilitate their child with this unique part of our curriculum. Please don't hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher if you need help with providing opportunities for some of the home based challenges.



Sporting Success



Netball

Our girls have had a fantastic start to the Primary Netball League this year and are now making their way through round 2. Everyone has put in so much effort since starting training together in September 2025 and it certainly shows in our results. Fingers crossed for the finals!

A Visit from Jill Scott!

Fulwell Juniors had the incredible opportunity to welcome back a former pupil this term, who was no other than our very own England Lioness, **Jill Scott!** The team from Gallagher rugby got in touch and asked if they could come into school and show us how easy it is to learn and teach rugby. They even brought a film crew with them to document the day and Jill's return to school! Some lucky pupils had the opportunity to play and be coached by Jill and Miss Fraser - a fantastic day was had by all, and Jill loved coming back and seeing the school and pupils!



Football

Our two Year 5/6 9-a-side teams have continued their excellent progress this Spring Term, building on a strong start to the season with some outstanding performances. Fulwell Blues currently sit proudly at the top of their league, while Fulwell Yellows have also impressed, sitting in second place in their own league. Both teams have shown great determination and teamwork, representing Fulwell Junior School superbly in every fixture.

Our Year 5/6 7-a-side team have also enjoyed a very positive term, consistently displaying excellent teamwork and a great attitude in every game. They currently sit in second place in their league and are looking ahead with excitement as they prepare to compete in the next round of the County Cup.



The highlight of the Spring Term has undoubtedly been the incredible achievement of our talented Year 4 team, who have been crowned Durham County Cup champions. This is an exceptional accomplishment, placing them among the very best primary school teams across the county. Throughout the competition, the team impressed everyone with their skill, teamwork and maturity, often playing well beyond their years. Their convincing performance in the final was a joy to watch, and they have represented Fulwell Junior School with great pride and sportsmanship throughout.



Year 3



The Fantastical Threes!

What a fantastic term Year 3 have had in English! We began by reading *Beaver Towers* by Nigel Hinton, where the children quickly grew to know and love the rich and imaginative characters within the story. Inspired by this, they went on to create their own unique witches. The children thoughtfully decided on their witches' powers, appearances, diets, and habitats, showing great creativity and attention to detail. Using all of this carefully gathered information, they produced some truly outstanding non-chronological reports, demonstrating their growing confidence in structuring and presenting factual writing. More recently, we explored *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, which captured the children's imaginations in a completely different way. Building on the themes and ideas from the story, the children wrote their own brilliant narratives based on the discovery of mysterious robots. Their writing was full of excitement, creativity, and vivid description, showcasing how much their storytelling skills have developed over the term.



Year 3 – The Weather Experts!

Year 3 have truly wowed this term in geography and have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about weather and climate! Linking back to their previous learning, the children began by exploring the climate we live in here in the UK, developing their understanding of what makes our weather unique. They then used maps confidently to identify and compare the different biomes found across the world. Building on this knowledge, the children focused on clouds and their role in shaping our weather. They studied the different types of clouds and how each one can affect the conditions we experience. Using this information, they created their own non-chronological reports. It has been fantastic to see their curiosity grow and their geographical skills develop so well throughout the term!



Marvellous Mathematicians!



This term, we have been learning about fractions, length and perimeter and mass and capacity. We particularly loved learning about length and perimeter where we measured the school hall! We have been blown away by the amount of children in Year 3 who have already achieved their Platinum certificate and even their Platinum badge! Keep up the amazing effort, Year 3!

Year 3



Magnet Detectives



In science, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about forces and magnets, as well as plants! During our magnet topic, the children investigated which materials are magnetic and explored the different types of magnets, developing their scientific understanding through hands-on activities. A real highlight was designing and creating their own magnetic games, where they applied their knowledge creatively while using their Faculty of Critical Thinking skills. It was amazing to see such innovation, teamwork, and problem-solving in action! In our plant topic, the children learned all about what plants

need to live and grow, deepening their understanding of the natural world. We also had a visit to our school garden, where the children planted their own cress seeds. They have loved observing the changes over time and taking responsibility for caring for their plants.

Discovering Ancient Egypt

This term, our amazing historians have been exploring the wonders of Ancient Egypt! The children have shown great curiosity, especially when learning about the importance of the River Nile and how it supported farming, trade, and travel. They



also discovered how trade routes developed and how the military helped protect the civilisation. We had a fantastic time uncovering the secrets of Tutankhamun's tomb, imagining what it would be like to journey through the Book of the Dead and sharing ideas about Ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife. The class also enjoyed discussing those pesky grave robbers and why tombs were targeted.



Year 4

The Romans Invade Year 4!

In History this term, Year 4 have been learning all about the Roman invasion of Britain. We particularly enjoyed finding out about Boudicca's resistance and life in the Roman Army - including taking part in army drills and following Latin commands!

Another memorable lesson was when we developed our critical thinking skills by examining the artefacts on loan to us from museums. We were also amazed to learn about the exciting Roman discoveries of anchors and a whetstone factory made recently on the banks of the River Wear right here in Sunderland by local archaeologist Gary Bankhead and his team (as featured on the BBC show 'Digging for Britain!') Excitingly, we were fortunate enough to enjoy an exclusive online meeting with Gary to learn more about these significant artefacts and his career



path. We ended our topic with a grand finale visit to the Arbeia Roman Fort in South Shields where we explored the ruins, reconstructions and even

became archaeologists by taking part in the 'Time Quest' workshop unearthing genuine Roman artefacts!



There's a buzz in Year 4 Science!

In Year 4 this term our topics have included Electricity and our current topic, All Living Things. We've had a lot of fun constructing simple circuits, identifying and testing conductors & insulators and creating a slide switch, which we made with cardboard, split pins and paperclips.

In our current topic, we have been working scientifically using classification to group different living things and creating our own questions for classification keys. We even had a trip to a school nature garden where we discovered many different living things!



Year 4

Year 4 are becoming true Times Tables Rockstars! We are working hard in lessons and at home to crack all of our multiplication tables and related division facts up to 12x12 and we are seeing so much progress. Well done to all of the pupils who have got their Gone Green certificates so far! Keep up the hard work all of you- some of you contribute incredibly to your classes mission to win the weekly battle.



Year 4 Science workshop with Canford Audio

We had a really exciting science workshop with Canford Audio to help us understand our science topic of sound! We found out how people use specialist equipment such as microphones and speakers to make sounds really loud and clear at big events like concerts and football matches. We learned how sound travels from where it is made all the way to our ears, and how the equipment that Canford uses helps with this at such large scale events. The best part was getting to try out real audio equipment that they brought in for us. It made us feel like we were working at a real event and really helped us to understand our science learning!



Shaky Ground and Fiery Mountains

Our Geography topic of Earthquakes and Volcanoes got us thinking about natural disasters in our Faculty lessons. We used our collaboration and critical thinking skills to devise a way to sort real life situations into 'disaster / not a disaster' and decide which situations should get priority responses due to number of people affected and damage or harm caused. The children showed excellent common sense and empathy when discussing their decisions.

Year 5



Recently, the children in Year 5 have been reminded that it is only eighteen months until they start secondary school. With this in mind, we have begun to visit some of the schools where the children may attend, namely Whitburn and Monkwearmouth.

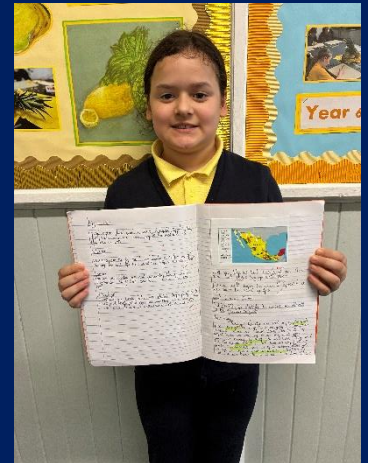
Attending lessons, meeting teachers and being in a new learning environment enables the children to view the next step with their friends and teachers from FJS. The visits have seen children participate in English, Maths and Science lessons, with the children providing positive feedback on these visits. Music week in school was a great opportunity for children to work as a team, show off their talents in music and movement and to continue their journey of presenting to an audience with the Fulwell Fringe looming at the end of the school year.

Maya



In History the children have learned about the ancient Maya. Many had not heard of this civilisation before the topic began; however, the children are now able to talk and remember many of the unique points about these fabulous people. Applying maths and algebra can be a challenge for children but they certainly enjoyed learning about the Maya number system and working out the value of the dots, dashes and shells. They were fascinated with how the Maya had never met the Egyptians due to both civilisations having hieroglyphs and pyramids.

Bloodletting and sacrifice caused many stomachs to turn but the children loved the creation story of how the Maya believed people were originally made from corn! Learning about the Spanish Conquistadors and how they made the Maya suffer through colonisation and exploitation allowed the children to think about and discuss the impact of invading another group's territory – particularly when they inadvertently brought disease like smallpox.



From FJS to the Hindu Kush Mountains!

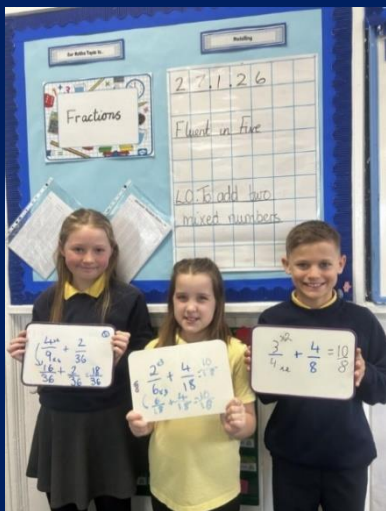
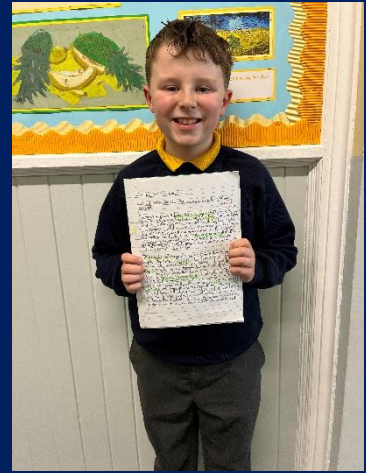
Year 5 have loved learning about mountains and the Lake District during their geography lessons this half term. Without a doubt, one of their favourite parts has been being able to track a real-life snow leopard called Nala! Nala is a male snow leopard who lives in the Hindu Kush mountains of Pakistan. Each week, Year 5 have been checking in to see where Nala has travelled to within the mountains! They have done this using a map of the mountains, as well as some real-life footage from camera traps! Year 5 have enjoyed checking in on Nala so much, that even some pupils have been inspired to adopt their own animals and check in on them from home!



Year 5

Dragons and Highwaymen!

Spring Term has seen the children engrossed in Alfred Noyes: The Highwayman, with some children working with a teacher from Monkwearmouth School on playscripts. All children, who excelled during the launch of the Fulwell Fringe, showed fantastic performance skills when bringing the poem to life by playing the roles of the main characters to show their understanding of the text. Alongside this, the children wrote fabulous discussion texts about who they blamed for the death of the heroine. The incredible Dragon Rider novel has provided a stimulus for children to be inventive whilst writing a non-fiction text. Applying the features of a non-chronological report can be a challenge, but the children have proven to be incredibly adept at mixing the formal and creative to write some fabulous paragraphs and write like experts to bring a dragons' world to life!



Year 5 fractions...a piece of cake!

This term, Year 5 have become fractions experts! It has been a lot more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a chocolate cake or $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pizza though... At the beginning, they found it quite tricky but with a lot of resilience and determination, they have worked towards their goal of mastering some tough concepts! These include adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and multiplying fractions by whole numbers! Sound easy...right? The progress which they have made is incredible and the children are very proud of how much their knowledge has developed.

Invisible Forces, Incredible Materials

Year 5 have done so many fun investigations in our science lessons this term! We started the spring term by learning about materials. We loved exploring reversible and irreversible changes – we made a special plastic called casein using vinegar and milk and even blew up a balloon using just vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. We also thought about how we might use our knowledge of materials in the real world; for example, how we could prevent metal gates from rusting. We also carried out investigations to help us understand forces. We explored the effects of gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance, making sure we took accurate measurements and carried out fair tests. We also used K'Nex to demonstrate our understanding of mechanisms such as levers, gears and pulleys, which we loved! After Easter, we will be moving on to learning about living things, and we are awaiting some very special visitors who we will be caring for!



Year 6



Our Shining Stars

Year 6 have been working their socks off this term! Their resilience, determination and commitment to showing their very best has been truly inspiring, and the Year 6 team have been incredibly impressed with their efforts. With SATs practice lurking around every corner, weekly booster sessions and additional homework books, the children have taken everything in their stride. Their scores are improving and we are beyond proud of the progress they are making. We know they may be starting to feel the pressure, but with their continued positive attitude and hard work, we are ready for SATs week to see them truly shine.



Year 6 Showcase Their Writing Talent

Year 6 have truly shone in their writing this term! They have fully immersed themselves in every piece, producing work so mature and engaging that it hardly sounds like it was written by children. We began the term by reading another short story by Anthony Horowitz called *The Lift*, exploring the mysterious disappearance and fate of Eric Smith. The children then wrote Eric's diary in the humorous and distinctive style of Tom Gates, which led to some very creative and entertaining pieces. After that, we shifted the tone and perspective, retelling the events of the story through the eyes of the detective Jack Beagle, allowing the children to

develop a more serious and investigative voice. Finally, alongside their SATs practice, Year 6 produced an extended non-chronological report about their own invented lizard species. Their imaginative ideas, excellent use of technical vocabulary and confident control of tone were truly exceptional. We have loved seeing the passion and dedication they have poured into their writing this term — what a talented bunch we have!

Loch Eil

In addition to preparing for SATs, attending after-school clubs, and keeping up with our curriculum, it's a wonder that Year 6 can fit anything else in! Fear not, though—the children who will be heading to Loch Eil in June have been working incredibly hard to fundraise for their exciting trip. They have taken part in a variety of activities, including a sponsored run, selling toast as a breaktime snack, and now helping to run the upcoming spring discos. So far, they have raised **£3900**—how incredible is that!



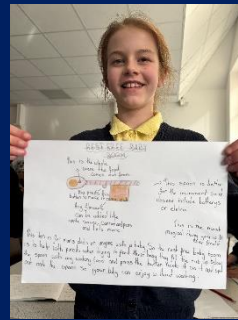


Year 6

Life on the Front Line



This term in Year 6 we've been diving into the fascinating and complex world of World War One. We've explored how the British military was organised and supplied, as well as what daily life was really like for soldiers living and fighting in the trenches along the Western Front. The children have developed a strong understanding of the different countries involved, including the alliances and empires that shaped the conflict. We've also learned and thought carefully about the attitudes and beliefs that led to war in the first place. Additionally, we have examined how propaganda was used to influence public opinion, which sparked some brilliant discussions in class. We're so proud of the Year 6s for the thoughtful questions they've asked and the maturity they've shown when engaging with such an important period in history.



The Importance of Trade

This term in Geography, Year 6 have been learning about trade and the economy. We began by exploring which countries around the world are the UK's biggest importers and exporters and discovering the different goods that the UK trades with these countries. The children enjoyed taking part in a trading game, where they quickly realised how important strong relationships between countries are in order to trade successfully. We also investigated the global supply chain, learning about the roles of primary, secondary and tertiary industries and how products move from raw materials to the items we buy in shops. Alongside this, we discussed the importance of Fairtrade and how it helps ensure that farmers and workers are paid fairly. Year 6 have been fantastic and have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the unit!

Thinking like Real Scientists!

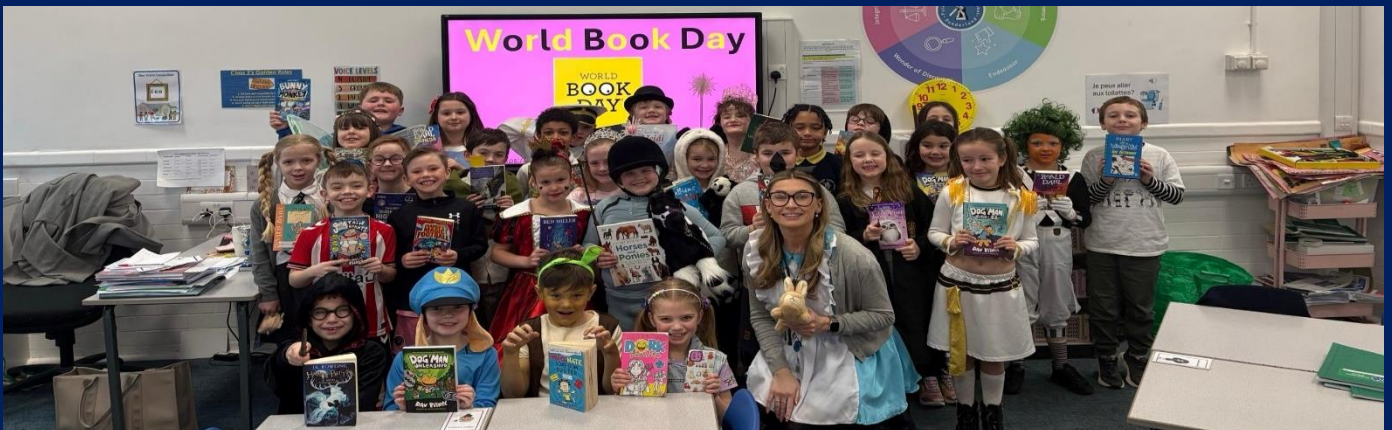
This term in Science, Year 6 have explored electricity and living things and their habitats. In electricity, we developed their understanding of circuits, including components such as cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. After building and testing circuits, we learned how to draw the scientific symbols, and investigated how changes affect brightness, volume and voltage. As true scientists do, Year 6 also made predictions, recorded results and used scientific language to explain their findings. In living things and their habitats, we have learned about classification, including the work of Carl Linnaeus. Not only that but we have explored how plants and animals are grouped, using classification keys to identify and compare species. A term full of investigations, discussions and curious scientists in Year 6!



World Book Day!



World Book Day!



A Fond Farewell

Whilst we are all looking forward to the Easter holidays in preparation for our final term of the year, FJS is saying a fond farewell to Mrs Jones who has been part of our teaching assistant team for 15 years. All of us at FJS wish her nothing but health and happiness in her retirement.

Mrs Jones is retiring, the end of a great run,
A teacher who's cared since the day she'd begun.
Steady and kind, so trusted and true,
Our school won't feel quite the same without you.

Supporting the children and staff every day,
With patience and warmth in all that you say.
Through busy school moments, whatever came through,
You've been someone we could always turn to.

When playground tumbles would bring tears or a fall,
Mrs Jones would be there, first aid kit and all.
With plasters and comfort, your calm caring tone,
Somehow things felt better with Mrs Jones.

Your sewing club brought bright threads to life,
With smiles and skills you shared without strife.
Creating fond memories, stitch by stitch,
Moments like these we'll always cherish.

A credit to school in all that you do,
So many are thankful for someone like you.
Though now you retire and new days begin,
You'll always belong to the place you've been.

You'll be missed by us all, that much is true—
Thank you, Mrs Jones, for just being you.

Fulwell Junior School

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Sunderland, SR6 9EE



@fulwelljuniors

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

School re-opens on Monday 20th April 2026.



Best wishes,

All at F.J.S