



Fulwell Junior School



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



Celebrating Our Exceptional Ofsted Success!

One of the highlights of what has been a very busy term at FJS was our Ofsted inspection, which took place on 2nd and 3rd June. Over the two days, inspectors spent time speaking with staff and pupils, visiting lessons, meeting with school leaders, and talking with groups of children to gain a full picture of life at our school. We welcomed the opportunity to showcase everything that makes FJS such a special place to learn and grow.

Our report was published recently, and we are incredibly proud of the outcome. We were judged to be **Strong** across all areas, with one area recognised as **Exceptional** – a truly rare and outstanding achievement. As always, our children stole the show. One inspector commented that she "never wanted the conversation to end" and praised the warmth and welcome she experienced throughout the school. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our children, staff and families for their continued support and for helping make FJS the wonderful school it is. If you would like to read the full report, it is available on our school website and on the official Ofsted website.



Faculty of STEM

Sunderland Software City Innovation Challenge - STEM



This term, a team of Year 5 pupils were crowned Primary School Winners of the Sunderland Digital Careers Innovation Challenge, delivered through Sunderland Software City. The challenge encouraged children to think creatively about how technology can solve real-world problems while developing teamwork, communication and presentation skills. The team designed Brainio, an AI-powered homework assistant that helps pupils stay organised, understand tasks and build confidence in their learning. The judges praised their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills. In June, the children attended an awards ceremony at Sunderland City Hall, where they were announced as winners of the Primary School category. Congratulations to our fantastic tech team for representing our school so brilliantly!



Engineering Day

For the fifth consecutive year, our pupils took part in the Primary Engineer: If You Were An Engineer, What Would You Do? competition, achieving outstanding success. The competition challenged children to design innovative engineering solutions to real-world problems, with an impressive 16 entries shortlisted. Year 6 pupil Millie received a Highly Commended Award for her Allergy Watch, while Ethan was crowned the Year 6 Winner across the North East for his Ele-Feel Well Soon, an invention to help children manage their medication. Both pupils were recognised at the Primary Engineer Awards Ceremony at the University of Sunderland. Congratulations to all of our young engineers for their creativity and innovation!



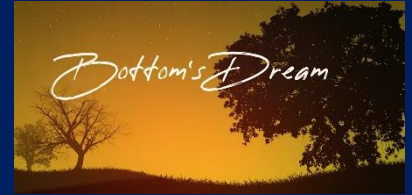
Girls in Construction

Fifteen Year 5 girls took part in a **Girls in Construction Challenge Day** at the new HICSA construction site in Sunderland. The programme encouraged pupils to explore construction as a creative and rewarding career while challenging stereotypes and building confidence. The girls took part in hands-on STEM activities focused on engineering, design, teamwork and site safety, led by women working in construction and engineering. By the end of the day, many said they had never considered a career in construction before but now saw it as an exciting career with lots of opportunities – a fantastic outcome!

Faculty of the Arts

Who are you calling an.....????

Lights, Camera, Shakespeare!



For more than a decade, Fulwell Junior School has enjoyed a successful partnership with the Shakespeare Schools Foundation, with staff taking part in specialist drama training and pupils performing on local theatre stages. In 2024, the school also collaborated on a short film inspired by *Macbeth*. Building on this success, pupils embarked on their second Shakespeare-inspired movie project, *Bottom's Dream*, based on the character Bottom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This imaginative adaptation puts a fresh twist on the classic tale by exploring three intriguing "What If?" questions:



- The Prank: What if Bottom's friends don't realise he has been transformed and simply assume he is wearing a donkey mask as a practical joke?
- The Spell: What if King Oberon never removes the magical potion, leaving Titania permanently enchanted by her donkey-headed admirer?
- The Memory Mystery: What if Bottom returns to the real world unsure whether his extraordinary adventure really happened or was simply a strange dream?



Over several weeks, the cast worked incredibly hard, rehearsing scenes, exploring camera angles, developing their characters and, most importantly, learning the value of working as an ensemble. Every performance was outstanding, with each child bringing enthusiasm, confidence and creativity to the screen. Filming took place

at studios in Washington and the magnificent Woodhorn Museum in Northumberland, providing a spectacular backdrop for this magical production. A huge thank you goes to Mark and Jane from Knetics, whose expertise in cinematography helped bring the children's vision to life. The finished film is a wonderful celebration of imagination, teamwork and performance. We are incredibly proud of every pupil involved.



Year 3



Year 3 Celebrate Maths Success



In maths this term, Year 3 have worked hard with their problem-solving and reasoning, tackling some tricky questions! We have explored fractions, including finding fractions of amounts and recognising equivalent fractions, as well as developing our understanding of money, time, shape and measurement. We even had a fun money matters workshop where we tracked our spending using a budget! We are so

proud of Year 3 times table achievements- so many of us have even achieved our platinum badge!

Exploring Animals, Humans and Healthy Living



In Summer term, Year 3 have explored our Animals Including Humans topic, developing their understanding of how humans and other animals grow, survive and stay healthy. We have learned about the importance of a balanced diet, the different food groups, and how nutrients support our bodies. We have also investigated the importance of exercise and how our muscles and skeleton work together to help us move.

A highlight of the term was using our science lab, where we had the opportunity to carry out practical investigations and develop our scientific enquiry skills. We enjoyed making observations, asking questions, recording results and drawing conclusions from experiments. We have shown fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm for science, and we cannot wait to find out their science topics in Year 4!



Year 3

Discovering Fulwell's History

Our enthusiastic young archaeologists have absolutely loved digging into this term's Year 3 history topic, Fulwell! We have travelled back in time to uncover the fascinating history of our school, even spotting some former pupils in the historical artefacts we explored. The children were particularly intrigued to learn about Fulwell Mill and discover how our school continued to thrive through times of war. Their curiosity has been infectious, with plenty of thoughtful questions and excited discoveries along the way. We are so proud of the fantastic enthusiasm, maturity and positive attitude they have shown throughout the topic—they've certainly proved they have what it takes to be history detectives!



Writing Our Own Zoo Adventures

This term, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed reading *Zoo* by Antony Browne. Inspired by the story, the children planned and wrote their own imaginative zoo stories, using the original characters as inspiration while

adding their own creative ideas. They worked hard to include conjunctions, direct speech and expanded noun phrases to make their writing more detailed and engaging. We have been so impressed with their creativity and the progress they have made in their writing this term.

Exploring Our Local Coastline

What a fantastic summer term Year 3 has had in Geography, learning all about coasts! We took advantage of living so close to the seaside with a field trip to Seaburn, where we carried out fieldwork by speaking to members of the local community about their beach visits. We also explored the impact of coastal erosion and enjoyed learning about the changes to our local coastline, including Marsden Rock. A special thank you to **Mr Hughes**, who was on hand throughout the visit to share his insightful knowledge of the coast and help bring our learning to life.



Year 4

Year 4 Step Back in Time

This term, Year 4 have been fascinated by their local history topic, centred around life by the River Wear. We've enjoyed learning all about how the Sunderland we know today grew from the smaller separate settlements of old Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth and Monkwearmouth. We've also used Rains Eye Plan to explore what it was like before the first Wearmouth Bridge was built, why and how Sunderland was impacted by air raids during World War 2 and conducted an investigation into coal mining during the Victoria era, using censuses and other sources to investigate the tragic story of a child coal miner and his family. Louie said, "The local history topic was my favourite this year, because I got to find out what it was like where I live" whilst Aria agreed it was her history highlight, saying, "I liked finding out about the mines."



Following the River Wear: Year 4's Geography Adventure

In geography this term, we learned all about rivers. From the major rivers in the world to the UK and local rivers, we explored features of rivers and settlements around them. We loved discovering more about the River Wear. Following its course on an Ordnance Survey map was tricky, but it was even more of a challenge to fold the maps afterwards! On our recent field trip, we journeyed to Stanhope to explore what our river is like closer to the source, crossed the stepping stones and learned about the local area. We then travelled to Durham and saw how the river changes along its course and then ended the day at the mouth in Monkwearmouth. What a fabulous end to the topic!



Year 4

Year 4's Got Talent!

The Year 4 Fringe performance was the highlight of many of our pupils' year as they



got to show off their many talents to their families. We decided to base our show on the very entertaining, 'Britain's Got Talent.' We had judges and even some mini Ant n Decs. The children were incredibly brave! They showcased talents such as singing, dancing, gymnastics, football skills, puppetry, performance poetry and even slapstick comedy. We are so proud of the confidence that the children displayed and we hope that they continue to enjoy performing.

Baking Up a Storm!

We had a wonderful time during food technology week, learning about food hygiene and following a recipe for cheese scones. It was fun weighing out the ingredients and grating the cheese (mind those fingers!).



We used a technique called 'rubbing in' to turn the flour and butter into a breadcrumb consistency before mixing in milk to make the dough. The scones were delicious- even the ones that resembled biscuits!



Science Sparks: A Year of Discovery!

This year, we have been working scientifically! Our topics have included states of matter, electricity, all living things, and Brilliant Bubbles. We have learnt so much and had plenty of fun making circuits, reconstructing the digestive system (messy!), and testing different bubble mixtures.

Throughout the year, we have developed our scientific enquiry skills by making predictions, carrying out fair tests, recording our results, and drawing conclusions from our investigations. We have enjoyed asking questions, exploring new ideas, and discovering how science helps us to understand the world around us. We finished the year with our Brilliant Bubbles topic, ending our science learning with a *pop!* It was the perfect way to celebrate a fantastic year of scientific discovery, curiosity, and hands-on learning.

Derwent Hill



On 15th June, 81 Year 5 pupils set off for an unforgettable week-long residential visit to Derwent Hill in the heart of the Lake District. As expected, the weather provided a true Lake District experience, ranging from glorious sunshine to some spectacular downpours! Undeterred by the changing conditions, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.



Throughout the week, they took part in a wide variety of adventurous activities, including hill challenges, gorge walking, high ropes, canoeing, climbing, orienteering and, of course, the legendary “Death Swing” – a Derwent Hill rite of passage that proved to be a favourite for many pupils. The staff and instructors at Derwent Hill were full of praise

for the children, commenting on their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to challenge themselves. Year 5 represented Fulwell brilliantly, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and encouragement throughout the week. One memorable evening included staying up to watch England’s opening World Cup match against Croatia. Despite the late night, the children’s energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment of the following day’s activities remained undiminished.



The residential was a tremendous success, providing opportunities for pupils to develop confidence, independence and perseverance. Most importantly, it was a week in which friendships flourished, teamwork shone and lasting memories were made.



View those memories by scanning the QR code.



Derwent Hill



Year 5



It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding Summer Term in Year 5 as pupils have worked hard to complete the curriculum while embracing a wide range of exciting opportunities beyond the classroom. As well as Derwent Hill, pupils also successfully completed the Bikeability road safety course, developing their cycling skills and confidence when riding on local roads. Alongside these experiences,

Year 5 pupils have showcased their creativity and performance talents as they prepared for the Fulwell Fringe. Through rehearsals and performances, children have impressed us with their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment. Throughout the term, Year 5 have consistently demonstrated resilience, teamwork and a positive attitude towards learning. Their hard work and determination have shown that they are more than ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that await them in Year 6.

From Pit to Pitch

Every Summer Term, all year groups explore local history, discovering how Sunderland's story has been shaped by events, industries and people from both our region and the wider world. This term, pupils have focused on the industries that developed along the River Wear and transformed Sunderland into a thriving centre of industry. They learned how coal mining and shipbuilding supported many other trades, including roperies, potteries and breweries, and how more recent industries, such as Nissan, continue to play a vital role in shaping our city and surrounding communities today. One of the highlights of the term was creating and performing a dramatic tableau timeline to bring Sunderland's history to life. Children began by portraying the challenging work of miners at Monkwearmouth Colliery before showing how the site



was transformed following the mine's closure in 1993, eventually becoming the home of Sunderland's iconic Stadium of Light. The pupils explored this important chapter of local history with enthusiasm and imagination, demonstrating an excellent understanding of how our city has changed over time. Their confident and creative performances provided a memorable way to celebrate Sunderland's remarkable heritage.



Year 5

Year 5's Sneak Peek At Secondary!

With our final year at Fulwell fast approaching, we visited Monkwearmouth Academy, where we enjoyed experiencing what secondary school life is like. We got to take part in a variety of subjects across the day. During our music session, we learned how to play the trumpet which we really enjoyed. As well as this, we explored the exciting world of artificial intelligence and used Canva to create our own AI-generated images. We also took part in a secondary English lesson, where we shared lots of thoughtful ideas and impressed our teachers with our contributions. To finish the day, we watched brilliant performances by Monkwearmouth Academy pupils, including some former Fulwell Junior School students. It was a fantastic opportunity to prepare for our move to secondary school next September.



Year 5 Energy Experts!

In Geography, we have been learning about energy and sustainability. We explored renewable and non-renewable energy sources and discussed how they affect our world. We were lucky to take part in an exciting 'Energy Island' workshop led by Northern Gas. We impressed everyone by using our excellent sticky knowledge to confidently explain different types of energy. During the workshop, we also learned more about climate change and global warming before using our teamwork and critical thinking skills to design our own Energy Islands. We carefully considered the impact of different energy sources to make the best choices for a more sustainable future.

Bringing Words to Life

Year 5 pupils have produced an impressive range of writing and performance work, showing creativity, imagination and growing technical skill. Inspired by *Dragon Rider*, they wrote engaging narratives using dialogue, vivid description and varied pacing to bring their stories to life. In Science, pupils wrote clear explanation texts about the life cycle of a butterfly, using accurate technical vocabulary and logical organisation. They also explored poetry and song lyrics, developing their understanding of language and building confidence in expressive performance. The high quality of work throughout the term reflects the hard work and enthusiasm of our Year 5 learners.



☀️ Year 6



Our Year 6 children have been a true credit to our school this year. They have worked incredibly hard, showing maturity, responsibility and a fantastic attitude as they prepared for the next stage of their education. During SATs week, they demonstrated resilience, determination and positivity, making everyone incredibly proud. We are immensely proud of everything they have achieved—not just their results, but the effort, commitment and character they have shown throughout the year. We know they are ready for secondary school and



wish them every success for the future. Well done, Year 6—you have been a year group to remember!

Making Memories by the Sea

Year 6 had a wonderful time at the beach, making the most of the beautiful sunshine before another busy day of adventures. The children enjoyed building sandcastles, digging moats and creating imaginative sandy masterpieces together. It was fantastic to see everyone working as a team, sharing laughter and making special memories. With plenty of smiles, sunshine and a little extra sand brought home, it was the perfect start to an exciting day!



A World of Discovery

For their final geography topic in Year 6, the children completed an exciting Country Project, researching a country of their choice either independently, in pairs or as part of a group. From Madagascar and Japan to Kenya and the Marshall Islands, they explored a wide range of countries and cultures while applying key geographical skills, including mapwork, climate, tourism and land use. The children embraced the independence of the project, producing fantastic work that reflected their enthusiasm, creativity and responsibility. As we revisited learning from across the past four years, it became clear just how much they have grown as geographers. They leave Year 6 as confident, knowledgeable learners, ready to continue their geographical journey in Year 7.





Year 6

A Trip Through Time

Year 6 had an amazing day at Beamish Museum, making the most of the glorious sunshine as we stepped back in time to learn all about World War Two evacuees! Our visit gave us the chance to experience what life was really like for children who were evacuated from the cities to the countryside during the war. We explored an Anderson shelter, discovered why homes had blacked-out windows during air raids and found out just how different everyday life was in the 1940s. We even learned about the important jobs evacuees were expected to help with on the farm, from collecting eggs to completing daily chores; it certainly made us appreciate our modern lives! After our workshop, we took the chance to explore the rest of the museum. We wandered through the fascinating streets, peeped inside the old-fashioned houses and shops and, of course, one of the biggest highlights was a visit to the famous sweet shop, where everyone enjoyed choosing some delicious traditional treats. Safe to say these did not last long! Although the heat was definitely a challenge, it didn't dampen our spirits! The children were a credit to the school, showing fantastic enthusiasm, curiosity and impeccable behaviour throughout the day. Even a few visitors mentioned this to the teachers. It was a brilliant trip that brought our history learning to life.



Stories That Shine

Despite the demands of SATs, Year 6 continued to produce exceptional writing. Inspired by *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, pupils used inference skills and powerful imagery to create imaginative and thoughtful pieces. Their biggest project of the term was a completely independent free write, where they chose their own genre, characters, setting and plot. The creativity, maturity and range of writing on display were outstanding, showcasing all the skills they have developed throughout primary school. We are incredibly proud of every child's progress, resilience and talent, and we have no doubt that some of our Year 6 writers have a bright future ahead.



Success at FJS!

Football Team Round-Up

What a fantastic way to end another football season! Across every fixture, our teams have represented Fulwell with determination, teamwork and respect, consistently demonstrating our school values both on and off the pitch. The commitment and endeavour shown by every player has been exceptional, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved together.



Fulwell Girls

What a season this team has had! Captain Skye must be in need of a rest after lifting so many trophies in such a short space of time. The girls made school history by becoming Jill Scott Cup winners for the very first time before successfully defending both the Division A League Title and the prestigious Veronica Jordan Cup for the second consecutive year. Their teamwork, resilience and togetherness have been inspirational throughout the season, and they have set an incredible standard.

Fulwell 7-a-Side

Our 7-a-side team finished the season in fantastic form, winning five of their final six matches. Although they missed out on silverware by the narrowest of margins—just one point—they played some outstanding football throughout the year and showed tremendous commitment, teamwork and character in every game. They can be incredibly proud of the way they represented the school.

Fulwell Yellows

Competing in the highly competitive Division A, Fulwell Yellows enjoyed another excellent season, finishing as league runners-up before also reaching the final of the Gormley Cup, where they claimed a second runners-up finish. Their consistency, determination and quality throughout the season have been outstanding, and they should be extremely proud of their achievements.



Success at FJS!

Fulwell Blues

Fulwell Blues completed a fantastic season by being crowned Division B League Champions before adding the Robinson Family Shield to their growing list of achievements. Their exciting style of football, resilience and commitment throughout the year made them worthy winners and rounded off an excellent campaign.



With so much success across all four teams, it's fair to say Mr Speck's office is bursting at the seams with trophies! More importantly, every player has played their part in making this another memorable season for Fulwell football. Congratulations to all of our players on an outstanding year—we're already looking forward to next season!

Netball

What a year it's been for both of our teams! Our girls have done us proud. We saw both teams through to the Sunderland league finals, where Fulwell 1 claimed gold! Fulwell 1 were then crowned the Tyne & Wear County final winners and awarded gold in the end of season tournament. Both teams have gone from strength to strength throughout the year showing all our school values when representing FJS! Well done everyone!



Choir

The Choir gave two outstanding performances this July, showcasing the incredible hard work and dedication that had gone into their rehearsals. Their Summer Showcase on Tuesday 21st July was a tremendous success, featuring a wonderful mix of talented soloists and a strong, enthusiastic chorus. The audience thoroughly enjoyed an exciting programme of songs from musicals and films, with the children performing with confidence, enthusiasm and joy.



Earlier in the week, the Choir also delighted families, friends and members of the local community with a fantastic performance at the Fulwell Fringe Festival on 17th July. Both events provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's musical talent, teamwork and growing confidence, and everyone involved should be immensely proud of their achievements.

Thank You & Farewell!

As another wonderful school year comes to an end, we have so much to look back on with pride. From the incredible success of our Fulwell Fringe, which showcased the amazing talent, creativity and confidence of our children, to our recent Ofsted inspection, where our pupils once again shone and made us immensely proud, it has been a year full of achievements. Alongside this, we have celebrated so many successes across sport, choir and every corner of school life, with our children continuing to inspire us through their enthusiasm, determination and kindness.

As always, however, the end of the year brings mixed emotions. We say goodbye to our fantastic Year 6 pupils, who have been a true asset to Fulwell. They leave us with wonderful memories and are ready to begin the next exciting chapter of their lives at secondary school. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and know they will go on to achieve great things.

This year, we also say a very heartfelt farewell to Miss Cook after an incredible 15 years at Fulwell. During her time with us, she has been a Teaching Assistant, a HLTA and, most recently, a qualified teacher. In September, she begins an exciting new chapter with a class of her own at another school. Throughout the years, Miss Cook has made an immeasurable contribution to our school community. She has inspired generations of children, led and coached our highly successful netball teams, taught countless pupils with warmth and enthusiasm, organised much-loved Halloween discos, and brought energy, dedication and care to everything she has done. And, of course, no Derwent Hill trip has ever been quite the same without Miss Cook—her enthusiasm, encouragement and sense of fun have helped create unforgettable memories for so many children over the years. From all the staff, children and families at Fulwell, we thank her for everything she has given to our school, wish her every success in her new role, and know she will be greatly missed.

Fulwell Junior School

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Key Dates

INSET DAYS:

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September
2026

CHILDREN RETURN:

Thursday 3rd September 2026