

Easter Newsletter

National Reading Championships

On Monday 27th March, eight students took part in the National Reading Championship- North East heats. There were some challenging questions, including: authors, characters, guess the book from an action and a picture round. The team's determination shone through, despite competing against students 3 years older, and we were proud to walk away with the 'Best newcomer' award. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!

Theatre Trip- An Unexpected Twist

On March 2nd, the entire school visited the 'Theatre Royal Newcastle' to watch 'An unexpected twist'. This performance was a take on the classic tale- 'Oliver Twist'. Children loved the musical element to the performance and how the original story was intertwined throughout. There was also strong personal development themes addressed throughout, which the pupils enjoyed discussing further when they returned to school.



World Book Day

On Friday 3rd March, GPA celebrated World Book Day. We decided to create our own theme around classic literature. We chose this theme based on the huge interest these novels have received recently, as part of our 50 Book challenge. Children dressed as their favourite classic literary character and tasks were completed around five popular novels. Miss Anderson focused on Wind in the willows and Science; Miss Grainger travelled down the yellow brick road with Geography skills; Miss Deol showed her hand with Queen of hearts card games; Miss Callaghan dimmed the lights and explored Victorian living with Oliver Twist and Miss Lisgo walked through the wardrobe to paint the Narnian landscape.

To join in with our celebrations, we also launched a family Twitter competition. Each day, 2 members of staff released clues about their favourite classic novel. Children and their families had the full week to solve the riddles and complete the entry forms in school. We had over 100 entries and our special 'Prize Spinner' had a very difficult job, picking 8 lucky winners! Congratulations to all winners and a huge thanks to all parents/carers for joining our World Book Day celebrations - we look forward to the next challenge!



Year 6 Super Learning Days

Year 6 have been extremely busy so far this term. They have completed two very successful super learning days- both in maths and English. These days focused specifically on areas for development and gaps in our learning.

In English, pupils were able to make impressions about a character based on special objects, used animations to practice their reading skills and trialled new ways of memorising spelling words.

In maths, pupils explored shape, space and measure. They successfully tackled past SATs questions, competed in group connect four and challenged their class in many problem solving tasks.

The effort across both super learning days was exceptional. Well done to all students, in particular those who were identified for outstanding effort, attitude and teamwork!

SATS Parent evening and MOCK SATS

We kicked off the term with a parent information night for Year 6. This involved information regarding dates and times but also an informal drop in session to allow parents/carers to work alongside students and staff- looking at 'tricky' topics in both English and maths. We were overwhelmed with the attendance and it was great to have our fantastic students join us: especially when some of the grammar skills needed explaining to the adults! If any parents/carers would still like information regarding the upcoming SATs, please visit the school website and check out the English section.

Following the parents night, we have completed two MOCK SATS weeks. Students approached both weeks with great determination and resilience. Students were pleased to receive 1:1 feedback from their class teacher and great progress has already been seen across the year group! Well done- we are super proud of you all!

Shaun the sheep and St. Oswald's Hospice

Great Park Academy are taking part in this years 'Shaun the Sheep on the Tyne Art Trail' in connection with St Oswald's Hospice. We will be raising funds for an amazing local charity whilst designing our very own Great Park Sheep. We have already started collecting designs, fundraising through cake sales and a non-uniform day. We are so pleased and proud to be supporting such a great local charity- we appreciate all the support we have already received from our Great Park family.



Bob Maddison City Cup Final

The KS2 boy's football team have reached the final of the prestigious 'Bob Maddison City Cup Final' after a 3-2 win in the semi-final against Ravenswood. A tournament which involves teams from all over the city will be decided on Monday 17th April when Great Park Academy will play Walkergate. All visitors are welcome to come and watch the final which will be held at Walker Riverside at 4.45pm. Entry is £1 per person.

Good luck boys!



Sports Coaching

This term we have been joined by some outstanding specialist sports coaches from the Newcastle Eagles and Northern Squash who came in to school to deliver lessons to Year 5 and Year 6. The coaches worked on individual skills, co-ordination, racket skills and team games.

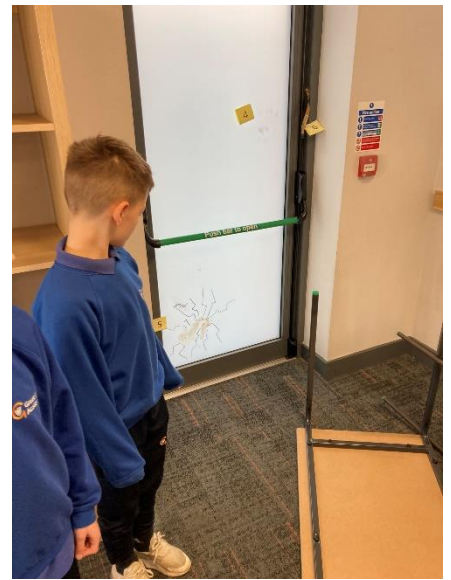
Year 5 students have taken part in a basketball day at the Newcastle's Eagles centre and some of our students will take part in a inter form competition at Northern Squash.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed the lessons provided by our specialists.



Sherlock Holmes.....

In Year 5 English, we have been studying Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and writing our own mystery narratives. In order to really get inside the mind of Sherlock Holmes, we had to investigate a crime scene in our very own school! Miss Anderson's engagement ring had mysteriously vanished. Our job was to use the best detective skills and, like Sherlock Holmes would, study the evidence in order to solve the mystery.



Using teamwork, detective skills and inference we solved it and ensured that Miss Anderson's ring was safely returned! We then used this as inspiration to write our very own mystery narratives.

Chinese New Year

Our students took part in celebrating Chinese New Year. They opened the day by watching a lion dance and then took part in various activities throughout the day, including Chinese calligraphy, learning Jianzi (with a special shuttlecock), watching a Chinese movie, taking part in a Lion dance performance and using the drums. We also had some wonderful food to taste!



Cooking Lessons



Ready.... Steady..... COOK!

Our budding young chefs have been trying their hand at making soups in Year 6 and a stir fry in Year 5. Students undertook a taste test first, trying each element of their selected dish and writing a report on the taste.

Next, students learned all about the health and safety elements of being inside a kitchen and how to correctly hold a knife and other pieces of equipment.

After the preparation was complete, it was time to cook. Each student took part in chopping an ingredient and stirring the pan before eventually tasting their masterpiece.

They thoroughly enjoyed this topic and who knows.... We could have the next Gino D'Campo among us!



British Values



We had the wonderful Gail Forbes (Prevent Education Officer for Newcastle) visit our Year 5 classes to talk about British Values. Pupils discussed what British Values means to them and how it might look in our everyday life.

Students engaged in a mature manor, debating their opinions and views in a structured way.

The important message of the session was that inclusion is for everybody and the key is to accept people for who they are.



We wish all our Great Park families a wonderful Easter. Have a lovely holiday and we will see you all back on the 17th April.