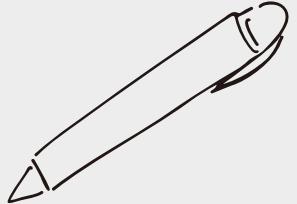


HALF TERMLY NEWSLETTER



What a half term we have had! The children have really settled into school life again & have made a really great start to the year. We have had lots of amazing things happening in school which we would love to share with you in this newsletter.



EYFS KIDDIWINKLES, NURSERY & RECEPTION

Wow, what a wonderful start to the Autumn Term we have had with your remarkable children. We have all been amazed by how happy, enthusiastic and adaptable they have been as they have settled in to school life. It has been a pleasure to work with them all and watch them progress.

The children have had such fun discovering all of the activities our EYFS environment has to offer, both inside and outside. Our focus has been on developing the children's curiosity and their collaboration skills. We have been exploring all things Autumn looking at the weather, changes and getting warm and cosy. We have tried different food and made chips, apple crumble, soup, bread and biscuits.

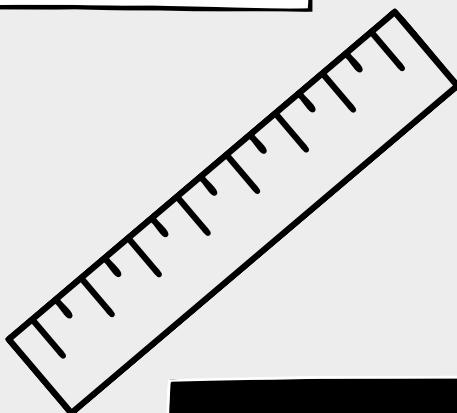
In Reception we have started our Read Write Inc session and we look forward to sharing more information about this with Parents and Carers next half term. Drawing Club adventures are well under way and the children's imaginations surprise us every day.

Thank you as always for your support it is very much appreciated.



YEAR ONE

The Year 1 children have had a fantastic start to the year. The children are loving spending time in our classroom areas and really challenging themselves. We have been learning about our local area and the children will be going on a walk around Grangetown to explore. We are learning about Autumn and how the seasons change. We have collected Autumn leaves and created beautiful classroom displays. In Design and Technology, we have been practicing our food preparation skills ready to make a delicious Autumnal soup for the children to enjoy. 'Leaves are falling, Autumn is calling.'



YEAR TWO

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year. We have been incredibly impressed with the children's positive attitude towards school and learning. In Writing, we produced some work based around Little Red Riding Hood. The children enjoyed our walk to Millennium Green when we went on a walk through the woods like Little Red Riding Hood did in the story. In Science, we have been learning about living animals and where they live. At the end of this topic, we even got to visit a real working farm. During this visit, the children got the opportunity to groom and feed some horses and meet over two-hundred pigs. The children were once again a credit to our school in terms of their behaviour and because of this the farmer has invited us to return to the farm in the Summer Term and hopefully we have inspired some farmers of the future- watch this space!

YEAR THREE

Rock studies are one of the things interesting the Year 3 children this Autumn! As part of a science topic, a variety of rocks have been examined and tested. "Now Press Play" took us on a virtual experience to another planet, to help re-build a palace for an alien leader using knowledge of the properties of rocks. We even made chocolate rocks! While learning about Stone-Age history, children learned which rocks made good tools and weapons. A trip to Stump-Cross Caverns at the end of October has a focus on fossils, which children will continue to study. Creative projects have included making levers for moving cards in D.T. and artistic Portraits. An outdoor experience Year 3 enjoyed was a Scavenger Hunt at Redcar Rugby Club where children worked collaboratively to find clues and solutions. We have been reading some of our Grangetown Greats books including "George's Marvellous Medicine" - on Roald Dahl Day we acted out scenes and hot-seat interviewed children in role. We also read "Counting on Katherine", as part of Black History Month, learning how Katherine Johnson helped N.A.S.A. in the Space Race. The children have enjoyed conducting research and can continue to do this at home using Seesaw.



YEAR FOUR

Year 4 have had an amazing start to the new school year! We have been working hard to develop the children's collaboration skills and oracy skills in each lesson. The children have done incredibly well with this and we are so proud of them! The children have produced some wonderful pieces of writing centred around The BFG. During maths lessons, the children have really enjoyed using our maths manipulatives to aid them with their place value work. In reading lessons, we have focused on fluency skills and comprehension skills and sharing good practise on how to answer the different style questions. Our afternoon subjects have been a favourite to all our children! We have travelled around the seven continents and sailed the seven oceans in Geography, then settled in Europe to discover some human and physical features. Going back to Anglo-Saxon times and researching artefacts and looking at what we can learn from this buried treasure was our focus in History. In DT we have researched, taste tested, made and evaluated our own healthy toasties. States of matter has been our topic in science and the children have enjoyed taking part in investigations and watching how matter can change state! During RE lessons, the children have been learning how to celebrate Diwali, the festival of light. This has developed the children's oracy skills as so many questions and finding out came from this topic. Self-esteem and goal setting were the focus in PSHE lessons this half term. The children did very well with learning how to be more positive and developing self-esteem within themselves. The children's goal and target setting were so interesting to see and we can't wait to see them achieve these! All of the children in Year 4 have really enjoyed being musical in our music lessons. They have practised singing the song, playing the xylophone to accompany the singing and keeping to the beat! E-safety has been the focus this half term and ensuring the children are confident in keeping safe online. The discussions and debates that have come from this has been such an education for all the children. We have completed the first of our '5 things to do in Year 4.' We had our Masterchef challenge. The children were put into groups, given a bag of ingredients and a recipe and they had to follow it to make biscuits! The biscuits were a success and the children had a whale of a time!



YEAR 5



In year 5, we have enjoyed learning lots of wonderful things. In DT we have been focusing on cooking. We have been researching, practicing skills and tasting ingredients for our 'winter warmer' project. We have been able to taste different types of soups and bread (with varying opinions). In History, we have been learning about the ancient Greeks. We have loved learning about ancient Greek mythology and researching the Gods. We have completed a re-telling of 'Zoo' by Anthony Browne. We created some amazing pieces of writing.

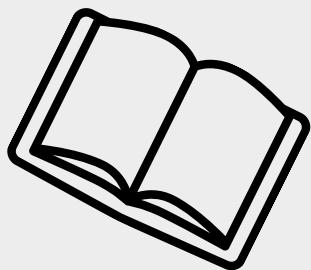
YEAR SIX

In year 6, we have gone back in time thousands of years to look at the lives of the Mayan civilisation. Our favourite fact was that children did not wear clothes until they were 6 years old. We have supported this learning through our writing, by producing a diary entry recounting the events of a Pok-a-tok game against the infamous God of rain-Chac. We have had many opportunities to explore our own levels of creativity in year 6 so far. In art, we have been looking at famous paintings, including the Mona Lisa. The children have explored creating self-portraits. They have also experimented in PE. The children have been challenged to create their own games, enhancing their collaboration skills. Collaboration has been a key focus across school this half term. This has been clear in our science lessons, where the children have performed their own experiments each week to learn about how light travels and is perceived by our own eyes. We are hoping to give the children as many opportunities as possible, while they are still with us at Grangetown. So far, this has included a trip to Outwood Normanby. As part of our D.T topic, the children will be creating their own phone cases. The children had the opportunity to explore Outwood's CAD CAM facilities, to enhance their understanding of the topic. Every Tuesday, the children have enjoyed ukuleles where they have learnt the key chords to create popular songs. We are looking forward to further exploration of creativity and collaboration this year.



THE ARC

In our fiction writing, we have enjoyed writing fantasy narratives on The Magic Finger as part of work for Roald Dahl Day as well as Supertato! In our non-fiction writing, the children have created a delicious pumpkin soup recipe which we can't wait to try! Parents and carers are invited to try the soup on Thursday 26th October during our parent/carer pumpkin decorating session. In maths, the children have been focusing on place value and addition and subtraction skills. The children access reading sessions on an afternoon now with reading interventions throughout the morning. All children now receive daily group occupational therapy and 1:1 intervention to support their regulation, concentration and develop fine and gross motor skills. The children have enjoyed lots of autumn themed activities and working in the hall. The children have also learnt about Mae Jemison as their inspiring woman as part of Black History Month and they are excited to talk about this in assembly to the rest of school.



WE ARE GRANGETOWN

I hope you have enjoyed reading about all the wonderful things your children have been involved in this half term. There have been so many more fun experiences including lots of sporting events, OPAL & Reading Cafes.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely half term making memories as a family. Enjoy Halloween & be safe during Bonfire night. We look forwards to welcoming your children back after half term. Take care, Miss Mott



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."