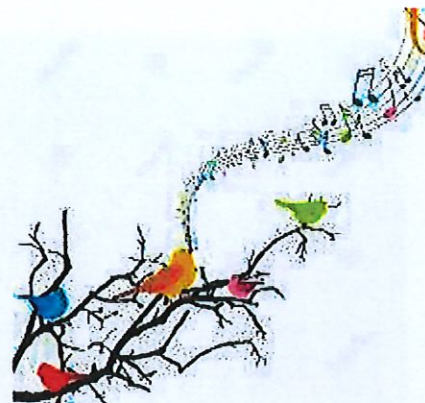


Gosforth East Middle School News



Spring 1 2023



2023 Ski Trip

Travel: The travel was long and tiring, having to arrive at the airport at 4:30am! We were allowed to shop in the airport, where most people picked up snacks and drinks for the plane. The flight lasted two hours, and many people fell asleep because of the early start. We flew with Jet2. When we arrived, we had to go through border control before collecting our suitcases. When we got outside, we had to go and find the coach, which was also a two-hour ride. A few more people fell asleep here, because we had been awake for longer. The end of the coach ride was very tedious, even some of the teachers got travel-sick! There were 21 hairpin bends! We were given personalised hood-

ies to wear, which you will catch many of the ski trippers wearing around school.

The skiing: The skiing was an amazing experience. Although most of us going were newcomers, we have all gained a lot of skiing skills! We were split into groups, to speed up the learning process, and help us cover more of the basics. By the end of the week, the advanced group went on quite a lot of the higher level slopes, while some of the main lower level slopes used were Chez Roger and Marcel's Farm. Chez Roger was a plain slope, with quite a few steep bits which we navigated down safely. Marcel's Farm was the most popular slope; it was a long obstacle slope with lots of fun challenges and a few jumps. At the end of the week, we took photos with our instructors and were given badges and booklets to show how far we'd come.

Ending? Despite being a trip with many ups and downs...get it!, everybody enjoyed the experience, and found it an overall lovely trip. We would also like to thank the teachers who took us and kept us safe in a foreign country. **Emily Year 8**

On the evening, after skiing, we would go into the village. We would spend an hour and a half in the village, able to spend our money and hang out with our friends. There were a couple of souvenir shops and a lot of restaurants. Everybody's favourite shop was the Spar (the supermarket branch) and Pizza Peppone (a pizza place).

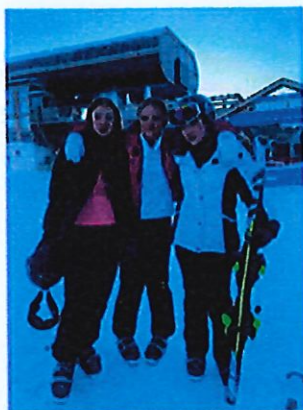
The souvenir shops had a lot to choose from. A lot of my friends bought little hip-flask keychains. They had a lot of really cute jewellery to choose from; including gemstone bracelets, rings and earrings. Everybody said I bought too many teddies: I bought a husky for my sister, a rabbit, a moose and my friend got me a littler moose as I got her an amethyst bracelet.

After we had been to the village, if there was time before tea, we could hang around. Some of us learnt a new card game, Cheat. It went on for about half an hour and we started buying rounds of Coke. (Don't worry, we weren't gambling!) Ted started a new fad Lipton Peach Ice Tea!

After tea, we had an hour to do whatever we wanted before it was time for the evening activities. The first night we didn't do anything as we had had a long day. The second night we had a karaoke and disco. Everyone had loads of fun and Mrs O'Sullivan was the lead and encouraged everyone to join in. The quiz night was amazing and The Plastics won! For movie night, the girls watched Chalet Girl and the boys watched Top Gun which we thought was unfair as the boys got to choose and we didn't! In Vertigo was amazing as it was a massive net above the ground with ledges and ropes to climb about on.

The hotel was really good. People enjoyed the pool table and hung out in the lounge a lot. **Ava Year 8**

Ski Trip in pictures



Auschwitz
Nur lang ego. Nur keine wey.

By Neela 7RC

What is the Holocaust?

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the 27th January and marks the liberation of the biggest Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Every year, Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) choses a theme. This

year the theme is ordinary people. Here is the definition from the HMD:

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups, and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Why do we remember the Holocaust?

We remember the Holocaust to remember the victims and the ordinary people who were dragged into this against their will. We remember the millions of people who met their fates at the concentration camps and we remember what horrific events occurred to stop them from happening again.

On 23rd January, all year groups had an assembly where they talked about the Holocaust and the war in Ukraine.

If you want to know more about the Holocaust you can visit:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

You can also check out the war books in the library that were on display for HMD like The Children of Willesden Lane and When the World Was ours (This one is high school). You can also go and visit places like Auschwitz-Birkenau and other places from WWII like Anne Frank's house.



Arbeit macht frei means work sets you free... how ironic.

The year eights created Holocaust portraits inspired by true stories of the Holocaust victims. Here are some of the portraits:

The winners were:

Josie Newton

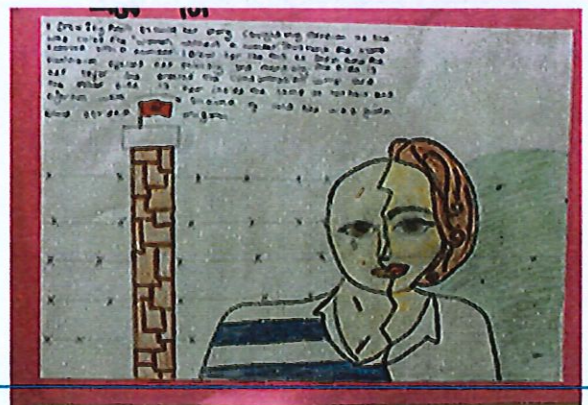
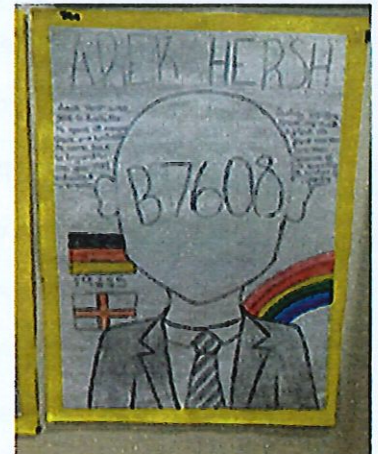
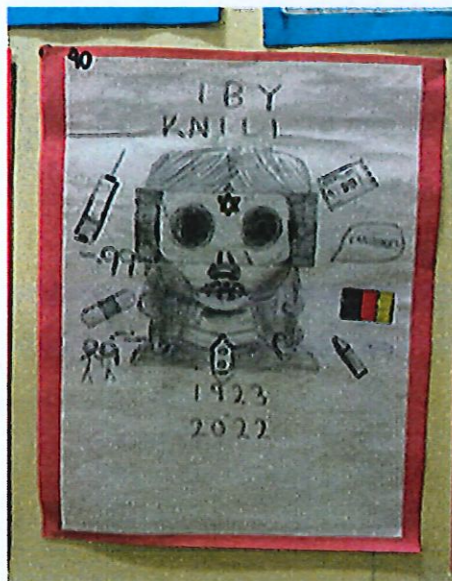
Sophia Nichol

Olivia Ainscough

Alisha Ahmad

They all won an art pack.

Well done!



Holocaust Memorial Choir

Trip.

On Tuesday 17th January 2023, KSG2 choir went to a synagogue in Gosforth. We went to the synagogue to practice and film a song called Ordinary People. Once we had practised we had a little break whilst a lady called Linda told us a bit more about the synagogue. We then got a glass of water or juice and a biscuit.



The song we sang was called Ordinary People and it was made especially for us to sing for the Holocaust Memorial. The song was written by someone called Fiona. She made it for us to sing and to kind of explain that although everyone is ordinary, ordinary people can make a difference. We can all make a difference.



We joined a different school called Dame Allan's and both schools sang the song together. After that we were having a bit of fun. We counted how many times the song said ordinary people and it was around 13 times!

This was us at the synagogue. It was really fun and we are all very grateful for having this excellent opportunity.

These are some of the lyrics:

Many people risked their precious lives, a most courageous thing to do,

Had no special gift or power, - but embraced a moral view,

You and I are ordinary people, we should be ready for the fight,

So that we can make a diff'rence, - and stand up for what is right.

Ordinary people make a diff'rence,

Ordinary people make a diff'rence'

Ordinary people can make it right.

Ordinary people can make it right.

We are all just ordinary people,

We are all just ordinary people,

Ordinary people can make it right.

Ordinary people can make it right.

We can make it right.

We can make it right.

We all say a great big thank you to everyone who organised it...Especially Mr Williams!

By Amelia 6NS!

Young Writers' Awards



Last month, a group of pupils in GEMS were invited to the Lit and Phil library in Newcastle to partake in a workshop for this year's Young Writers Awards. This group of people were thought to have some skill or interest in writing and were chosen by their English teachers. GEMS has a particularly good record in this competition and has had winners every year we have taken part. The pupils tried lots of writing exercises in order to prepare them for the competition. The students had to write on the theme of friendship and had to produce a piece of either, fiction, non-fiction or a poetry piece to present. Keep in mind, they will be up against other schools.

We are still waiting on the results of the competition, which are expected to arrive in March. Keep your fingers crossed for more success this year

Written by Annabel and Isra from year 8.



Book Club By Ayla Year 5



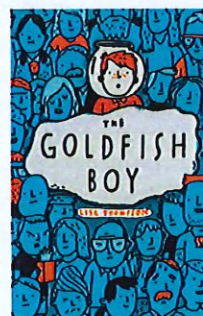
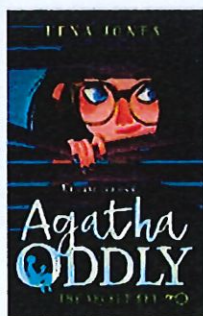
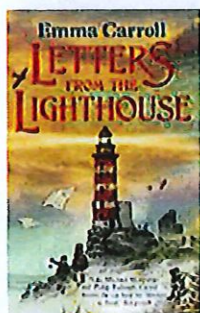
Book club is run by Mrs Leahy in the library every Tuesday after school and there is a different book every half term. At book club, we read a certain number of pages and discuss what we like and some questions about the book and its themes.

Book Club Year 5 has previously read Letters from the lighthouse, Agatha Oddly and The secret of platform 13.

Everyone gets a say in what the next book will be. Next half term it is The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Book club welcomes new members and the best time to join is at the start of a new half term which is when we start a new book (You can also join during the term as well).

I personally love going to Book club because of the discussion, kind people and the wonderful books. Book club is a really fun after school club for anyone who likes books.



"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." - Jhumpa Lahiri

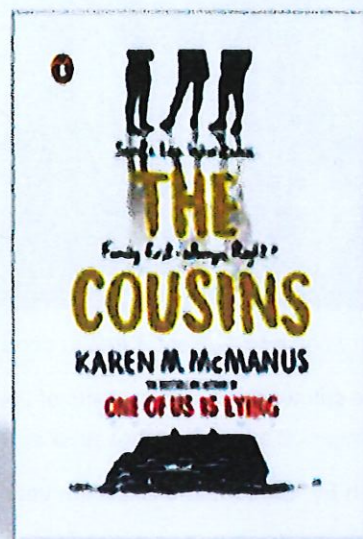
The Cousins

By Cara Year 7

The cousins- a book written by the best selling, author of "One of Us is Lying," is an amazing thriller book. It is also available in the library.

The Story cousins, Jonah, Millie and Aubrey each receive a mysterious invitation to their grandmother's island with one sentence "You know what you did," She had disinterested their parents years before. They discover lies, secrets and so much more...

I would rate this book a five star, it



BOOK REVIEW: You Don't Know What War Is.

I would recommend a book called 'You Don't Know What War Is'. I would recommend this book to someone who likes to know/learn about war or is interested in the war in Ukraine. This is an amazing book. It is a diary of a young girl from Ukraine who has had to escape from the war with her gran. The fact it's written by a 12[may be older now] year old girl proves you can write a book, diary or documentary. You can do amazing work.



This book is written by a girl named Yeva Skalietska.

It contains dates and times which are very interesting. There are also some photos and a little part at the beginning that Michael Morpurgo wrote.

I would recommend this book to people 11+ as there are some words which are not often used. When you have read the book, you will have a much better idea of what war is. Rose 6NS



A QUOTE FROM THE BLURB

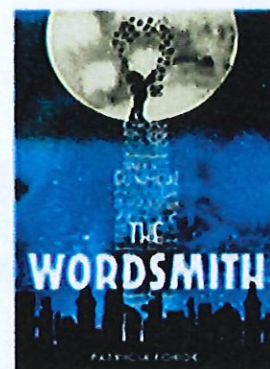
'Yeva speaks the truth that all must listen'

Michael Morpurgo

The wordsmith

The wordsmith is a wonderful book written by Patricia Forde.

A story of a young girl ready to save words. Ark is a small community ruled by John Noa a guy who wants everyone to be wordless. He believes that "Animals don't speak that's why they live peacefully". His thought is very wrong and his methods worse... chopping people's tongues out, adding Nicene in water, etc. His thoughts and ways made me surprised; the sweet, old, wise men shown at the start was actually a man finding peace in the wrong way. Letta is Ark's Wordsmith responsible for handing out words to people who need them. She agreed with everything That Noa or Benjamin said. One day, her eyes open her master disappeared and a boy is dying on the doorstep. In this situation she helped the boy (Marco) and they together go to find her master and discover Noa's evil plan.



Letta stayed strong and determine to save Ark. Her bravery was inspiring and she gave hope to many kids, including me, to stay strong and never give up. This book is full of suspense, action, adventure, thrills, love and mystery.

This novel gives a good message that words are very important and we are lucky to have them but we must use them in good ways and respect their power.

I really like this book and surely recommend it. By Fia Year 8

Drama club



This term, Mr Hodgson started his second term of drama club.

This club is amazing and is lots of fun! In drama everyone is welcome to try! Drama can be and many more

Right now in drama we are doing the scene in Harry Potter where Ron meets Harry for the first time. We also have the script so we can act it out and change it if we want. We are working in little groups to act this out and we also get to pick the characters!

This club is for boys and girls. Why don't you give it a try and come along on Monday after school

Hannah 5CF



MADAGASCAR: Cake Sale

Thank you!

For all of your support. We really appreciate it. We have raised a whopping £204 in the bake sale for costumes and props for our production Madagascar this Easter. I hope you are looking forward to it – we certainly are. These actors and actresses have been working very hard with the staff. Though we have not seen them yet, with all of your help we know the costumes will look awesome. Again thank you for all of your support.

Darcy Year 5

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

I'm sure you have heard about the tragic earthquakes that have happened in turkey and Syria. They are definitely struggling and GEMS has decided to take a course of action. The school Council are running a fundraiser for the Turkey-Syria Disaster Appeal. On Friday 17th February come in non-uniform and make a donation. You can also donate on the Go Funding page. We ask you to give at least £1 for this very worthy and urgent cause. Hannah Year 5



GEMS HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT !

Here at GEMS we are all up for helping the environment. One of the things we do is have light monitors who help keep all of the lights off during break and lunch.

We have special badges that are purple and have a recycling logo. They also say light monitor so that all of the teachers know we are allowed to be inside.

There are 3 people doing it at break and 4 at lunch. You don't need early lunch or anything like that.

I volunteered to be a light monitor and then got chosen to be one a few days later. I chose this because I love helping the planet and this is one positive thing that I can do. By Isla 5SC



Turn it off

ECO BRICKS!

What is an Eco Brick?

An eco brick is a two litre plastic bottle packed with your non-reusable plastic, which otherwise would have been thrown in the bin.



How to make one:

1. Firstly find an empty 2 litre bottle (like a lemonade bottle).
2. Find or collect some non-reusable plastic (make sure the plastic is clean!)
3. Stick all of the plastic in the bottle you may need a long spoon or stick to make sure the plastic is compact.
4. Repeat this process until the bottle is full.
5. Finally, place the eco brick in your class box.

If you don't already, you can have a class eco brick where you build it during registration and everyone can bring in their plastics from home or at from lunch. If you don't have 2 litre bottles you could bring in the plastic.

Why do we need eco bricks?

We need eco bricks because we want to have an outdoor class room made sustainably out of eco bricks. Don't you want an outdoors class room?



The class with the most eco bricks will win a non-uniform day! By Cara Year7

CANNABIS AWARENESS

By Neela 7RC

On February 6th, Dave Burns came to talk to Year 7 about cannabis and its effects. We learnt about people who were growing cannabis for their own use and how the police find cannabis growing in houses with thermal cameras. Here are some things you need to know:

- Cannabis is a class B drug. (STILL VERY DANGEROUS)
- It is illegal to grow. A
- It has lots of other names like weed and skunk.
- It is VERY dangerous like any other drug.
- Police use thermal imaging cameras to find where cannabis is growing and prosecute the growers.



Coming Up

Mrs Jefferson wanted to let everyone know about a really exciting event that is coming up at the beginning of March. There is a national conference for the Green Mentors (like the people who help with my Green Influencers group) in Derbyshire on 7th March.

Our group has been chosen to deliver a workshop at this conference which is a great opportunity for the children and for our school. The four children who are going are:-Ted, Eva, Cara and Sofia.

The Green INFLUENCER



GEMS on winning form

On the 15th of February a small group of Year 5 and 6 went to Sunderland to take part in a sports competition that focused on tennis and tennis skills.

The group participated in ball skill games and then played mini tennis games in pairs. Points were awarded for the events and GEMS, with a grand total of 85 points, were the WINNERS.



Charlie said it was fun. The best bit was hitting the ball into a ring. The team got 10 points for this game. Harry said 'I liked the ball rolling game where you had to knock down a can. I was good at this.' Charlie and Imogen in fact said he was 'the best!' Imogen said it was really, really fun and her 'best bit' was at the end when Ethan said I hope we are first and then it was announced that GEMS was the winner. 'I couldn't believe it' said Imogen smiling broadly.

Check out the photo with the group showing off their winners certificates.



Winners!!

Basketball Rocks

On the 13th of January the school's basketball teams went to the Eagles' arena to play a competition



against other schools. Both teams were amazing but sadly only one GEMS team got through to the semi-finals on the 20th of January. The GEMS team lost their first game but our parents and Mr Jordan were proud of us for making it this far. The Eagles' team had kindly given us free tickets to the men's game afterwards. Our team was given medals for making it this far.



Hannah 5CF

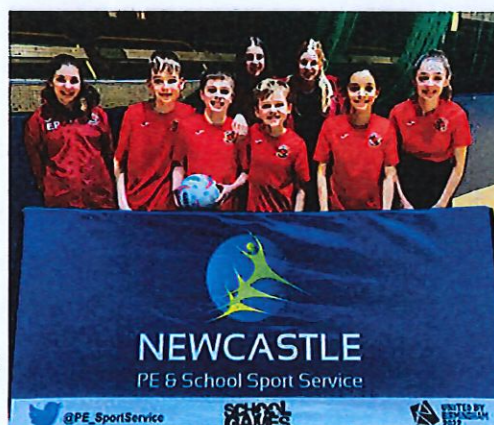
Squash ... give it a go!

Squash is an active game which requires lots of movement and skill. Squash can be learnt by lots of people and is growing. I play at Northern Rugby Club and the Northumberland club in Jesmond. In the October term two squash coaches visited us to teach Year 5 how to play. The coaches were called Katie and Richard. Richard teaches me on a Saturday morning. Both my brothers are in the county team like me. If you are sporty and would like a go there is no one stopping you. Have a try!

Hannah 5CF

Team GEMS Wows The Competition!

Last week on Thursday, the well-trained, sporty Netball team and the wonderful sports ambassadors travelled to Benfield to, you guessed it, play netball. The team got off to an amazing start winning their first match 3-0 against RGS! We were very happy with the results of the first match and we were storming through the competition. As the team headed into the second match, we were all fired up; after a difficult first half we were happy to be 1-0 up. Unfortunately, due to a well-positioned attack play, we finished the match 1-1. But going into the third match, with lots of support from the sports ambassadors, the



team battled through and were determined to win the next match. **Charlie Yr 6**

We all played at least 4 matches and all had a turn at different positions. The year 6 girls that went were, Amelia (6NS), Ghida(6NG), Amelie (6LW), Eva (6LW) and Evie Haynes (6NS). The boys that went were, Laion (6PW), Will (6PW), Alfie (6NS) and Charlie (6PW). We all had an



amazing time. The highlight was winning 8-0 in the first match.

We all say a big thanks to Mr Jordan. We all say another great big thanks to the sports ambassadors that came with us, Izzy, Edie and Elsa. They were all very supportive of us all. **Amelia Year 6**