

Gosforth East Middle School News



Summer 1 2019

Assistant Editors Charlotte, Leila



The Earth Needs You!

The big battery hunt was launched in a KS2 assembly by members of 5SL. We have given out boxes to all of KS2 which we would like them to fill with spent AAA, AA, C and D batteries. The members of 5SL have researched about landfill sites. Land fill sites are not only ugly but can hold up to 4000 elephant's worth of batteries. They also leak toxic acid into the air causing our planet to be polluted.

One of the members, Holly, encouraged others to see if their parent's work used batteries so parents could join in the hunt too and boost their form classes totals! Holly's mum is a nurse and she has given Holly lots of batteries that have been used in the hospital.

Over 1000 batteries have been collected so far and, at present, our top hunter is Daisy from 5EA who has collected 400 batteries which is brilliant...thank-you.

It's not too late to bring in your batteries. The final totals will be calculated after half term and the winning class and individual announced in whole school assembly on Wednesday 5th June.

Well done to everyone so far and keep hunting. Don't forget you are doing something amazing for the planet!

By Izzy and Holly

Planet protectors...Planet Power

Lola, Layla, Brooke, Mabel, Georgia and Grace from Year 5, the newly formed Planet Power Team, have been finding masses of plastic all over the school yard and they have a goal... to stop plastic pollution.

The Planet Power Team has a mission... to stop plastic pollution. The team members have been clearing the school playing field and generally collecting plastic. Lola had the brilliant idea of making a club and the girls had more than 30 keen planet protectors sign up. Mrs Bullock also gave the girls a wonderful opportunity to do an assembly. In this assembly, they showed so many things that can injure innocent animals. These were as simple as a plastic salad box or a plastic fork. Don't think that plastic only kills sea life it also kills land animals as well. Lola has made a Planet Power clean up rota and anyone who has joined the team can see it near the 5 and 8 doors. We also hope that you will all play your part in protection the environment.



STOP! DON'T DROP

By Layla, Mable, Emily Year 5

Dear Parents

Within the school year this half term is one where quite a number of assessments take place including the statutory KS2 SATS. As a result there is quite a lot of work completed in the classroom rather than the wide array of experiences usually in the diet of GEMS. We are very proud of the way our Year 6 children approached their SATS. They were calm, sensible and motivated to do their best given all the hard work they have been doing. They also had a fantastic celebration at Concordia where they did a wide array of challenging activities.

We are also very proud of our sporting successes this half term and delighted not only by the fantastic achievements but also the way the children have played their sports. Very well done to all participants.

Mr Williams has already made a big impact at GEMS, planning the new show, organising lots of clubs and ensuring that lots of music is heard around GEMS.

We have much to look forward to next term. This includes Year 8 visiting London, the new Year 5 pupils visiting from the first schools, Year 8 discovering more about the High School, feedback from the largest group of Year 7s to go to Newlands, and Curriculum week focussing on the careers and future choices which the children can make. We also have a group of Year 6 children taking part in our first ever Spanish Exchange where they will visit the Marianista School in Zaragotha. They are all very excited.

Other events to look forward to include:

6 June	Open Afternoon for All Pupils (14.20—15.20)
7 June	Class Photos
4—12 June	Year 6 Spanish Exchange
12—14 June	Year 8 London Visit
1 July	Take your child to work day
3 & 4 July	Year 8 Transition Days at Gosforth Academy
8 July	Sports Day
9—12 July	Curriculum Week
16 July	GEMS has Talent
17 July	Summer Fair (14.20—17.00)
18 July	Year 5, 6 & 7 Celebration Assemblies
19 July	Year 8 BBQ Lunch and Celebration Assembly (13.30)

We hope you all have a relaxing and fulfilling half term and we look forward to seeing the children on **Tuesday 4th June**.

Mr T J Stout
Headteacher



London ... here we come!

As most of you know, each year, some lucky Year 8s get to visit London for 2 nights and 3 days. I am going on the trip this year, along with many other people, and I'm sure I speak for everybody when I say... we can't wait! We go from the 12th-14th of June. In those 3 days, we will go out for an evening meal on both of the nights, have the pleasure of watching 2 theatre shows, go shopping and much more...



We have had various meetings, and have picked both our meal choices and who we share a room with. The trip is edging closer and closer, and it's not long now. There will be an update about all of the memories we have made, when we get back from London.

Charlotte 8HC

Junior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 30th April, Year 8s who are in set one for maths, Year 7s who are also in set one for maths and a few set one year 6s, took place in the Junior Maths Challenge. The Junior Maths Challenge is a very demanding test, which is full of long, detailed questions that all carry a lot of marks. Unlike other tests, you can lose marks if you attempt a question and get it wrong. Your mark doesn't really matter because it's not like a test that will determine your sets for anything; it's just a challenge to get your brain thinking... A LOT! It is very hard. Good luck to anybody that takes part. Let's hope we can get lots of bronze, silver and gold certificates!



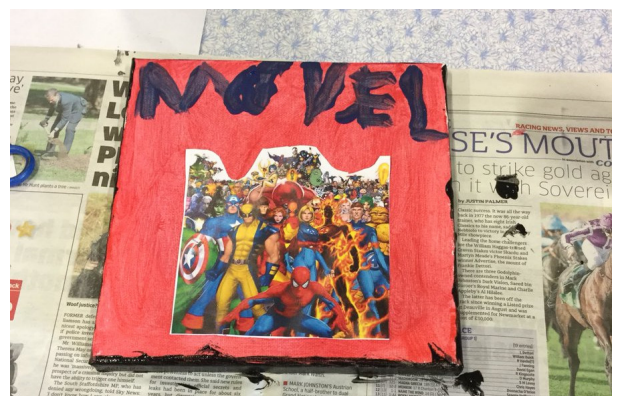
Charlotte 8HC

Crafternoon Tea

On the 3rd of May, Mrs. Cheape hosted another Crafternoon Tea. Several parents turned up with their kids to have an afternoon of crafting. It gave the GEMS pupils and their parents an opportunity to show off their crafting skills while having fun. There were several things to do;



canvas painting, bag painting, decorate a mug, create a hedgehog book and sewing squares. The people who went to the Crafternoon Tea were given tea (obviously), coffee and biscuits while they worked on their crafts and chatted to their family and friends. The Crafternoon tea was, yet again, a success and the people who went had lots of fun and £200 was raised for Love Quilts UK. **By Katie 8HC.**



Ready, Set... SATs!

The SATs happened again for Year 6 this year! As always, it was a much – discussed topic; tests that challenge both pupil and teacher, used to test the performance of the school. Let's hope we do well this year!

Pre – SATs

At this stage, the proud pupils of GEMS were being prepped for the SATs. Extra revision, extra notice- extra pressure. Of course, passing or failing the SATs isn't going to determine the course of your life, but they are an important test. They were being brought up in almost every Maths and English lesson, discussed over and over again as the fateful week grew nearer and nearer. Lots of extra practice and booster groups were going on! Everyone was also very excited for the after – SAT Concordia trip! Some thoughts on the matter of SATs include Phoebe from 6NS saying, "I am kind of nervous but I think I'll pass." Lots of people seem to feel pressurised but at the same time, confident. Janice from 6NG says, "I am worried and would just like to have it over and done with. But I'm pretty sure I'll do well." And finally, a slightly negative comment from Tess 6NG saying, "I am really annoyed because basically every test is a SAT, but only now they're a big deal. I'm not nervous because it's not like I'm going to DIE if I fail my SATs!"

Post SATs

And just like that, the SATs are finally over! They weren't that bad, in my opinion. Just normal tests presented in a normal way. The only things



that made the SATs different were that we had to sit opposite our partners, and - one really good thing - we got to eat sweets during (and after) the tests! I think everyone feels good about how they did in the SATs and all the teachers seemed proud of us. And then, of course, we went to Concordia at the end of the week! It was really fun and some of the activities we did



included: climbing (scary but fun), archery (I was bad at it but it was fun), boxing (it was no fun at all putting on the sweaty boxing gloves), bowling (I've never had a Strike in my life and this day was no different), and soft play (no-one expected to enjoy it but it was pretty

fun). In the soft play, my class was involved in a massive game of tag!

We won't get our SATs results till July, but I'm sure it will be fine and we'll all get good results. Now that they're over, a whole lot of pressure has been lifted and we're all really glad for it! **By Mina, Year 6**





Trinity Church Peace Event

After the success of the People, Performance and Peace event last term, some of the performers got the chance to perform their songs and poems one last time. On the second Tuesday of the term (the 30th of April), Mrs. Cheape took several students to Trinity Church to have a half hour of performing.

The performances included the year 8 and 7 girls singing 'Seasons of Love', Lillie and Alannah performed John Lennon's 'Imagine', Charlie played the piano, the ukulele club performed 'Three Little Birds' and several poems were read out.

Each performance put a smile on faces of the people in the audience which also made the children happy. After the performance the children got juice and biscuits and had a chat with members of the audience. The performance was a big success, just like the People Performance and Peace event had been.

By Katie 8HC

Welcome to GEMS Mr Williams

This is our short interview with Mr Williams. We thought you might like to know a little bit about our new music teacher.

What is your favourite lesson other than music?

"To teach drama."

Do you have a music preference?

"I really don't. I like all types."

Are you excited for your first show at GEMS and will you be featured in it?

"Yes and yes I am."

How many different types of instruments have you played?

"12ish possibly."

Do you take part in any musical events out of school?

"Not as many as I used to but I played in the same band for about 30 years where we would play a lot in the North East."

Are you planning to introduce any new musical performances?

"I am. I am looking at drumming groups in particular and then the other groups are going to be based on what the students want."

We hope Mr Williams will enjoy working at GEMS; we are definitely looking forward to working with him.

By Shuwen, Arshia and Emily 5ER

Year 7 Assembly- knowing the Dangers of Drugs

Earlier in this term, year 7 had an important assembly about the dangers of drugs- specifically about cannabis.

Dave Burns usually comes into our school every year and talks about an important subject involving real life scenarios and the best solutions to staying safe- after those assemblies some students faced those scenarios and thanks to Dave and his wonderful advice, nothing bad happened to them.

This year's assembly was about drugs and he told us about the illegal things to do with drugs, how it can impact people's lives and how the police can get involved. But he told us about how peer pressure can make a major contribution to taking drugs- so if anyone forces us to take any drugs we know that we can stand up for ourselves and do what we think is right.

Every year we thoroughly enjoy Dave's assemblies and we would like to thank Dave for coming here and warning everyone about the dangers of drugs so we can stay safe in the future.

By Tasha 7MR



Next Year's Year 5s Visit to GEMS

On the 21st of May, the year 4s who will be coming to GEMS next year from Broadway East, came over to get an idea of what GEMS will be like for them.

When they first arrived, the children were assigned a Year 8 from GEMS to be their leader. These year 8s took their groups of 3 around our school for a tour. They showed them all of the class rooms, but especially the ones that they don't have in their first school such as DT, food tech and the science labs. This was also a chance for the year 4s to ask their leader questions.

After that, we sat at tables and were given a folder with time line quotes and dates. The children had to use their general knowledge with the help of their leaders to put the quotes in order with the dates.

After this, we had to pretend that we were stuck on a desert island and crack a code in a bottle. With a code wheel and their leaders, the year 4s managed to work out the code quickly.

As we had been inside for all of this time, the children wanted a break. We all went into a cage and played bull dog, stuck in the mud and splat. All Year 4s against 8s.

As a final activity, we had to build a shelter using things like pipe cleaners, paper, card, lolly pop sticks and string. Once all the groups had made theirs, we went around looking at other groups shelters.

The Year 4s were very interested in GEMS and can't wait to come. All of the teachers look forward to seeing these children in September. **By Alice**

Winning Streak

Gems students have been part of a few tournaments recently including a netball and 2 football tournaments.

The year 7 and 8 netball teams had a tournament held at GEMS against others local schools: some of them include Gosforth Junior High and Gosforth Central Middle School. As a result, the year 8s from our school came first in this competition adding a trophy to the collection!

GEMS have an excellent record in the Kings Cup. Thankfully, the Year 6s have carried on with this 'tradition' of winning which will hopefully continue for more years to come... no pressure. Just being part of this competition is really impressive as TEAMS have multiple tournaments to go through before taking part in the King's Cup.

A big thank you to Mr Jordan, Mrs Bullock and all of the teachers involved!

Leila 8HC

