

Gosforth East Middle

School News

Spring 1 2024



Year 8 Ski Trip

By Neela and Cara 8KS

On the 20th of January, some year 8s (including us) went on the ski trip to Alpe D'Huez in France. Everyone who went on the trip was given a hoodie with their name on it. We will be wearing them in school after the trip.



We met at 4:30am at Newcastle airport. We flew with Jet 2. After going through security, we could spend some money on snacks and drinks for the plane. Our flight was at 7:00. We arrived at the airport in Grenoble at 10:30 and took a coach the rest of the way. The coach ride was 2 hours! We arrived at the hotel, La Vallee Blanche, 13:45 and left our bags in our hotel rooms. We then went and got our skis, boots and helmets fitted. In the evening, we had a village orientation.

Our first day of skiing was very exciting. We took the bucket lifts from our hotel to the mountain. When we arrived at the mountain, we met our instructors. There were four groups: three beginner groups and one advanced group. We then split into our groups. The instructors were called Remy, Coco and Niko. On the first day, we learned how to snow-plough, sidestep and move up a hill. Over the next few days, we went on various slopes and learnt different techniques. Personally, our favourite technique was skiing backwards, even though it was a little daunting at first.

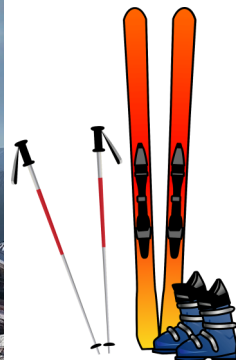
After skiing, we had the opportunity to go into the village. There were quite a few shops: a Spar, a pharmacy, some souvenir shops, a pizza shop and a crepe shop. We went into the Spar lots because there was lots of stuff to buy. When we got back, we could go to our rooms, hang with our friends, play snooker or get a drink from the bar.

The food was delicious. Every day, we woke up at seven o'clock and breakfast was at quarter past seven. There was cereal, pastry, yoghurts and several different juices on offer. Lunch was after we got back from skiing at quarter to twelve and there was always a choice of soup, baguettes, fruit and a salad bar. Dinner was served at half past six and every night it was different. Some of the different meals included; macaroni cheese, pasta bake, burgers and fish and chips. There was also a different dessert every night.

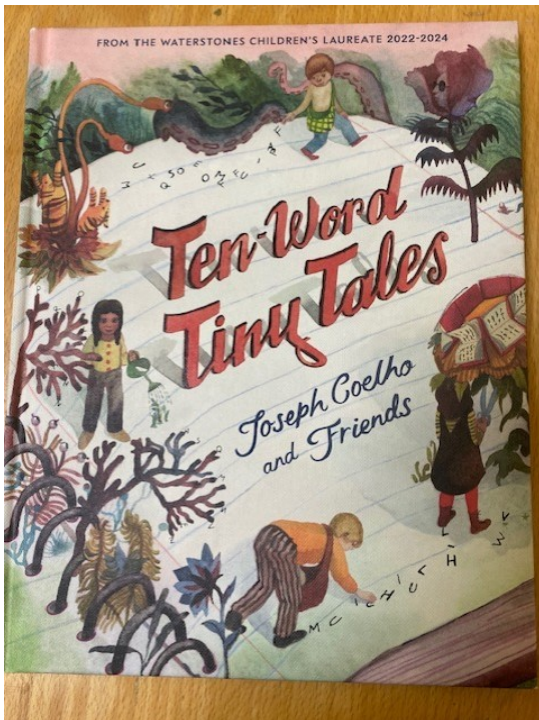
We interviewed a few people who went on the trip: Jaymie, Lucy, Tilly, Eva, Emma and Sophie H. Here is what we found:

The most popular slope was 'Marcel's Farm'. This was a green slope with lots of moguls, tunnels, jumps and turns designed for children like us. Everyone did lots of green slopes which were called Marcel's Farm, Rif Nel and Chez Roger. Most people did blue slopes, and the advanced group did red and black too. Almost everyone preferred using poles and in general people rated the whole trip a nine or ten. We really enjoyed the trip and we would recommend it to anyone approaching Year Eight.

Ski trip in pictures...

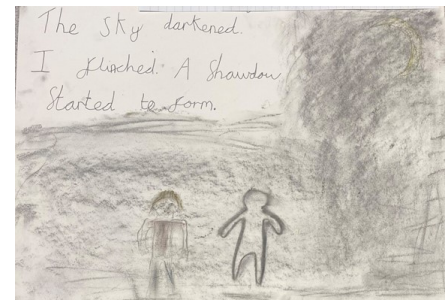


Talented Tiny Tale Tellers



After reading Ten Word Tiny Tales in class, Year 6 pupils entered a competition where they had to write and illustrate their own Tiny Tale. Emily's entry won. Special congratulations to her and well done to everyone who entered; there was some original and imaginative work. What talent we have among us at GEMS

The winning entry



On why he chose this as the winning entry, Joseph Coelho said,
"This ten word tale instantly drew me in and suggested so much more beneath what was being said. It felt epic in nature with the very sky changing and darkening. The drawing was spot on and atmospheric making great use of simple pencil shading to create a whole world of texture and intrigue."

Lisette Auton is a writer who visited school in the middle of January. She wanted to encourage us to read more and tell us about her books. At break time Lisette signed books and slips of paper while we asked questions about her books and how to get into writing books and why she chose to become an author.



During assembly Lisette got us to make a story off the top of our head. She told us that her stories were based on Souter Lighthouse and other places around Newcastle city. She often starts with her setting. She asked us what would we keep in a 2 foot long beard, some of the responses were football stadiums, basketball courts and a train, this might seem strange but there was a genuine captain who kept a cat in his beard.

We all really enjoyed her lively and interesting assembly while Year 6 classes were lucky enough to have a workshop session too. At the end of the day she even did some training with staff and gave them some good practical ideas about encouraging reading and writing

Jude manning





On Thursday 18th January, a few students were picked to go to the Theatre Royal, to watch Everybody's Talking about Jamie. We watched the musical, which is also a film). In my opinion, the Musical is way better as it was more realistic, and I think that in-real life, it's funnier!

It was definitely a comedy, and maybe a romance! And it did explore some important and current themes about gender.

Jamie is the main character who wants to be a drag queen, but is afraid of what people will think of him. His mum and Rae (His grandma) are supportive, but his dad is not. His dad is very disappointed in him, and doesn't want to see him ever again! On Jamie's birthday, his mum has to make a fake birthday card and write it as if his dad sent him it. Jamie doesn't know that his dad hates him, and keeps thinking one day he will see him again, however the dad is seeing another girl, and they are having a boy. "A real boy" as his dad would say.

But it's not just his dad who doesn't support him, Dean, a boy in his year is also unsupportive, and makes Jamie think he doesn't fit in right. Jamie tries to stick up for himself but he still thinks he doesn't fit in. And in fact, Miss Hedge, the head teacher doesn't support him either, so much so, that she doesn't allow him to go to prom!



Pritti Pasha, his best friend, is supportive, and tells him he is just like everyone else, in fact, better than everyone else.

For Jamie's birthday he got bright red heels, and he WONT wear them in school as he knows he will be bullied, but Pritti tells him YOU WILL WEAR THESE, INFACOT YOU WILL WEAR THEM TO PROM! And Jamie, is shocked but happy. He can't believe someone is there to support him! Dean walks in and Jamie hides the heels, so that Dean can't see them!

Now all I will say is... that is all I will say, so as not to spoil it. I highly recommend going to the theatre to watch the Musical...So much better than the film Oscar 7KD.



Excitement For the Eco Classroom! By Cara Year 8



From the 12th-16th of February some of the Planet People began work on building the eco classroom. A builder-who is called Nick- came in to help with the construction of the eco classroom.

It will be located behind the steps on the grass and will be built using several frames made of reclaimed wood. The frames will be filled with a mixture of feather edge wood, eco bricks, reused wood blocks and cylinders. There will even be a bottle cap mural and living wall.

So far, the structure of the walls has been made and the Planet People are currently building the frames. A few others and I worked on digging holes so we could put wooden pillars into the ground.

Thank you to anyone who has made eco bricks so far as they are a big help in the construction of the eco classroom!

The Holocaust assembly

On Monday the 22nd of January an actor and a pianist came from the Brundubar project to school to teach us about a young Polish girl called Josima who lived during the war. We learned about her struggles in daily life and about her hobby: piano. She was one of the best pianists in the world and she wrote many spectacular songs that we got to hear. We listened to the sad truth about what the Nazis did to the Jews when they took over Poland. Josima and her family had to hide away from soldiers to escape going to concentration camps but while hiding she was in extremely cold and at 14 she sadly passed away from severe tuberculosis. We had this assembly to commemorate the lives that were lost during the Holocaust. And remember all of the potential that was not fulfilled. By Ayla Year 6



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL Day



The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. We remember this event by holding a Holocaust Memorial Day concert on the 28th January 2024 on Sunday in the Newcastle city library. Children from GEMS, Dame Allens, Newcastle School for Boys and other schools will gather with Fiona (the creator of the song we will sing) and rehearse, get chosen for either tune or harmony and sing in front of many people.

THE EVENT

We went two days ago with the rest of choir club with Mr Williams to the Newcastle City Library for rehearsal and the real thing on stage. There were many people in the audience including the mayor of Newcastle. There were several speakers who spoke about how their families were affected by the Holocaust. We sang a newly composed song called 'fragility of Freedom'. It was specially written for this year's Memorial Day. This song explored the theme of freedom and focused on the lack of freedom suffered by the Jews in the Holocaust.

It is important that we remember the past so that we can prevent others from suffering as the Jews did..

By Maia and Holly



Mental Health Awareness Week

We had Mental Health Week and the theme was our voice matters. We need to understand that our vote or opinion always matters no matter what. Some examples of making our voice heard include public votes for an MP and in school, how we voted for school council so that our voice can be heard through our class representative.



During Mental Health Week my class 5ER read for 10 minutes before lunch and wrote down 3 things good that had happened during the day. Some people wrote down things like seeing my dog after school or visiting my grandma. It could have even been about lunch which I know I once wrote down. We also got to meet Dr Alex George and see his new book. He talked about how to help your mental health. I think some of the things he said helped me with my mental health. I am now wondering what you did to celebrate

Mental Health Week. By Sahib Year 5

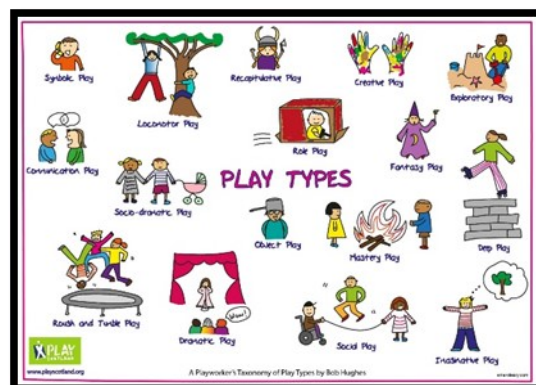


OPAL play

We are focusing on making our playground at school better at the moment and OPAL stands for **O**utdoor, **P**lay **A**nd **L**earning. Some ideas of how to do this are adding monkey bars or making a building section but some things are already happening such as dancing in the hall or the sports in the gym at lunch time. If I was in charge of OPAL, I would add obstacle

courses. Even though we currently have lots of clubs and things like that this is the beginning of our OPAL journey.

We already have loads of ideas of things we could add to our playground. We could also make outdoor lessons in our new eco classroom that is currently being built. It's exciting to see what changes are going to happen to our playground in the months to come. By Sahib Year 5



Choir

Every Monday lunchtime we meet to practise the songs that we are going to perform at The Big Gig 2024. This year's theme is 'Hello Sunshine!' The songs have summery and happy vibes. Some of these songs are 'Walking on Sunshine', 'Happy' and 'Sunshine'. As you can tell these songs fit the theme perfectly.

At rehearsals we practise different songs and some people can play instruments here are some interviews from members of choir who are doing the big gig.

'I have already started practising 'Riptide' by Vance Joy on the guitar ! After the half term I will have some guitar lessons . It is really exiting to play the guitar because there are lots of different chords to learn and explore. I am a bit nervous for when I play in The Big Gig but mostly excited .' By Oscar

'I like singing so I joined the choir. I am quite passionate and I listen to lots of songs at home . I am quite nervous for The Big Gig and also exited !'maia

' I am very exited to improve my skills and enjoy my guitar lessons in future ' Jude

Choir is a really fun club and we are looking for some new members. Come to the music room on Mondays for more information. By Ayla 6pw and Izzy 5nsk





BASKETBALL FINALS



FRIDAY THE 9TH FEBRUARY THE JUNIOR 'HOOPS FOR HEALTH' COMPETITION WAS HELD. THE FINALS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN ST ALBANS AND GEMS. IT WAS A TIGHT MATCH AND GEMS SADLY LOST THE MATCH 1 – 0.



THE GAME WAS PLAYED AT THE HOME OF THE EAGLES DURING HALF TIME. THIS WAS EXCITING BUT NERVE WRACKING. PARENTS AND SOME STAFF WERE AT THE GAME TO CHEER THEM ON AND A GREAT NIGHT WAS HAD BY EVERYONE. GEMS GOT SECOND PLACE AND WERE AWARDED MEDALS; NOW WE CAN'T WAIT TILL SEPTEMBER TO PLAY SOME MORE. **JUDE MANNING**

Games: Metta fit

At school we are doing Metta fit in games. It is where you need to do 10 exercises each round and you have 3 rounds you would do plank,

Climbers, ski jumpers, and so much more. You need to do the exercises for different amounts of time each week.

Robyn's opinion on Metta fit is: "tiring but nice."

Toby's opinion on Metta fit is: "terrible, tiring and a little fun."

Naomi's opinion on Metta fit is: "I like it." **Year 5**



HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On the afternoon of 6th of February a selected group of people from the hockey club went to play a hockey tournament. Mr Jordan and Mrs Haig took us to the event at RGS. During the afternoon we were helped by a sixth former from RGS who was called Igris. He was very supportive and cheered us on and is a part of GEMS now! He hopes to come along to the county finals to cheer us along.

The team was:

Eliza D 6PW, Oscar J 5NSK, Hannah T 6NS, India B 6NS Caitlyn H 6NG Thomas Y 6LW Henry H 5SR

We played 8 games and won 7. The first one we lost but then hit a winning streak. The other 3 schools were: St Michaels, RGS and Sunny side. We came first and are now through to the County final. After they put all the match statistics together we automatically got through to the finals. We can't wait to play and smash them to pieces again. ..metaphorically of course! **Eliza D 6PW**