



February 2025

Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

Hall Lane, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8DA

tel: 0191 917 2999

web: www.bernardgilpin.com

Hello and welcome to the February edition of Bernard Gilpin Primary School's newsletter

OUTDOOR ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT DERWENT HILL

Children from Years 5 and 6 recently returned from a fantastic residential visit to the Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre. This excellent opportunity enabled the children to further develop their independence, resilience and respect for the environment in the heart of the stunning Lake District. Everyone involved had an action-packed week, with all of the groups taking part in a rotation of outdoor adventurous activities. Some of the many highlights for the children included canoeing to an island on Derwent Water, gorge walking, finding the courage to take on the challenge of the 'Big Swing' and toasting marshmallows on a campfire which they had built themselves using bush craft skills.



A group taking a moment to enjoy the views at the top of their hill climb



A group canoeing towards One Tree Island on the tranquil Derwent Water

The children also challenged themselves on a hill walk in the beautiful surrounding landscape, as well as orienteering, tackling the low ropes course and navigating the indoor climbing wall. Each group also took part in a night walk aimed at developing team-work and taking on the exciting challenge of the high ropes course proved to be a real highlight for many of the children. A huge thank you to everyone for ensuring that the time spent in Derwent Hill was a wonderful experience and that many great and lasting memories were made - a massive well done to everyone involved throughout the week.



Taking on the 'Big Swing' challenge



Navigating the indoor climbing wall



Braving the waterfall whilst gorge walking



Big Smiles all round at Derwent Hill

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES VISIT

Bernard Gilpin Primary School was delighted to welcome Simon Marshall, Director of Children's Services in Sunderland, for a special visit to celebrate the school's recent successes. During his visit, he met with staff and pupils, toured the classrooms and saw first-hand the fantastic achievements of the whole school; he was delighted to meet with both the girls' and mixed football teams after their recent successes in the County Cup and EFL Kids' Cup, as well as listening to the school choir perform and a number of children solve the Rubik's Cube in under a minute.



Director Simon Marshall celebrating the success of the school football teams

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle



Year 1 taking part in the NHS Scrubs project



Year 2 problem solving at Sainsbury's

Reception visited Stowell Street in Newcastle, where they enjoyed studying the Chinese gate and visiting the supermarket to buy some food and decorations for a celebration back in school. The children also enjoyed sharing fortune cookies and reading the messages inside. The Reception children also went to the nearby Discovery Museum, where they took part in a variety of exciting challenges in the Science Maze.

Year 1 have enjoyed taking part in the NHS Scrubs project in the classroom, aimed at sparking the children's curiosity and interest in working in health and social care. Each child had the opportunity to wear small versions of real uniforms from 25 different NHS roles including clinical and non-clinical roles; the next generation of NHS workers has hopefully been inspired.

Year 2 visited Sainsbury's in Sunderland where they were able to apply their understanding of money in a real-life context. The children enjoyed working on various maths problems in the supermarket and navigating their way around the aisles. The children then visited Seaham Harbour where they viewed 'The Coxswain,' a sculpture by Ray Lonsdale, in preparation for creating their own sculptures in the classroom.

Year 3 have been studying printing techniques in their Art and Design lessons in class. After evaluating existing printed artwork, the children designed, made and used their own printing blocks using polystyrene tiles. The end result of the imprint was visually impressive. Year 3 have also been learning all about Ancient Greek culture in History, as well as the properties of a range of rocks and fossils in their Science lessons.

Year 4 visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle in relation to their taught Science unit on Animals including Humans. The children took part in a workshop during which they observed a range of animals, noting the similarities and differences in physical features before creating food chains using vocabulary such as predator, prey and consumer. The children then visited the living planet gallery in the museum, where they were able to observe a vast range of animals, classifying them based in their habitat.

Year 5 visited Newcastle Castle where they ventured into the depths of the dungeon to take part in a Tudor 'Crime and Punishment' workshop, before further investigating this area of history by stopping off at Bessie Surtees' House, a local example of Tudor architecture. Back at school, Year 5 continued their Tudor learning by studying different aspects of life in England at this time including crime and punishment, architecture and the impact of King Henry VIII's reign on the country.

Year 6 visited the state-of-the-art facilities at the Virtu Motors Arena in Newcastle, home to the Newcastle Eagles professional basketball teams. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of STEM related learning activities, all delivered by two of the Eagles women's team. The highlight for the children was being on the main court, where they practised shooting before calculating their percentage of successful shots made. Year 6 also visited SafetyWorks! in Newcastle, where they participated in a number of real-life scenarios aimed at developing personal safety.



Year 3 creating and using printing blocks



Year 4 at the Great North Museum



Year 5 at Newcastle Castle



Year 6 at The Virtu Motors Arena

BRAND NEW SCHOOL MINIBUSES

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently invested in two brand-new minibuses to further enhance transport for educational visits and extra-curricular activities such as sporting events. The two state-of-the-art vehicles will provide an up-to-date, safe and comfortable travelling experience for all pupils, ensuring continued access to educational opportunities beyond the classroom. This upgrade reflects the school's commitment to enriching students' learning experiences and further strengthening community engagement.



The brand new school minibuses



All smiles for the Valentine's Disco

'GO RED' FOR HEART FOUNDATION

On Friday 14th February, the school had a non-uniform day to raise money for The British Heart Foundation, a charity working to support people living with heart conditions, providing funding for research, and campaigning to raise awareness. As well as wearing red and heart-themed clothing, the children learnt more about the work of the charity and how they help people across the UK. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous donations received towards this great cause.



Red and Pink for British Heart Foundation



The school high-five netball team

HIGH-FIVE NETBALL

The school netball team recently participated in the Sunderland Primary School Netball Association (SPSNA) high-five netball tournament, which took place at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The children performed exceptionally well in all of their matches played, winning all of their of games and not conceding any goals in all of their matches so far. All of the children have represented themselves and the school superbly, showing fantastic team-work and effort and spirit throughout - well done to everyone involved.

VALENTINE'S DISCOS

The recent Valentine's Discos were a great success; the children's enthusiasm for the event was matched by their fantastic moves on the dancefloor. Thank you to all those who helped to make the event such a success and a special thank you to members of the School Council for helping to provide the music and to serve drinks and snacks to the party goers during the entertainment.

HAPPY HALF TERM

After another successful, exciting and learning-filled half term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 3rd March 2025 for another exciting half term.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK & SAFER INTERNET DAY 2025

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, all year groups took part in creative well-being activities linked to this year's theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' The theme itself focused on how knowing ourselves better can improve self-esteem and overall well-being. Children also discussed the importance of talking to friends and trusted adults as part of Safer Internet Day, and how this can also help to improve well-being and safety. Please see the school website for more information on how we can support our own well-being through 'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half Term - School closes Friday 21st February 2025

School Re-opens - Monday 3rd March 2025

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March 2025

Parent/Carer's Evening - Monday 17th/Tuesday 18th March 2025

(Letters will be sent out after half term)

Easter Holiday - School closes Friday 11th April 2025

School Re-opens - Monday 28th April 2025

KS2 SATs week - Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May 2025

Summer Holiday - School closes Friday 18th July 2025



CLUBS ARE BOOMING

Monday	STEM	Lego	Football
Tuesday	Yoga	Basketball	Cinema
Wednesday	Bernard's Master Chef	Fitness	Football
Thursday	Drama & Music	Art & Design	Netball
Friday	Dance	Gaming & Computing	Basketball