



July 2025

Bernard Gilpin Primary School
Dream Believe Achieve

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

BARONESS ESTELLE MORRIS VISITS BERNARD GILPIN



Lynda Brown and Baroness Estelle Morris with Year 6 pupils as part of the visit

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently had the honour of welcoming Baroness Estelle Morris, the former Secretary of State for Education and Skills, to our school. As the visit coincided with Sports Week in school, the Baroness was able to see a wide variety of sporting events celebrating physical activity and pupil engagement, including a Year 6 fitness circuit, where the pupils showcased their enthusiasm and determination while using state-of-the-art exercise bikes and rowing machines. The Baroness was also able to observe the children engaged in a wide variety of other fitness and health-related activities such as the Year 1 NHS Scrubs programme and Year 5 navigating a challenging orienteering course around the school grounds. As a former PE teacher and lifelong advocate for sporting activity, Baroness Morris praised the extremely innovative approach to promoting children's physical and mental development. She was also keen to praise the friendly, caring and polite nature of all the children across the whole school.

YEAR 6 EDUCATIONAL VISIT: BLETCHLEY PARK COUNTRY ESTATE

A group of Year 6 children recently returned from a fantastic educational visit to Bletchley Park - the historic site of Britain's World War II codebreaking efforts. The visit, which was attended by a group of pupils who have been part of the Rubik's Cube Club throughout the year, offered a unique and fascinating opportunity to connect their love of puzzles and problem-solving with real-world applications in STEM as well as history. The children explored the intriguing story of how mathematicians and engineers, including Alan Turing, used early computing and logical thinking to decipher codes, ultimately helping to shorten the Second World War. The exhibits also linked to modern processes like algorithmic thinking and pattern recognition, which are vital in solving a Rubik's Cube, as well as advancements and application of AI technology. A big well done to everyone involved for representing the school so well throughout the whole visit.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed visiting Bletchley Park where they toured the famous manor house, visited Alan Turing's office and engaged in a WWII role-play exhibition

KS2 RESIDENTIAL VISITS: THE HUB, THE SILL AND BOGGLE HOLE



Children from Year 3 recently returned from an action-packed, two day residential at The Hub. The fantastic facilities, located at Barnard Castle, gave the children the opportunity to try their hand at archery, climbing the high ropes course, orienteering, keeping fit on the outdoor gym equipment, developing outdoor bush-craft skills, toasting marshmallows on the fire pit and participating in a carousel of other sporting activities. The enthusiasm that the children displayed by encouraging each other during activities helped them to further develop their own communication, team-building and inter-personal skills, which are essential to use throughout their lives. It also allowed for friendships to flourish and certainly made unforgettable memories on the children's first school residential visit. All of the children were absolutely amazing throughout the two days - they were a real credit to themselves and the school. Well done to all for these memorable two days for Year 3.



Enjoying the outdoor gym equipment



Taking on the high ropes challenge



Going for gold in the archery session



Toasting marshmallows was a big hit

Children from Year 4 enjoyed an amazing two day residential visit to The Sill. This state-of-the-art facility is located in Northumberland, within walking-distance of Hadrian's Wall, giving the children the exciting opportunity to deepen their understanding of Roman Britain in a real-life context. The children were thrilled to experience ancient history first-hand when they visited the nearby Roman Fort of Vindolanda. They were also excited to visit the Roman History Museum where they were fortunate enough to see an on-going archaeological dig that was taking place, as well as ask a resident archaeologist questions. The children also learned about the diverse ecology of the local area, linking to their Science unit of Living Things and their Habitats. To round off the visit, the children also developed their art skills through sketching Ancient Roman Pottery they had seen at the they had museums visited. Well done to everyone for making this a memorable two day residential visit.



Observing the ongoing archaeological dig



Enjoying creating Roman artwork



Experiencing life as a Roman archer



Big smiles on a walk along Hadrian's Wall



A large number of Year 5 and 6 children experienced a two day residential at Boggle Hole, near Whitby. The group wasted no time and headed straight down into the fantastic beach at Boggle Hole, where they took part in a 'Seashore Safari' session - a rock pooling activity in which the children unearthed and identified many interesting sea-dwelling creatures. The evening was rounded off by toasting marshmallows around a fire pit on the beach to make and eat tasty s'mores. After a good night's sleep, the children set off on a scenic walk to nearby Robin Hood's Bay, where they visited some very unique places including a dinosaur fossil shop. The group were a credit to the school throughout the whole visit and an amazing time was had by all - well done to everyone involved in this two day residential visit.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time on the beach at Boggle Hole, where they created sand sculptures and searched for interesting sea creatures in the 'Seashore Safari'

SPORTS WEEK 2025 AT BERNARD GILPIN: A SUPER SUCCESS



Year 3 at Silksworth Athletics Track



Year 4 tennis session at Barnes Park

Reception and Year 1 children visited the outdoor 3G pitch at Leisure United Ford Quarry Hub. They received specialist football coaching and developed a range of skills including how to pass and dribble the ball with improved accuracy as well as playing a fun football competition.

Year 2 visited Hetton Community Swimming Pool and Wellness Centre where they undertook a swimming safety course before thoroughly enjoying a fun swimming session with organised games and toys.

Year 3 visited Silksworth Sports Complex for a morning of athletics. The children all competed in a range of different events including short and long distance running, throwing and jumping challenges. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activities and competing for fun.

Year 4 visited Barnes Park tennis courts where they practised a range of skills needed to play the game before competing in a mini tournament. Everyone had a great time participating with a positive sporting attitude - well done to everyone in Year 4.

Year 5 were excited to visit the Beacon of Light, where they made full use of the state-of-the-art facilities available there. All of the children took part in a basketball coaching and games session which they all thoroughly enjoyed.



The whole school Sports Day, attended in large numbers, was a huge success

Year 6 visited Roseberry Topping in North Yorkshire, where they successfully climbed the iconic hill to its summit of 320 metres. Once at the peak, the children developed their compass reading skills to find famous landmarks visible in all directions.

There were many other sporting activities for the children to enjoy during Sports Week including netball, tennis, cricket, football, yoga, Tai Chi and fitness circuits. The week then finished in style with the whole school Sports Day. Children from all year groups competed in a wide variety of events including a long-distance run, sprints, relay racing, a sack race, the egg and spoon and obstacle races, as well as jumping and throwing events. Thank you to the large numbers of parents, carers and families who came along and supported the children; it was a wonderful afternoon with a fantastic team-spirit amongst the children who cheered each other on throughout all of the events. A huge well done to everyone involved in this week of sporting success.

MARVELLOUS MULTICULTURAL WEEK & VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP

During this half term, the whole school took part in Multicultural Week. This fantastic celebration of culture helped to further develop the children's knowledge and understanding of cultural diversity in the local area, Britain and around the world today. A wide range of exciting learning activities took place throughout the week such as tasting traditional foods, exploring traditional music, learning and performing a range of dances and studying and creating cultural-inspired art. The children also took part in an African drumming workshop, which was equally as loud as it was exciting. To round off the week, the whole school gathered together outside in the glorious sunshine to display their masks, flags and headwear that they had designed and created during the week. The children then proudly paraded around the school yard to carnival music, before dancing together to the song learnt during the week. All of the children across the school thoroughly embraced Multicultural Week with a great respect for culture - well done to everyone for their fantastic efforts and to all involved in the organisation of the excellent week of cultural learning.



Year 2 at the Multi-faith Museum



Year 6 visiting Durham Cathedral

All of the children across the school also took part in a range of educational visits to places of worship, linking to the religions studied during R.E. lessons. Reception enjoyed their visit to Sunderland Minster to aid their understanding of Christianity. Year 1 enjoyed their visit to the Jewish Synagogue where they learnt more about Judaism. The children of Year 2 experienced the brand new Multi-faith Museum at Barnard Castle whilst Year 3 visited the Newcastle Central Mosque, to enhance their understanding of Islam. In relation to Hinduism, Year 4 visited the Newcastle Hindu Temple, developing their knowledge of Hindu worship, whilst Year 5 enjoyed their visit to Newcastle Synagogue to deepen their understanding of Judaism. Finally, Year 6 visited the inspirational Durham Cathedral in order to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Christian places of worship. Well done to everyone involved for their excellent attitude and enthusiasm whilst on their visits.



Big smiles from Reception to Year 6 at the Multicultural Week Parade Celebration

THE JILL SCOTT CUP: BERNARD GILPIN RETAIN THE TROPHY



The girls' football team after winning the Jill Scott Cup for the second year in a row

CRICKET COMPETITION SUCCESS

A mixed team and a girls' team both delivered outstanding performances in two recent cricket competitions against schools from across Sunderland. Competing with determination and impressive skill, both teams remained unbeaten throughout their respective tournaments. Not only did both teams win every match in their tournaments, they also scored highly in all of their games played, displaying excellent batting and fielding skills. Both teams also impressed with their strong teamwork and resilience alongside their excellent cricket skills on display. As a result of their performances, both teams ended their competitions as deserved winners - a huge well done to both of the teams involved in this cricketing success.

Another hugely successful year of football at Bernard Gilpin Primary School was rounded off in style as the girls' team won two cup competitions. Firstly, the team won the prestigious Jill Scott Cup for the second year in succession, becoming the first ever team to retain the trophy. The team remained undefeated without conceding a goal throughout the whole of the highly competitive tournament, eventually being crowned as champions after a 2-0 win in the final. The girls' team were also victorious on finals night in the Hetton and Lambton League by winning the Girls' League Cup for the second year in a row, rounding off a memorable season for them. A huge well done to everyone who has represented all of the school football teams in such a superb and sporting manner throughout the entire season.



The mixed cricket team who remained undefeated during their tournament

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently celebrated the children's attendance for the academic year by having an awards celebration assembly. Children who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the year were rewarded as recognition for the increased learning opportunities that come with high attendance rates. Well done to the children across all year groups who did not miss a single day of school this year.

SUNDERLAND DANCE FESTIVAL

A large group of Year 5 and 6 children recently participated in the Sunderland Schools Dance Festival. This annual event, held at The Sunderland Empire Theatre, was a fantastic opportunity for the dancers to demonstrate their skills linking to this year's theme of 'Dancing Through Time.' The children performed a fantastic, high-energy routine inspired by popular music from the 1980's and 90's. Everyone was very proud of the effort put into rehearsals and the children's costumes looked amazing. Well done to the everyone involved in the performance – the hard work definitely paid off on the big stage in front of a packed house.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are sure you will agree that the children all look very smart in their school uniform and P.E. kits. Ahead of the new school year, you can find the school uniform requirements on our website as well as links to our uniform suppliers. Please note that the regular school uniform items, such as ties and cardigans, are available from B.E. Uniforms whilst P.E. kit can be purchased from Total Sport. Please also ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name - thank you.



The Year 5 & 6 dance team who performed at the Sunderland Empire Theatre

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After another learning-filled and successful school year, everyone at Bernard Gilpin Primary School would like to thank you all for your continued support in everything that we do. Everyone at school would also like to wish our current Year 6 children good luck in moving on to their new schools in September. We would like to wish you all a safe and restful summer break - take care and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 8th September 2025**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Holiday - School closes Friday 18th July 2025
INSET Days - Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September 2025
School re-opens - Monday 8th September 2025
Half Term - School closes Friday 24th October 2025
School re-opens - Monday 3rd November 2025
Christmas Holiday - School closes Friday 19th December 2025
Summer Holiday - School closes Tuesday 21st July 2026