



October 2025

Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

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

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception children at Build-A-Bear



Year 1 at the Great North Museum



Year 2 at the Hatton Gallery



Year 3 problem solving at Sainsbury's

Reception visited Build-a-Bear Workshop to create a class buddy. Each buddy will go home with a different child every weekend and they can report back to the rest of their class about their adventures that they have had together. The two class buddies will then stay with their class as they get older and travel through the rest of the school together.

Year 1 enjoyed visiting the Great North Museum in Newcastle in relation to their Science unit of Animals Including Humans. The children were able to observe a range of different animals first-hand and classify them into different groups according to their characteristics. The children also enjoyed dressing up as a range of animals from various continents to help them to understand how they have adapted to their environment.

Year 2 had an exciting visit to the Hatton Art Gallery linking to the Geography theme of Africa. The gallery had amazing examples of African masks which the children observed and discovered how the masks were made and what they were used for. The children created their own design for a mask before using these ideas to make their own version using a range of materials. The children gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the African culture as a result of their experiences.

Year 3 visited Sainsbury's in Sunderland. On the visit, the children were able to apply their understanding of money in a real-life context by comparing different products to find the best value between branded and non-branded products. They also enjoyed working on a number of other maths problems such as calculating prices and change in the supermarket, as well as learning to navigate their way around the aisles.

Year 4 visited High Force as part of their Geography unit of study about Rivers. Whilst there, the children observed first-hand the incredible power of the waterfall along with several other features of a river including meanders and deposition. When back at school, the children put their understanding into practice by re-creating the journey of a river on a large-scale physical diagram on the yard before drawing labelled diagrams of this back in the classroom.

Year 5 visited Helmsley Castle in North Yorkshire, in relation to their History unit of Norman Britain. The children studied first-hand the scale and importance of Norman Castles in this period of history, as well as handling a range of primary source artefacts in the collection in the castle. Once the children returned to school, they used their understanding to draw a labelled diagram of a typical Norman motte and bailey castle, as well as being inspired to create their own Norman shield designs after learning about the famous events of 1066.

Year 6 visited the Heugh Battery Museum in Hartlepool, linking to their First World War History theme. The children were given a tour of a WWI trench recreation, where they found out first-hand about the hardships of army life, handled a range of primary artefacts including helmets and rifles as well as hearing some of the stories of the people involved in the German raid on the Battery during the war. On return to school, the children created informative and persuasive leaflets, encouraging others to visit the museum, as well as writing newspaper reports linked to the devastating Bombardment of Hartlepool in 1914.



Year 4 at High Force Waterfall



Year 5 at Helmsley Castle



Year 6 at the Heugh Battery Museum

EARLY FOOTBALL SEASON SUCCESS

Bernard Gilpin's football teams have started the season very strongly in a number of competitions once again, with five teams being entered in various competitions this year. The girls' team began their season in great style when they competed in the Bishop Wilkinson Cup; not only did the team win the competition, they did so by winning all of their games played and not conceding a single goal throughout the tournament. The football played on the night was of an extremely high standard and the children all played with an incredibly positive attitude. A huge well done to everyone involved in this early season success.

Three other teams have also started their seasons in the Hetton and Lambton League, winning a number of the games played in their opening rounds of fixtures. All of the teams have impressed with their work rate and attitude. Good luck to all of our football teams in their respective competitions for the rest of this season.



The girls' football team who have started the new season impressively

HOUGHTON DASH SUCCESS

A team of children from Bernard Gilpin recently competed in the annual Houghton Dash, racing against over 50 other children from schools in the local area. The children from Bernard Gilpin performed exceptionally well in the race; Alex finished the dash in second place overall and Zeyana was the first placed girl and third overall in the competition. The remaining children from the team all completed the race within the top 5 positions and as a result, Bernard Gilpin Primary School collected the highest points total to be named the winning school overall. A massive well done to all of the children taking part on the day, who all competed with determination and an excellent sporting attitude in winning the race.



The BGPS team who successfully finished as winners in the Houghton Dash

T1 RUGBY SKILLS FESTIVAL

A team of fourteen children recently participated in a Rugby Skills festival for schools in the local area. The children worked incredibly well as a team, taking part in a series of activities and challenges designed to develop key skills used in rugby such as throwing, catching, agility, teamwork and communication, before playing a number of small-sided matches. The festival was aimed at children who are new or developing in the game of rugby - the team certainly returned full of enthusiasm for the sport. Well done to all who took part in the festival for showing such a positive attitude.



The T1 Rugby Festival Team



The Active 60 Participants

ACTIVE 60 EVENT

A group of twelve children from Year 4 recently participated in the Active 60 Health and Well-being event. Held at Sunderland Tennis Centre, the event was designed to be packed with energetic and fun activities to promote healthy and active lifestyles. Well done to everyone involved in a morning of high energy, teamwork and fun.



Children with the Dodge Ram and watching the engine demonstration

ELRING ENGINEERING VISIT

Elring Engineering recently paid an exciting visit to Bernard Gilpin Primary School, bringing along a powerful Dodge Ram to help demonstrate how a combustion engine works. The visit was part of an engaging, hands-on learning experience aimed at sparking curiosity in engineering and automotive technology. The children were fascinated as they learned about the inner workings of the engine, including how fuel and air combine to create the power that drives the vehicle. To make the experience even more memorable, the children had the chance to sit in the driver's seat of the Dodge Ram, giving them a real sense of what it's like behind the wheel of such a powerful machine. The visit was both educational and inspiring, leaving many students excited about the world of engineering. Thank you to Elring Engineering for their visit and well done to everyone involved for engaging so well on the day.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Well done to all of the children for the recent Harvest Festival celebration assemblies held in school. All year groups from Reception to Year 6 took part in performing poems and songs. A big thank you to everyone who attended these events in such large numbers and for your continued support. All of the tinned food that we received went to a local food bank - the staff there have expressed their thanks as it will be given to families in need in the local area. A special thanks to Bob for donating his allotment-grown, super-sized pumpkin to the school once again to be part of the impressive Harvest Festival display.



Showing support for #HelloYellow Spook-tacular costumes at the disco

HALLOWE'EN DISCOS

The school Hallowe'en discos returned recently and they were a 'spook-tacular' success. The children's costumes were truly terrifying and there were some fantastic moves on the dancefloor. Thank you to all those who helped to make the event a success; a special thank you to those who helped to provide the music and entertainment as well as serving drinks and snacks to the party goers.

#HELLOYELLOW DAY

On Friday 10th October, the School Council organised a #HelloYellow Day to raise money for Young Minds – a charity working to improve children and young people's mental well-being. Children and staff came to school dressed in yellow clothes and accessories to show support and to celebrate the little things that we can do to improve our well-being. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous contributions towards such a great cause.

SCHOOL ART PROJECT

This half term, children from Year 4 took part in an art workshop delivered by a talented local artist. All of the children involved thoroughly enjoyed creating their own original watercolour pencil designs inspired past moments from the Houghton Feast over the years. The individual pieces were then used to create a collaborative display - well done to everyone involved in this exciting art project.

SUNDERLAND ACTIVE GOLD AWARD

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently achieved the gold level in the Active Sunderland Charter for the eighth consecutive year. Bryan Lee from the Sunderland Active team visited school to present the gold award in a whole school assembly - the award was gratefully received by two of the schools' Sports Counsellors. The award is presented in recognition of Bernard Gilpin's high level of participation across a wide-range of competitive sporting activities, involving children from across the whole school. Huge congratulations to everyone involved in achieving the highest level in the Active Charter once again this year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half Term - School closes Friday 24th October 2025

School re-opens - Monday 3rd November 2025

Christmas Holiday - School closes Friday 19th December 2025

School re-opens - Monday 5th January 2026

School Closes for Summer - Tuesday 21st July 2026

HELPFUL WEBSITES

<https://student.readingplus.com/>

<https://www.lexiacore5.com/>

<https://oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.play.ttrockstars.com/>



HAPPY HALF TERM

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