

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

FESTIVE FUN AT BERNARD GILPIN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Some of the main cast involved the three fantastic performances of 'The Lion King'

THE LION KING - YEAR 5 AND 6

The children of Years 5 and 6 recently performed three fantastic shows of 'The Lion King.' The lead acting roles were taken by Year 6 children, with Summer superbly playing the role of Young Simba, impressing the audiences with her excellent acting skills. The part of Zazu was played fantastically by Annabelle whilst Ava impressed everyone in character as Scar, the villain of the show. Well done to all 40 children who had speaking parts in the shows as well as to Year 5 and the rest of Year 6 who provided enthusiastic vocal backing to the well-loved songs throughout the show. Well done also to all of the fantastic dancers whose excellent choreographed moves accompanied the songs to the delight of the audience members. Thank you for the fantastic support shown by everyone who attended all of the shows - a huge well done to everyone involved in making 'The Lion King' a great success.

THE NATIVITY - RECEPTION

The children in Reception performed their very own superb version of a traditional Nativity over the festive period in school, in which the children retold the Christmas story. All children involved performed amazingly well, with lovely, clear speaking voices as well as extremely enthusiastic singing throughout. A huge well done to everyone involved in the production and also to the audience, who gave such a positive response to the children's performances.

BORN IN A BARN - YEAR 1 AND 2

A big well done to the children in Years 1 and 2 for their performances of Born in a Barn. The Year 2 children took the leading roles and perfected their speaking parts. Both year groups performed some fantastic dance routines and the singing was excellent throughout. The costumes, enthusiasm and smiling faces made the show very enjoyable to watch with many parents and carers commenting on how well the children performed throughout. A big thank you to everyone for making the show a success.

IT'S A CENSUS...GET ME OUT OF HERE! - YEAR 3 AND 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 performed 'It's a Census...Get Me Out of Here!' Scarlett, Isabelle and Anais played the leading roles as presenters brilliantly, making the audience regularly laugh as they guided them through the story of the Nativity. The children took everyone to the scene of Bethlehem where Mary, Joseph, townspeople, animals, wise men, angels, shepherds and innkeepers were all played superbly by the children. Throughout the show, the Year 3 and 4 singers helped to tell the story through their excellent singing as did the group of talented dancers. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this production a great success all round, as well as to the supportive audiences during the week.



Angel Gabriel in 'The Nativity'



Cast members from 'Born in a Barn'



Actors in 'It's a Census...Get Me Out of Here!'



THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception at Gibside Hall



Year 1 at the Discovery Museum



Year 2 at the Houghton Cenotaph



Year 3 at the Oriental Museum

Reception visited Gibside Woods in relation to the taught theme of 'Twigs and Sticks.' The children enjoyed creating woodland dens and drinking hot chocolate before going on a leaf hunt to identify which trees could be found in the woods. The children then made 'Stick Man' inspired artwork with materials they found on the visit.

Year 1 visited the Discovery Museum in Newcastle to take part in a workshop entitled 'Christmas in the Toy Museum.' The children were able to handle and examine a range of toys from different time periods and compare them to toys they play with themselves. The children also enjoyed listening to the story 'Lost in the Toy Museum' before taking home their own Victorian toy.

Year 2 visited the cenotaph at St Michael's Church in Houghton, as part of the 'Remembrance Day' history unit. The children discussed how and why soldiers and the emergency services are remembered before acting out their own remembrance service. On return to school, the children wrote non-chronological reports about the history of Remembrance Day as well as creating some poppy inspired artwork.

Year 3 visited the Oriental Museum in Durham in relation to their history study of Ancient Egypt. The children took part in a workshop where they handled genuine Egyptian artefacts as well as learning the process of mumification. The children also studied the 'Weighing of the Heart' ceremony by taking part in a group role play activity.

Year 4 children visited the Hatton Art Gallery in Newcastle, where they were able to observe first-hand some famous pieces of modern art by Matt Rugg and Kurt Schwitters. The children used this as inspiration to then create their own artwork in a similar style to what they had studied closely around the recently refurbished gallery.

Year 5 visited The Great North Museum in Newcastle, in relation to the Science unit 'Earth and Space.' The children were amazed by the planetarium show, which took the them on a journey through the Solar System and beyond. The children then went on to take part in an Earth and Space related workshop within the museum, during which they developed their understanding of how life on Earth is influenced by space.

Year 6 visited SafetyWorks! in Newcastle, where they were impressed by the highly interactive safety centre. All of the children participated in a number of different real-life scenarios, all of which were specifically designed to develop personal safety awareness in realistic situations. Each of the different scenarios illustrated potential every day hazards and how best to prevent them from occurring including water safety with the RNLI, fire safety with the Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade, dealing with peer pressure with Northumbria Police as well as rail safety on the Tyne and Wear Metro.



Year 4 at the Hatton Art Gallery



Year 5 at the Great North Museum



Year 6 at SafetyWorks! In Newcastle



The choir performing a Christmas carol at Cherry Tree Gardens

COMMUNITY CHOIR SINGING

The school choir recently visited a care home in the local area, where they sang a selection of festive songs and Christmas carols beautifully. The warmth of the festive songs filled the air, bringing smiles to the residents' faces and spreading cheer throughout the room. As the choir sang well-known songs such as 'Silent Night' and 'Jingle Bells' as well as some more modern numbers like 'Merry Christmas Everyone' - many of the residents and carers joined in. The atmosphere was filled with joy and nostalgia, creating a heartwarming feeling. The children were treated to a selection of refreshments as they spent time talking to the residents and carers after the performance. Thank you to the staff at Cherry Tree Gardens for hosting the choir and a big well done to everyone involved in this festive singing success.



Children across school wearing odd socks for Odd Socks Day 2025

CHILDREN IN NEED 2025

Children in Need was another huge success this year with the school raising money for the charity. In the morning, the children participated in some mindfulness moments to practise different ways of looking after their own well-being in everyday life. A big thank you to everyone for all of your generous donations towards this excellent cause and for the 'spot-tacular' outfits worn.

ODD SOCKS DAY 2025

The school recently supported Anti-Bullying Week and this year's theme was 'Choose Respect' which focussed on building and maintaining positive relationships. The children and staff came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and what makes us unique - there were some wonderful sock combinations. Throughout the rest of the week, children across all year groups discussed ways in which they could show respect to others in school as well as in other aspects of their lives.



Showing support for Children in Need by wearing spots and yellow clothes

CHURCH CAROL SERVICES

The Christmas carol services were a great success again this year. The children of Year 5 and 6 sang superbly at St. Michael and All Angels' Church. The children of Reception, Year 1 and 2 sang superbly at the Bethany Christian Centre and on the same afternoon, the children of Years 3 and 4 returned to the Bethany Centre and sang beautifully as well. Well done to the children who also gave wonderfully clear readings during the services and thank you for the support of all who attended in large numbers - it was wonderful to see many adults singing along to the carols and festive songs with the children during the services.

POPPY APPEAL

Everyone at Bernard Gilpin Primary School took part in raising money for the Poppy Appeal once again this year. The children had the opportunity to buy traditional poppies as well as other poppy related items. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, as a fantastic total was raised for this superb cause.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Children in all year groups thoroughly enjoyed Christmas dinner recently alongside staff and a number of guests in school. Everyone enjoyed tucking into their traditional roast dinner and Christmas pudding for dessert. A huge thank you to the kitchen staff for all of their efforts in making and serving the dinner, which was delicious. There was even a visit from Santa Claus during the Christmas dinner to the delight of everyone there!



Children enjoying their Christmas Dinner and a surprise visit from Santa

CINEMA AND PARTY DAY

To celebrate another successful term, the whole school visited the cinema, where all of the children thoroughly enjoyed watching the brand new animated Disney film, 'Zootopia 2.' All of the children also enjoyed their snacks and drinks that they had whilst they were there. In the afternoon, the children enjoyed dancing and playing some traditional games at their Christmas parties, rounding off the term in style.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Holiday - Friday 19th December 2025

School re-opens - Monday 5th January 2026

Half Term - School closes Friday 20th February 2026

School Re-opens - Monday 2nd March 2026

School Closes for Summer - Tuesday 21st July 2026

ONLINE LEARNING



We are continuing to use the Reading Plus and Lexia education programmes both in school and at home. Please encourage your child to continue use these online learning tools as part of their weekly homework. Both of these programmes are invaluable in assisting the children's progress in reading across the school.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

After an another exciting and learning-filled term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

