



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 Easter edition of Bernard Gilpin Primary School's newsletter

YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO LONDON



The group thoroughly enjoyed their time on board HMS Belfast

A group of children from Year 5 and 6 recently returned from an unforgettable two day residential visit to London. From visiting iconic landmarks like the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace to enjoying a fabulous West End show, the visit was packed full of learning, excitement and memorable experiences. As part of their adventure to the capital city, Year 6 had the incredible experience of staying overnight on the historic warship, HMS Belfast. Sleeping on board this iconic World War II warship gave the children a real sense of life at sea and sparked their imaginations as they learned about its fascinating history. From exploring the ship's decks to discovering what life was like for the sailors who served on board, the stay was both educational and exciting - a real highlight of the whole visit.

Another highlight of the visit was a flight on the London Eye. The children had the chance to spot many of the city's most famous landmarks. As the pods slowly rose into the sky, children pointed out sights like the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral and the Shard. The panoramic views were amazing; it was a unique way to see the capital from a whole new perspective. The children then went to watch 'Paddington: The Musical' on the West End, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children were fantastic representatives for the school throughout the visit, making the most of every opportunity to learn outside the classroom and create lasting memories. A huge well done to everyone involved for making this a truly memorable experience.



The whole group outside the gates of Buckingham Palace



Enjoying the London Eye Flight



At the Houses of Parliament



Taking in Paddington on the West End



Admiring the iconic London skyline

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception children at Hall Hill Farm



Year 1 at Souter Lighthouse



Year 2 at the Grace Darling Museum



Year 3 observing artwork at the Hatton

Reception visited Hall Hill Farm near Lanchester in relation to their 'Living Things' theme studied in school. The children were excited to see everything farm life had to offer as they were given a guided tour of the site, during which they thoroughly enjoyed feeding the animals, especially the new born lambs. Back at school, the children were excited to watch the new ducklings hatch, helping to take care of them as they grew.

Year 1 visited Souter Lighthouse on the North Sea Coast at Whitburn as part of their 'All at Sea' Geography unit. They thoroughly enjoyed being given a guided tour around the lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper's cottage, as well as learning about the different ways ships communicated with each other in the past. The children then climbed all seventy-six steps to the very top of the lighthouse, where they used electric circuits to make their own miniature lighthouses to take home.

Year 2 visited the Grace Darling Memorial Museum in Bamburgh, linking to their History study of the RNLI. The children were fascinated to learn more about Grace Darling's famous rescue of stranded sailors in the past and they carried out role play activities in costumes to get into the character's roles. On return to school, the children wrote biographies of Grace Darling as well as their own re-telling of her famous story.

Year 3 visited the Hatton Art Gallery in Newcastle. The children were given a guided tour of the brand-new 'Happy' exhibition, before they discussed which works of art they preferred and gave excellent reasons as to why. The children then used the 'Happy' artwork as inspiration for making their own individual collages.

Year 4 visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle in relation to their Science unit of '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 on their habitat.

Year 5 visited the Durham Heritage Coastline in relation to their Geography unit on 'Coasts.' The children examined first-hand coastal defences including a sea wall, gabions and riprap, as well the effects of coastal erosion such as the formation of a sea stack at Nose's Point and sea caves at Seaham. The children also carried out an investigation to measure longshore drift on the sea front. On return to school, the children further developed their understanding of coastal erosion by identifying headlands and bays on a map of the coastline that they had visited on the day.

Year 6 visited Roseberry Topping in North Yorkshire in relation to their Geography unit on 'Hills and Mountains.' All three classes successfully took on the challenge of climbing the iconic hill to its summit of 320 metres. Once at the top, the children were able to develop their compass reading skills to find famous landmarks visible in all directions. In school, Year 6 researched the formation of mountains as well as using atlases to locate the highest peaks nationally and internationally.



Year 4 at the Great North Museum in Newcastle



Year 5 observing coastal features in Seaham



Year 6 at the iconic Roseberry Topping

LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

A live band, The Academics, recently performed in school. The group played a number of well-known pop and rock songs from throughout the ages from rock 'n' roll classics such as Johnny B. Goode through to modern hits from acts like George Ezra. The children were delighted by the performance, showing off their best dance moves throughout the show - well done to everyone involved in the performance.



The Academics and a group of children enjoying their performance

SUNDERLAND SURPRISE FOR TOBY

One Bernard Gilpin Primary School child recently had a marvellous surprise thanks to his beloved Sunderland AFC. Toby, who thought he was going with his brother Thomas to take part in a quiz at the Beacon of Light, actually got to meet Trai Hume and Dan Ballard, his two favourite players. Toby is currently living with Perthes disease, a rare condition which affects the hip bone and mobility, making playing his favourite sport impossible. His two footballing heroes spent time playing games, gave him a signed Sunderland shirt and delighted Toby by informing him that he would be leading the team out as a mascot alongside Trai Hume when Sunderland played against Brighton at the Stadium of Light a few days later. Toby also happened to be joined by Jude, another BGPS pupil, as a mascot on the day of the match.



Big smiles for Toby as he leads Sunderland AFC out against Brighton

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

On Thursday 5th March, everybody in school celebrated stories and a love of reading by dressing up as a favourite book character for World Book Day. The children shared their favourite authors and book recommendations with the rest of their class. Many thanks to everyone involved for all of the effort put into the costumes, which were absolutely fantastic. Every child also received a special World Book Day story of their choice to take home.



A selection of the costumes worn across the school for World Book Day

YEAR 4 SKIPPING FESTIVAL

Year 4 recently took part in the annual Skipping Festival at the Beacon of Light, having put a great deal of effort into learning a range of individual, paired and group skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their skipping technique and represented the school brilliantly with their positive attitude and encouragement of others. Well done to everyone involved, including those who received bronze, silver and gold awards for their efforts on the day.



The Year 4 Skipping Team



The Year 4 & 5 Dance Team

COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY 2026

On Friday 20th March, the school celebrated Red Nose Day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Children and staff came to school dressed in red as well as wearing a range of Red Nose Day items including funny noses, glasses, boppers and wigs to turn laughs into lasting change and help those in need. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous donations towards this great cause.

YEAR 4 AND 5 DANCE FESTIVAL

This half term, the amazing Year 4 and 5 dance team took part in a dance festival held at Kepier School. The dance, which was to the soundtrack of 'Zootopia 2', was inspired by their love of music and dancing with their friends. The effort and commitment showed during rehearsals was fantastic and resulted in an amazing performance on the night. Well done to the children involved and thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support them and cheer the dancers on during the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Holiday - School closes Thursday 2nd April 2026

School Re-opens - Monday 20th April 2026

Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May 2026

KS2 SATs week - Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May 2026

Half Term - School closes Friday 22nd May 2026

School Re-opens - Monday 1st June 2026

Summer Holiday - School closes Tuesday 21st July 2026

HAPPY EASTER

After another successful and learning-filled term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 20th April 2026 for another exciting term.

