



**Bernard Gilpin Primary School**  
Dream Believe Achieve

July 2026

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

## **FOOTBALL FREESTYLER, ASH RANDAL, VISITS BGPS**



**Ash Randall's freestyle skills amazed children from across the school**

Bernard Gilpin Primary School was pleased to welcome football freestyler and multiple world record holder Ash Randall for a full day of activities, giving children the opportunity to see first-hand the dedication and perseverance required to achieve success at the highest level of sport. The day began with a whole-school performance, during which Ash demonstrated his impressive range of football tricks and routines, before every class took part in a workshop where children practised a variety of skills, challenged themselves and developed their confidence in a fun and supportive environment. The sessions encouraged teamwork, resilience and a positive attitude towards learning, while also highlighting the importance of regular practice and determination. The visit provided a memorable experience for children across the school and offered valuable insight into the commitment behind Ash's achievements.

## **JEFF RICH DRUMMING WORKSHOP AT BERNARD GILPIN**

Everyone at Bernard Gilpin Primary School enjoyed a memorable musical experience when Jeff Rich, former drummer of rock band Status Quo, visited to deliver an interactive workshop exploring the history and development of drums and percussion. Throughout the session, Jeff demonstrated a wide range of drumming techniques, showcasing the skill and dedication required to perform at the highest level of professional music. Children were captivated by his performances and enjoyed learning about the different sounds and rhythms that percussion instruments can create. The workshop culminated in a large-scale percussion performance alongside Jeff, with every child taking part to create an impressive piece of music that highlighted excellent listening skills, teamwork and enthusiasm. The highly interactive nature of the session ensured that all children were fully involved, making it an engaging and enjoyable experience for everyone.



**Jeff Rich on his visit to school to deliver a drumming masterclass**

## **LONG EARS DONKEY RESCUE CENTRE VISITS BERNARD GILPIN**



**Year 3 spending time with donkeys from the rescue centre**

As part of a wellbeing-focused visit exploring the benefits of animal therapy, children learned about the important role that animals can play in supporting emotional well-being, reducing stress and encouraging positive social interactions. The visit also provided an opportunity to find out more about the work of the rescue centre and the care and attention required to look after donkeys. The experience prompted thoughtful discussion about kindness, empathy and the positive impact that animals can have on people's lives. Building on the success of the visit, each year group has now adopted its own rescue donkey, strengthening the school's connection with Long Ears Donkey Rescue and giving children the opportunity to follow the progress of the animals throughout the year.

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



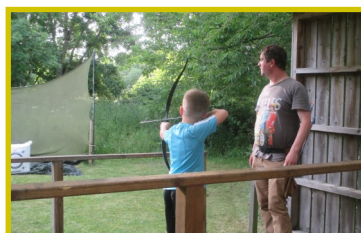
Children from Year 3 recently returned from an action-packed, two day residential at The Hub. The fantastic facilities, located at Barnard Castle, gave the children the opportunity to try their hand at archery, climbing the high ropes course, orienteering, keeping fit on the outdoor gym equipment, developing 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 everyone for these memorable two days.



The outdoor gym equipment



Taking on the high ropes challenge



Going for gold in the archery session



Toasting marshmallows on the fire

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 museums visited. Well done to everyone for making this a memorable two day residential visit.



Observing the archaeological dig



Enjoying creating Roman artwork



Experiencing life as a Roman archer



Experiencing a Roman soldier's life



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 enjoyed their time on the beach at Boggle Hole, where they searched in rock pools for interesting sea creatures in the 'Seashore Safari'

# SPORTS WEEK 2026 A SUPER SUCCESS AT BERNARD GILPIN



Year 4 tennis at Barnes Park



Year 6 athletics at Silksworth

**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 and 3 children** visited Hetton Community Swimming Pool and Wellness Centre where they undertook a water safety course before thoroughly enjoying a fun swimming session with organised races, games and toys.

**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.

**Year 6** 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 competing for fun and comparing results with world records.



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

There were many other sporting activities for the children to enjoy during Sports Week including netball, tennis, cricket, football, yoga, orienteering 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. After all of the results were recorded and counted, Kerr House team came in first place overall, closely followed by Travers in second place. A huge well done to everyone involved in this week of sporting success across the whole school.

## 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, the U.K. 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.



Reception at Sunderland Minster



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 extend 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



The football A-team and girls' team with their trophies won this season

## END OF SEASON FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Another hugely successful year of football at Bernard Gilpin Primary School was rounded off in style with two trophies. Firstly, the school A-Team were crowned champions of the Hetton and Lambton A-League after a highly impressive season during which they only lost two games. On the same night, the girls' team were victorious in the final of the Hetton and Lambton Cup after a win in the final. A huge well done to both teams for their success and for representing the school in an excellent sporting manner throughout the year.



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

## SUNDERLAND DANCE FESTIVAL

A large group of Year 6 children recently participated in the Sunderland Schools Dance Festival. This annual event, held at The Empire Theatre, was a fantastic opportunity for the dancers to demonstrate their skills linking to this year's theme of 'Heroes and Villains.' The children performed a superb, well-rehearsed and high-energy routine to the dance track 'Titanium.' 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 on the big stage in front of a packed theatre.



Children in school with their attendance awards for this academic year

## HM COASTGUARD WATER SAFETY

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently welcomed members of the HM Coastguard, who visited to deliver an informative and engaging talk on the importance of water safety. During the session, children learned how to stay safe near the coast, rivers and open water, as well as the vital role played by coastguards in protecting and rescuing those in difficulty. They also developed their understanding of the different water safety flags and the important messages they communicate to the public. The visit provided children with a range of practical experiences, including the opportunity to handle lifesaving equipment used by rescue teams. A particular highlight of the day was the chance to explore the rescue vehicle, with children enjoying the opportunity to sit inside and sound the alarm. The session was both educational and memorable, helping to reinforce important safety messages in an interactive and enjoyable way.

## SCHOOL GAMES PLATINUM AWARD

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently achieved the School Games Platinum Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community - well done to everyone involved in the award of the highest level of achievement possible.



Children in the rescue vehicle The School Games Platinum Award



## SUMMER DISCOS

The ever-popular summer discos returned recently and they were a fun-filled success, with the children from Reception to Year 6 demonstrating their fantastic moves on the dancefloor. Thank you to all those who helped to make the event such a success; a special thank you to everyone who helped to provide the music and entertainment as well as serving drinks and snacks to the party goers.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

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.

## 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 **Thursday 3rd September 2026**.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Summer Holiday** - School closes Tuesday 21st July 2026  
**INSET Days** - Tuesday 1st/Wednesday 2nd September 2026  
**School re-opens** - Thursday 3rd September 2026  
**Half Term** - School closes Friday 23rd October 2026  
**School re-opens** - Monday 2nd November 2026  
**Christmas Holiday** - School closes Friday 18th December 2026  
**School re-opens** - Monday 4th January 2027