

# Autumn Times

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

## DERWENT HILL RESIDENTIAL



Low and High rope course



Mountain walk



Gorge walking

Children from years 4, 5 and 6 have recently returned from a fantastic visit to Derwent Hill in the Lake District. This outward bound residential was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop awareness of, and respect for themselves, other people and the environment.

The children had an action packed week in the sun and participated in canoeing, rock climbing, gorge walking, a mountain walk and orienteering. They all challenged themselves on the low and high ropes course, a night walk aimed at developing map reading skills and the big swing—a highlight for most of them.

## THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Foundation Stage visited Gibside. They have been learning about Autumn and reading books such as *Stickman*, *The Gruffalo* and *Percy the Park Keeper*. They listened to the *Stickman* story in the woods and collected some leaves and twigs to make their own back at school.

Year 1 visited Wallington House. They visited the rooms and compared the different objects they found to the objects found in their own homes. They looked at the features of the outside of the house and used the information to write an advertisement for an estate agents back in school.

Year 2 were lucky to have a visit from the fire service where they learned all about current fire fighting techniques. Back in the classroom they have been comparing these to the techniques used during the Great Fire of London in 1666. They also visited Newcastle to find out about the Great Fire of Newcastle.

Year 3 have been studying the cross curricular theme of Ancient Egypt. On our first educational visit, we studied Ancient Egyptian artefacts including a real mummy and a replica of the Rosetta stone. On return to school, we wrote detailed instructions on how to make a mummy and wrote messages.

Year 4 Visited the ancient Roman fort of Arbeia in South Shields. Whilst there we investigated what life would've been like for a Roman soldier serving at the fort during this time period in history. We took turns standing guard on the West Gate of the fort, and had to imagine how the soldiers would've felt protecting their fellow soldiers from the invading Celts. We all enjoyed our superb visit and brought our learning back into the classroom when we wrote a recount of the day using historical facts within our writing.

Year 5 experienced what life was like in Norman times, when they had an amazing visit to Durham Castle. They had a guided tour of the castle and visited the archaeological museum to see Norman artefacts. In order to see another stunning example of Norman architecture the children also visited Durham Cathedral in addition to researching the Normans. They also found out all about the the lives of the Northern Saints.

Year 6 classes have visited BBC Newcastle this term, where they had a fascinating 'behind the scenes' tour. This Educational Visit was linked to their cross-curricular theme of weather, and the children were able to stand in front of the cameras and have a go at presenting the weather themselves. They were also able to try on costumes, read from scripts and produce sound effects for a radio show.



Year Two fire fighting



Year Four at Arbeia



Year six at BBC Newcastle

## GOLD AWARD FOR SPORT



We are pleased to inform you that our school has been awarded the Sainsbury's Schools Games GOLD award. Over the last few years our school has participated in many school games events and festivals. We offer a broad and balanced P.E. curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular sporting activities. Currently, there are many projects up and running including futsal, judo and kick-boxing. Our annual Sports Week contributed to this outstanding achievement offering our children a range of on-site activities including archery, futsal, tennis, dancing, kick-boxing, judo, gymnastics, football and rugby. In addition to this, pupils were also involved in off-site activities, such as surfing at the Florider, horse riding, skiing, karting, bowling and swimming. The GOLD award reflects our investment and commitment to sport and physical education. Congratulations to Mr Bainbridge and the staff and coaches who lead P.E. in school.

## NUMBERS RISING

Thank you to all the families who have continued to support the school. Our numbers on role have risen significantly over the past three years. Many thanks to all those who are spreading the good word amongst the community about the school. This is having a very positive effect on numbers which will enable us to continue to develop the school and further improve the education of all pupils.

## NEW STARTERS

A big welcome to the families and children in Reception classes and to other new families across the school. The children have settled really well, and are thoroughly enjoying the new challenges and opportunities at school.



## GOOD DIABETES IN SCHOOL AWARD

The school has been nominated to receive a Good Diabetes in school care award. This scheme celebrates and showcases a school that deliver good care and support to children with Type 1 Diabetes. Please follow the link if you would like to support the nomination [www.surveymonkey.com/r/school](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/school) nomination.



## BERNARD BEAR TODDLER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On 7th September Bernard Bear Toddler Group celebrated their second birthday. They shared a birthday cake, and the children enjoyed playing in the large ball pool. Some parents/carers have been using the Toddler group since it has opened. The team would like to thank them for their continued support and to the new parents/carers who have joined. We hope the children who have left to go to school and nursery settle quickly.

Toddlers enjoying printing and painting autumn leaves



## SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE AWARD FOR DEMENTIA

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded a national award by the Alzheimer's Society in recognition of our intergenerational work with people with dementia and their carers. The award was for Best Dementia Friendly Educational Initiative and was presented to staff at a ceremony in Trinity House, Tower Hill, London by the Alzheimer's ambassador, Angela Rippon OBE.

Mrs Bainbridge and Miss Bridle receiving the award from Angela Rippon at a ceremony in London



## DEMENTIA ACTIVITIES

Our activities for people with dementia and their carers take place in The Living Room every Tuesday afternoon from 1 p.m. until 2.30 p.m. Every session is different with activities including singing, dancing and sharing food. Come and join us. For more information please contact the school.

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS



In the final week of the summer term a record number of children received an award for 100% attendance during the year. Rosa has had 100% attendance for four years.

## HOUGHTON DASH

As part of the Houghton Feast, a huge local celebration within the community, a team of 4 year 5/6 children took part in the Houghton Dash, a run taking place from Houghton Library to St Michael and All Angels Church. All of the children completed the race in a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed competing against other local primary schools in the area.

Year 6 with their lanterns during Houghton Feast. The girls were very proud of their efforts



## HOUGHTON FEAST

Some children from Year 6 were fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an artist to create lanterns for Houghton Feast opening ceremony. A group of children then represented our school, carrying these lanterns in the Friday night parade. It was an extremely enjoyable experience, and lovely to continue the tradition.

## EXCITING ADDITION TO THE GARDEN

A hundred year old beech log has been brought to school to enhance the Foundation Stage Garden. It was delivered on a low loader and all of the children watched as it was manoeuvred over the fence. Foundation Stage and Year One children have had a great time climbing on it, and using their tools. We already have lots of ideas about what it can be used for.



## CLUBS ARE BOOMING

Monday	Lego - Mrs Russell, Miss Cumming	Drills for skills - Mr Winter, Miss Royal	Martial Arts - Steve Ritson
Tuesday	Ballet - Abbie Brown & Miss Royal	Brazilian Football skills - Fast Feet	Movie Night - Mrs Archibald
Wednesday	Cookery Club - Mrs Walters, Mrs Martin, Miss Craggs & Miss	Dance - Miss Royal & Miss Milne	Football - Mr Bainbridge & Mr Winter
Thursday	Brazilian Football skills - Fast Feet	Gymnastics - Miss Royal & Miss Milne	ICT - Mr Berry, & Miss Bridle
Friday	Judo/Martial Arts - Kevin Pattinson and Steve Ritson	School of Rock - Mr Nichol & Mrs Archibald	Shooting for hoops - Miss Bushby & Miss Milne

### P.E. TUESDAY– WINTER IS APPROACHING

The whole school will continue to be taught P.E. on a Tuesday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their school P.E. kit including their tracksuit to keep them warm and a change of socks and footwear (in their kit bag).

### TWO WHEELED TUESDAY

Just a reminder that the Two Wheeled Tuesday scheme is still running. Please note, bikes now need to be taken to the year 5 and 6 entrance (at the back of the school). Each time a child comes to school on 'two wheels' their name is entered into a prize draw.

### INDOOR ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Ten boys and ten girls from Years 5 and 6 recently represented the school in the annual Indoor Athletics competition held at Houghton Kepier. The athletics team performed superbly in the track events, winning all but one of their heats. This theme continued in the field events where a number of the children placed first on their activities. All of the children performed superbly and were a credit to the school on the day and have progressed to the finals.

### FOOTBALL NEWS

The A Team remain unbeaten without conceding a single goal so far after playing their first fixtures of the season at Eppleton Primary. During the first game against a strong Dubmire side the chances were few and far between and the boys came away with a well earned draw. Goals from Jack and Jackson saw the side through to their first victory of the campaign with a win being achieved over Eppleton Primary. In the final game the team battled their way to a 0-0 draw against Newbottle, thus remaining unbeaten. The B team have also played their first matches of the season, and are learning about their positions and the game all the time. After two defeats from the opening two games they stormed back to a 3-3 draw in the final match. A superb solo dribble and finish from Joe and a thunderbolt from Jamie being the highlights of a well fought match.



Look forward to seeing you play for a Premier team in the future.

### VISITING POET—NICK TOCZEK

Many thanks to everyone for their generous support of our cake sale. It was a tremendous success with many delicious treats donated and bought. This enabled us to welcome Nick Toczek into school. He shared some poems and entertained us with magic and puppets. Then Nick worked with the children to give us some excellent ideas for writing our own poems. He even taught us a couple of magic tricks! All the children had an excellent day.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half term**— school closes Friday 23rd October  
**School re-opens** - Monday 2nd November  
**School photographs** - Thursday 12th November  
**Parents/Carers Back to school day** –Thursday 3rd December  
**Christmas Fayre** - Friday 4th December  
**Christmas week activities** - 15th December-19th December  
**Foundation Stage Nativity** - Monday 14th December 1:45p.m.

**Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity** - Tuesday 15th December 1:45 p.m.  
**Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert** - Tuesday 15th December 6 p.m.  
**Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity** - Wednesday 16th December 9:15 a.m.  
**Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert** - Wednesday 16th December 1:30 p.m.

**Whole school Christmas carols** - Thursday 17th December—10:00 a.m. Bethany church

**Key Stage 2 Christmas carols** - Thursday 17th December 2:00 p.m. St Michael and All Angels

**Cinema day and Christmas parties** - Friday 18th December  
**Christmas holiday** - school closes Friday 18th December  
**Inset** - Monday 4th January 2015

**School re-opens** - Tuesday 5th January 2016  
**SATs week** - 9th—12th May

### DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Times for our celebratory Dream, Believe and Achieve Assemblies will remain the same:  
 EYFS and KS1 (Reception to Year 2) will be Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.  
 KS2 (Years 3 to 6) will be every Friday at 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

If you want to help your children at home, we have purchased licenses for:  
[www.bernardgilpin.com](http://www.bernardgilpin.com)  
 Reading – [www.lexialearning.com](http://www.lexialearning.com)  
**username is the one your child uses in school.**  
 Maths – [www.interactive-resources.co.uk](http://www.interactive-resources.co.uk)  
**username: bernard password: Gilpin**  
 - <http://nrich.maths.org/public/>  
 - [sumdog.com](http://sumdog.com)  
 Touch Typing - [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/)

### HARVEST CELEBRATION

Thank you to all of the staff and all the children for two fantastic Harvest Festival celebrations. There were poems and songs by each class then a final song by all the children together. Thank you to the parents/carers who attended. Thank you to the kitchen staff who provided a cup of soup for parents/carers attending. All the tinned food we received was sent to the Salvation Army. The staff there expressed their thanks and it will be given to families in 'need' in Sunderland.

### HALLOWE'EN DISCO

The Halloween disco was a huge success – the costumes were fantastic, and the children were unrecognisable. Thank you to all the friends of Bernard Gilpin who made the event such a success. Thank you to Mr Berry and his Year 6 DJ's for the music and entertainment.

### S AFC COMMUNITY COURSE

S AFC have been running a Family Learning Course in school. It has been attended by parents/carers and children from Reception and Year One. Parents/Carers attend for the first hour and learn about how to support their child with numeracy skills. Then they are joined by their child for games and activities. The course will end with a graduation ceremony at the Stadium of Light. All families will receive tickets for a home match.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council would like to thank everyone for bringing in Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. We collected over 4000 and exchanged them for skipping ropes, footballs and gardening equipment.

### HAPPY HALF TERM

After a really exciting start to the term we would like to wish you all a safe and restful half term holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school after the holidays on Monday 2nd November.