

Exciting Times

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The staff at Bernard Gilpin Primary School would like to wish all parents/carers, families and friends a healthy and happy new year.

SCHOOL RANKED AS ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN SUNDERLAND

The Real Schools Guide has ranked Bernard Gilpin Primary School within the top four in Sunderland. The guide gives a more comprehensive picture of schools. It factors in 42 different sets of data including SATs results, pupil to teacher ratios and absence rates. The Real School Guide aims to measure beyond Key Stage 2 results and give parents/carers an indication

of which schools will help their child succeed regardless of their starting point. The report analyses whether all children are making progress and whether pupils are doing better than expected. The Schools Minister, David Laws said, "Its vital that we continue to raise standards so that all children can leave primary school with a thorough grounding in reading, writing and maths."

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Foundation Stage at Stowell Street

Year 1 at Shildon Railway Museum



Year 2 at the RNLI lifeboat station



Year 5 visited Betty Surtees' house

Foundation Stage visited Stowell Street to support their learning about Chinese New Year. They started their walk at the gate to Stowell Street and looked at the signs, lanterns and decorations ready for the New Year celebration. They also visited the supermarket and were able to buy some authentic food to eat back in school. Afterwards they visited the Discovery Museum and spent time in the interactive science display.

Year 1 have been learning about transport. They went on a visit to Shildon Railway Museum and looked at a variety of old trains. We were lucky to be able to go inside a train and have a look at the engine as well as learn about the roles of a train driver and a conductor. Back in the classroom we have been comparing old and new trains.

Year Two took a visit to Roker to support their learning about seaside rescue. They had a tour of the RNLI lifeboat station and sat in the rescue boats, they walked along the pier and even spotted 5 different lighthouses! They have also been learning about the story of Grace Darling's daring rescue, so they travelled up to Bamburgh to the Grace Darling Museum. They looked at lots of amazing artefacts, including the actual coble that she used to row out to the wreck of the S.S. Forfarshire. They also enjoyed dressing up and acting out the story.

Year 3 have been studying the cross curricular theme of Ancient Greece. On our educational visit to the Great North Museum, we studied ancient artefacts including Greek vases and statues of Greek gods. On return to school, we wrote our own myths based on what we had seen.

Both Year 3 classes also visited B&Q where the children worked with a partner to solve real life word problems. The children enjoyed finding items in the different sections of the store and working out problems such as total costs.



Year 4 at Holy Island

Year 3 at Sainsbury's

Year 4 visited Holy Island on an educational visit this half term to discover one of the major sites of the Viking invasion of Britain. Whilst there they discussed numerous aspects based on their theme of the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings. The children discussed what life would've been like for a monk living in the priory during this period of history and why the Vikings decided to invade our country. This discussion work has then been used to produce some collaborative wall displays within the classroom. The visit also gave the children the opportunity to discuss the bravery of the Viking invaders.

Year 5 stepped back in time when they visited Bessie Surtees' House in Newcastle to support their Cross Curricular learning about Elizabethan Explorers. They also completed a Maths trail along Newcastle Quayside. To develop their understanding about Earth and Space, the children took part in a Mission to Mars workshop at the Hancock Museum and also learnt more about the Earth, Sun and Moon by visiting the Planetarium there.

Year 6 have recently visited the Heugh Gun Battery Museum in Hartlepool, which supported their learning about World War 1. Hartlepool was the scene of a vicious bombardment by German warships in 1914, with many civilian casualties and saw the death of the first British soldier to die on home soil in the Great War. The children were able to experience what life was like in the trenches, try on uniforms and handle equipment. This experience enabled the children to write some excellent newspaper reports about this historic event.



Year 6 at the Heugh Gun Battery Museum

CLUBS ARE BOOMING

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

All clubs begin at 3:15 p.m. and end at 4:15 p.m. All children need to be collected afterwards by a responsible adult from the main entrance.

P.E. TUESDAY - WINTER IS HERE

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 remember, bikes need to be taken to the P.E. changing room 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.

NETBALL NEWS

The new High Five netball team got off to a great start at Farrington Community Academy, despite having very little training because of recent poor weather. We won one game 1:0, and lost the three other games, but only by one goal each time! We look forward to watching their progress in other matches.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

So far this year the girls football team have had just two 6-a-side fixtures in which they lost 2-1 to East Herrington and won 5-0 against Shiney Row. Rosa and Ellie were our goal scorers on the night with 4 and 2 respectively.

BERNARD BEARS TODDLER GROUP

Since the group returned after Christmas there has been new families joining each week. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have spread the good word about the group. Bernard Bears Toddler group got the New Year off to a great start with activities such as a ball pool and pizza making. The children made and decorated chefs hats and wore them whilst they cooked their pizzas. Of course the best fun was in eating them. Favourites such as crafts, playdough and sand are available every week for the children to use. Join us next half term, for Mother's day and Easter activities, as well as World Book day. Please look at the website for specific dates.



Toddlers enjoying playing in the sand



Toddlers making pizzas

S.A.F.C LITERACY PROJECT

Children and parents/carers in Foundation Stage and Year One have been taking part in the SAFC community literacy project. They have been learning about how to support their child's literacy skills through football based activities. They are looking forward to their visit to the Stadium of Light at the end of 12 weeks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Members of the School Council are currently creating a "Children's Zone" for the school website. If you have any ideas for features or content for these web pages please pass them on to a School Councillor or Mr Berry.

NUMBERS RISING

Thank you to all of the families who have continued to support the school. Our numbers on roll have continued to rise. 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 children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School closes for half term - Friday 12th February

School re-opens - Monday 22nd February

World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

Parent/Carer Review Meetings - Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th March

KS2 Skiing residential - Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March

Back to School Day - Thursday 17th March— a.m.

Easter Bonnet Parade (KS1) - Monday 21st March at 2.50 p.m.

School closes for Easter holidays - Wednesday 23rd March

Easter School (Year 6) - Monday 4th - Friday 8th April

School re-opens - Monday 11th April

Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd May

SATs week -9th May– 12th May

School closes for half term - Friday 27th May

School re-opens - Monday 6th June

School closes for summer holiday - Wednesday 20th July

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:

Reading – www.bernardgilpin.com

Reading – www.lexialearning.com

username is the one your child uses in school.

Maths – www.interactive-resources.co.uk

username: bernard password: Gilpin

- <http://nrch.maths.org/public/>

- sumdog.com

Touch Typing -www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/

DEMENTIA AWARENESS

The Dementia group have enjoyed lots of varied activities this half term, from singing, dancing, Dementia café to a visit from Billy Wright. Billy's father was Arthur Wright the Sunderland footballer. Billy brought memorabilia from his father's collection such as his England caps, medals and photographs. The memorabilia brought happy memories of fashions, Sunderland town centre and the shops. Some representatives from the school girls and boys football team came too. They enjoyed trying on the caps and looking at the photos. Please look on the Dementia link of the school website for activities planned for the next half term.

Pupils trying on the England caps



VALENTINE'S DISCO

A fun time was had by all at the Valentine disco. Thank you to Mr Berry and the Year 6 children who were the D.J.'s on the night. They played lots of great music and there were some super dance moves. Thank you to the Friends of Bernard Gilpin School who arranged and organised the tickets and refreshments. All money raised will be used to support activities within school.

RNLI FUNDRAISING

A splashing time was had during 'Wear your Wellies to School Day' when staff and pupils alike all wore their wellies to school. We raised money for the RNLI, which is the charity that aims, through their lifeboats, lifeguards and safety advice, to end preventable loss of life at sea. Many thanks for your continued support.

EASTER BONNET PARADE

On Monday 21st March at 2.50 p.m. Reception and Year One children will be taking part in an Easter Bonnet parade. They will be reciting poems and singing songs. Please could you make and decorate a bonnet/hat for your child to wear. Younger children can wear a bonnet too.

SCHOOL MEAL INCENTIVES

As part of an incentive scheme across the City, the Schools Meals Service had a promotional day. The children enjoyed a lunch of 'posh dogs' served in a golden box. One child in each year group had the golden ticket in their box. These children received a bag of specially prepared biscuits. Their names have been entered into a draw with children from other schools. The prizes are cinema tickets, tickets for the Sunderland match and a signed strip. Well done to these children Morgana, Callum, Ben, Lily, John, Bethany and Molly who won the special biscuits.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy half term holiday.