

Autumn Times

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

GREAT NEWS – SUNDERLAND LIGHTS COME TO BERNARD GILPIN

Over half term every light in school will be replaced with new LED ones giving a brighter and more environmentally friendly environment for all the children. We are very grateful to Sunderland Council for their help with this project.

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Foundation Stage at Castle Eden Dene



Foundation Stage visited Castle Eden Dene. They went on a hunt to find Stickman and his family tree. They found lots of conkers, pine corns and acorns and will be using them in their art work back in school.



Year 1 at Wallington Hall

Year 1 visited Wallington Hall. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at the inside and outside of the house. They were fascinated by the collection of dolls houses. They sketched the house and enjoyed counting the windows and doors. Their second visit was to the Great North Museum in Newcastle. The children were given evidence bags with clues in. Afterwards they completed a piece of factual writing about the artefacts they found.

Year 2 had an exciting visit to Marley Potts fire station to find out about the modern day fire service. This was linked to their Cross Curricular theme, The Great Fire of London, where they learnt about how the fire was eventually put out using less effective methods. The visit enabled them to compare the past with the present and they were able to talk about similarities and differences between now and then.

Year 3 visited the Great North Museum to explore facts about their history topic Ancient Egypt. Whilst there, they also were able to understand different habitats for animals as part of their Science topic. The children also visited Sainsbury's which allowed them to use mental maths skills in real-life situations.

Year 5 at Silkworth track



Year 4 at Arbeia Fort, South Shields



Year 2 at the Fire Station



Year 3 at the Great North Museum

Year 4 visited Arbeia Fort in South Shields, where they experienced what life was like as a Roman soldier. Their favourite part of the day was when they were given the opportunity to stand on guard at the top of the West Gate, imagining how the soldiers would've felt protecting their fellow soldiers from the invading Celts. They all enjoyed our superb visit and brought their learning back into the classroom when they wrote a recount of the day using historical facts within their writing.

Year 5 have enjoyed studying '1066 and All That' in Cross Curricular lessons. In relation to this theme, the children went on an educational visit to Helmsley Castle in North Yorkshire where they studied first hand the scale and importance of Norman Castles in this period of history. Both Year 5 classes also visited Silkworth Athletic Track where they competed in a 'Mini Olympics' competition including the 100m sprint, the long jump and shot put. The children measured and recorded their results before returning to school where they rounded to the nearest second, worked out averages and drew bar charts compared to world records.

Year 6 have had the opportunity to learn about water safety, in situ at South Shields, although it was quite chilly, wet suits kept everybody warm. The children had great fun and learned some valuable lessons. The children were also fortunate enough to visit the BBC studios in Newcastle. They were shown how programmes were made, and even had chance to present the weather. There was also the opportunity to meet Colin Briggs, who reads the news.

Bethany at the BBC weather studio trying her hand at being a weather presenter.



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.



Making new friends at school

NUMBERS RISING

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

SCHOOL REFURBISHMENT

During the holidays large parts of the school were refurbished. Both sets of toilets used by Key Stage

Two were gutted. New toilets, sinks, cubicles and hand dryers were installed. The tiles were removed and they have been freshly painted. All of the children have commented on the toilets, they are fresh, clean, eco friendly and have been fitted with mirrors. A huge thank you to the contractors and Mr Byers and Mr Teasdale who spent many hours making sure this work was completed by the start of the new term.



Two classrooms have also been refurbished. Due to the rising numbers of children in school the Booster room and ICT rooms are being used as teaching classrooms. Year Five children have been given a state of the art interactive whiteboard in their classroom.

The children are delighted with their new environment. The Key Stage Two classrooms have also been fitted out with benches so that they each have three new computers in. The children use these to further support the learning in the classroom.



RUNNERS UP IN GARDEN CENTRE PRIZE

In the Summer term the children in Foundation Stage were given a selection of gardening equipment donated by Stewarts Garden Centre. This included watering cans, seeds, pots and propagators. The children set to planting and looking after their seedlings. Many children were able to take their plants home to put in their garden. Mrs O'Mara documented their learning in a journal. This was sent to the company. We were awarded second place and the school has received a £100 voucher to spend at our local garden centre. Well done to the green fingered children now in Year One.

BERNARD BEAR TODDLER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On 5th September Bernard Bear Toddler Group celebrated their third 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 in the past few weeks. It is lovely to see so many of the children from the group now in our Foundation Stage class. The Toddlers have been making the most of the warm September weather and have been playing outdoors. They have been busy making Hallowe'en crafts, ready for their fancy dress party. Scales and Tails visited and brought a range of animals for the children to see including a hedgehog, spider and centipede. The activities and details of the Christmas party will be on the website. Please tell family and friends about the group.

A Toddler doing Hallowe'en crafts



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. Each week there are different activities. These have included singing with Catherine l'Anson Clough, watching the Buddy Holly story, sharing fish and chips, bingo, gentle exercise and celebrating Houghton Feast with a bowl of broth. Weekly activities and news of the group are on the school's website. Please tell friends and family about the group.

Year 4 children joining in with singing and dancing.



NEW RESOURCES IN SCHOOL

Every class in school has been given a set of artefacts to use. These range from a 2ft horse statue, a large suitcase to a replica of a Japanese soldier. The purpose of the huge investment is to support and enhance children's learning. The horse will be used by Year 6 children as a stimulus for writing when they read the Michael Morpurgo story War Horse. The children in Year 1 have two large elephants. They will be used when they study India. They will be a stimulus for art and creative writing.



In Foundation Stage the children have resources to use both inside the classroom and outdoors. Three new sit-on diggers have proved very popular as the children use them to support their learning outdoors, they have been busy digging and looking for dinosaur bones. Every class has been resourced with new reading books, and other equipment to support phonics and spelling. Maths resources have been purchased and the children have been using things such as trundle wheels in the yard and logic puzzles in the class. The staff and children are very appreciative of the huge investment and have thanked Mr Bainbridge.



R.N.L.I. ASSEMBLY

The children were invited into an R.N.L.I. assembly led by Joe and Grace, two lifeguards who wanted to share the message about being safe around water. Lots of resources such as flags, clothing, helmets, water aids were brought and shown to the children. They learnt how to find the flag that shows them a safe place to swim, how to call for help and how to stay safe by always being with a friend or adult. At the end of the assembly, some volunteers dressed up as lifeguards.

Aaron, Jessica and Chloe dressed as lifeguards.



FUNDRAISING

This half term we were really excited to raise money for Lepra. This is an international charity that saves lives by fighting the disease, leprosy, along with poverty and prejudice. The children took part in a fun workout and all the money raised will support Lepra to give health care and information to save lives. Thank you for your continued support.



HARVEST CELEBRATION

Thank you to the staff and the children for two fantastic Harvest Festival celebrations. Mr Nichol, Mrs Stevenson, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Bainbridge have been helping the children learn the songs during assembly time. 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 Streetcare charity. The staff there expressed their thanks and it will be given to families in need in Sunderland.

HALLOWE'EN DISCO

The Hallowe'en 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 the School Council DJ's for the music and entertainment.

CLUB INFORMATION

Monday	Lego - Mrs Russell, Mr Pitt	Drills for skills - Mr Winter,	Martial Arts - Steve Ritson
Tuesday	Ballet - SAFC dance teacher	Brazilian Football skills - Fast Feet	Movie Night - Mrs Archibald
Wednesday	Cookery Club - Mr Pitt, Mrs Martin, Miss Craggs & Mrs Stevenson	Dance - Miss Soden and Miss Huitson	Football - Mr Bainbridge & Mr Winter
Thursday	Brazilian Football skills - Fast Feet	Gymnastics - Miss Smith & 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 Soden

All clubs start at 3.15 p.m. and finish at 4.15p.m. Please pick all children up from the main entrance.

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 Kepier. The athletics team performed superbly in the track events, winning a number of events and being placed highly in others. This theme continued in the field events where a number of the children being placed very highly. When the points totals of all schools were collated we managed to once again qualify for the Sunderland City Finals. All of the children performed superbly and were a credit to the school on the day.

FOOTBALL NEWS

Both the A and B team are currently performing really well in the Hetton and Lambton Leagues. The A team having played 5 games thus far, winning two, losing two and drawing one. The B Team remain unbeaten in their league having played three games so far, winning all three in emphatic style. The B team also remain unbeaten in the Sunderland Schools League having drawn their opening match. The future for football at Bernard Gilpin Primary looks really strong as the boys and girls competing continue to act as superb ambassadors to the younger children in school. Well done both teams, fingers crossed for some silverware this season.



LIBRARY VISIT



Some of the children in Year 2 were lucky enough to visit Houghton Library to meet author and illustrator Simon Bartram, who wrote Man on the Moon. The children got to see examples of his work, starting with the drawings he was doing when he was in primary school. They also heard all about

his work for Sunderland AFC and he showed them how to draw an alien step by step. Everyone had a wonderful time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half term– school closes Friday 21st October

School re-opens - Monday 31st October

School photographs - Thursday 11th November

Parents/Carers Back to school day –Thursday 24th November

Christmas Fayre—Friday 2nd December

Christmas week activities - 7th December-16th December

Foundation Stage Nativity - Wednesday 7th December a.m., Thursday 8th December a.m. and Friday 9th December p.m.

Key Stage 1 Year 1/2 Christmas Nativity - Thursday 8th December p.m. and Friday 9th December a.m.

Key Stage 2 Year 3/4 Christmas Concert - Monday 12th December p.m. and Tuesday 13th December a.m.

Key Stage 2 Year 5/6 Christmas Concert - Tuesday 13th December p.m. and Wednesday 14th December p.m. (evening)

Whole school Christmas carols - Thursday 15th December—10:00 a.m. Bethany church

Key Stage 2 Christmas carols - Thursday 15th December 2:00 p.m. St Michael and All Angels

Cinema day and Christmas parties - Friday 16th December

Christmas holiday - school closes Friday 16th December

Inset Tuesday 3rd January 2017

School re-opens - Wednesday 4th January 2017

SATs week - 8th—11th May 2017

DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Times for our celebratory Dream, Believe and Achieve Assemblies have changed for this year. Years 1,2,3 will have an assembly every alternate two weeks at 2.45 p.m. Years 4,5,6 will have an assembly every alternate two weeks at 2.45 p.m. Foundation Stage will have an assembly every week at 2.45 p.m. in The Living Room.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

If you want to help your children at home, we have purchased licenses for:

www.bernardgilpin.com

Reading – www.lexialearning.com

username is the one your child uses in school.

HOUGHTON FEAST

Children from across the school helped make the Opening Ceremony a real success. Bernard Gilpin children, carrying the lanterns that they made in school, were the first children in the procession that was fronted by two giant lantern puppets. Later in the ceremony, more children from Bernard Gilpin took part in an African drumming performance that really got the night going. The children were a real credit to the school.



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.

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 31st October.