

# Exciting Times

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## Welcome to the Spring edition of Bernard Gilpin Primary School's newsletter

Foundation Stage in Stowell



Year 1 at Shildon Railway Museum



Year 2 outside the R.N.L.I. building



Year 4 at the River Wear



Year 3 at the Great North Museum



Year 3 have visited the Shefton Collection in Newcastle's Hancock Museum, where they used clues from Ancient Greek vases to find out about life in ancient Greece. In school they tasted some Greek food and they wrote their own myths. They also visited Brimham Rocks to help consolidate their learning about their Science topic 'Rocks and Soils'.

Foundation Stage visited Stowell Street in Chinatown, Newcastle to support their understanding of Chinese New Year. They spent time in the Chinese supermarket selecting food to bring back to school to enjoy a Chinese banquet. They particularly liked looking at the colours and patterns they could spot in Chinatown and especially enjoyed looking at the Chinese arch. They have written recipes and menus back in school and reviewed the Chinese food they tasted.

Year 1 have been learning about transport. They went on a visit to Shildon Railway Museum and looked at a variety of old trains. They 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 they have been comparing old and new trains and learning about The Rocket.

Year 2 visited Roker Beach as part of their Cross-curricular work about seaside rescue. They observed the physical and human features of the beach and found out about the R.N.L.I. and the important role they do saving lives. They were fascinated by the metal hoist used to lower the lifeboats into the sea. They spotted different lighthouses along the coastline and talked about their position at the end of piers so they can be easily seen and how they

Year 4 visited Sainsbury's North store in Sunderland to complete a maths trail using everyday goods and products to strengthen their understanding of decimals and reasoning skills when problem solving. After completing the maths activities they headed along the lower course of the River Wear to identify different features that are found there. This activity rounded off a wonderful term's work on Raging Rivers for their geography unit of work.

Year 5 visited Bessie Surtees House in Newcastle where they studied the Tudor architecture of the building and investigated the importance of the River Tyne in developing global trade links during the reign of Elizabeth I. Both classes also completed an enjoyable real life maths problem solving trail on the quayside whilst in Newcastle.

Year 6 visited the Heugh Battery Museum in Hartlepool. They are currently studying WW1, so this was a great opportunity to see a recreation of a World War 1 trench - which really brought the horrors of war alive. The children also got the chance to try on some of the uniforms, and see some of the weapons and other equipment, which were used at the time. Using this information, the children were able to write newspaper reports detailing the events of the day.

### SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Thank you for your tremendous support with Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers last year. The vouchers were exchanged for sports equipment which the children use on the yard at playtimes and lunchtimes. We are collecting vouchers again this year. Please send any new vouchers into school with your child.

Year 5 at Betty Surtee's house in Newcastle



Year 6 at the Heugh Battery Museum,



## 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 - Mr Burton & Mr Surrey	Movie Night - Mrs Archibald
Wednesday	Cookery Club - Mr Pitt, Mrs Martin, Miss Craggs & Mrs Stevenson	Dance - Miss Soden & Miss Huitson	Football - Mr Bainbridge & Mr Winter
Thursday	Brazilian Football skills - Mr Burton & Mr Surrey	Gymnastics - Miss Smith & Miss Milne	ICT - Mr Berry & Miss Bridle
Friday	Judo/Martial Arts - Kevin Pattinson & 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.

## GIRLS FOOTBALL

The year 5/6 girls football team scored a comprehensive 6-0 victory over Shiney Row in the Lambton & Hetton 6-a-side League. The victory was particularly impressive as Shiney Row were previously unbeaten in the league.

## QUICKSTICKS HOCKEY

The school hockey team competed at Houghton Kepier Hockey festival and managed a third place finish in a tough group. They narrowly missed out on a semi-final place. Well done to all the children who competed.

## YEAR 5 FOOTBALL

The Year 5 football team competed in a 5-a-side tournament at Goals, Sunderland. Despite their best efforts, the team missed out on qualification for the next round. The team also entered a tournament at Hetton School where they finished a credible fourth with some excellent football played by everyone.

## NETBALL NEWS

Two teams of Year 6 and Year 5 children played in the SPSNA competition at Farrington. The teams played themselves and then Rickleton Primary School. The teams represented the school very well both in terms of their 'sportsmanship' and their behaviour.

## BERNARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

Bernard Bears Toddler group got the New year off to a great start. They have been busy with lots of activities. The ball pool was popular, so too was the pizza making. The children made and decorated chefs hats and wore them when they cooked the pizzas. Of course the most fun was in the eating of them. There have been lots of crafts, stories and singing. Join us in the next half term, there are Mother's day and Easter activities planned, as well as World Book day, and after their popularity last year, the chicks that will be in the Foundation Stage class will be making an appearance. Please look at the website for specific dates.

## TWO NEW SCHOOL MINIBUSES

In November, two new minibuses were delivered to school. They are both blazer blue with gold lettering on. At the back of each bus is a picture of the Bernard

Gilpin tree, reflecting the colour and symbol on the school uniform. The children and staff were delighted to have a look inside the buses, and they were very quickly put to use when some of the KS2 children attended the Kielder and Derwent Hill residential. They have been used on a daily basis this term for educational visits, P.E. lessons and sports events.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**School closes for half term** - Friday -17th February

**School re-opens** - Monday 27th February

**School closes for Easter holidays**- Friday 7th April

**School re-opens** - Monday 24th April

**Parent/Carer Meetings** - Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March

**Back to school days**—Thursday 30th March

**Easter Bonnet Parade** - Thursday 6th April

**SATs week** – Monday 8th May - Thursday 11th May

**Year One Phonic check** - Monday 12th June - Friday 16th June

## 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, please see the link on the website [www.bernardgilpin.com](http://www.bernardgilpin.com). We have purchased licenses for:

Reading – [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

[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/)

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Members of the School Council will be presenting assemblies on Tuesday 7th February to mark 'Safer Internet Day'. They will be sharing a range of advice and safety tips relating to the posting of images online.

## VALENTINE DISCO

Thank you to the Friends of Bernard Gilpin who organised and arranged the Valentine Disco and to Mr Berry and the school council DJs. The children had a great time dancing and many of them won prizes in the games. All money raised will be used to support activities in school.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PANTOMIME

The children in Key Stage One and Foundation Stage were given a great treat when they watched the pantomime of Beauty and the Beast. The children were enchanted by Belle and the Beast. Gaston and Cogsworth provided much hilarity and the children really got into shouting 'he's behind you'. Thank you to Mr Bainbridge for organising the treat.

## DEMENTIA NEWS

The Dementia group has had a really busy time. They have enjoyed two singing sessions with Catherine l'Anson Clough, as well as a gentle exercise class. To celebrate Chinese New Year, there was a buffet of Chinese food to try. Valentine's Day was celebrated with an old movie and popcorn. Please see the school's website for details of next half term's activities.

## EASTER BONNET PARADE

Children in Foundation Stage and Year One will take part in an Easter Bonnet parade on Thursday 6th April. Please could you help your child to make a hat to wear on the day.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is Thursday 2nd March. Please could the children come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After an another exciting half term we would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in school on Monday 27th February.