



Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

Hall Lane, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8DA

tel: 0191 917 2999

web: www.bernardgilpin.com

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

THE LEARNING CONTINUES IN THE CLASSROOMS AND REMOTELY

Since the start of the new term, the children returning to school have taken everything in their stride once again. Their attitude towards learning has been excellent. The children who have been learning remotely this half term have shown an equally committed attitude; their superb effort has been evident on a daily basis in all year groups. We would like to thank you for your continued support in recent months with all that you have done to support the children's learning at home, to ensure that their education continues in-line with the children at school.



Reception investigating Chinese New Year



Year 1 in role as George Stephenson



Year 2 creating a healthy meal

Foundation Stage have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about their new theme of Chinese New Year. The children have been fascinated to discover how Chinese New Year is celebrated across the world, as well as exploring how to draw Chinese symbols and make Chinese lanterns. They were also very excited to rehearse and perform their very own dragon dance and to taste a variety of Chinese food. The children also read 'It's Chinese New Year' and 'The Great Race' to re-enforce their understanding of the theme.

Year 1 have been looking at shapes in Maths, as well as developing their methods of addition and subtraction. They enjoyed reading a selection of stories linked to their History theme of Transport including 'The Train Ride' and 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. The children were also fascinated to learn about how transport has changed over time as well as the life of George Stephenson. In Science, the children sorted a variety of everyday materials based on their physical properties. The children also enjoyed learning about the different parts of a computer as well as developing new skills.

Year 2 have looked at statistics in Maths through the use of pictograms, tally charts and block diagrams. In English, they enjoyed reading 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' which they used to write instructions. In Geography, the children have enjoyed learning about the weather and climate by looking at daily weather patterns as well as seasonal changes in the U.K. and the global location of hot and cold areas in relation to the Equator and the Poles. In Science, the children developed their understanding of a healthy lifestyle through exercise and eating a balanced diet.

Year 3 have enjoyed reading 'Anisha: Accidental Detective' and were excited to solve the on-going mystery in storyline. In Science, the children compared and grouped rocks based on their physical properties, described how fossils are formed and investigated different types of soils made from rocks and organic matter. In History, the children have been fascinated to learn about life in Ancient Greece, investigating the civilisations' achievements and impact on the Western world. They also enjoyed using repeating patterns and two-colour overlay to create prints in Art.

Year 4 have developed their understanding of area and perimeter in Maths, by drawing and comparing regular and irregular shapes. The children also enjoyed reading their class text 'Agent Asha: Mission Shark Bytes', producing a number of written pieces based on it. The children have also been interested to learn about Invaders and Settlers in British History, focussing on how and why Vikings first came to Britain. They have also enjoyed experimenting with creating clay objects and joining parts together in different ways. In Computing, the children have signed up for 'Hour of Code' and have enjoyed the various challenges set.

Year 5 enjoyed reading their whole class text 'Alex Rider: Stormbreaker.' The children have been excited to follow the fast-paced spy thriller and have produced a number of final written pieces in various genres based on it. In Science, the children have developed their understanding of the effects of gravity, air and water resistance and friction through carrying out various practical investigations. In History, the children have studied Tudor Britain, ordering the main events of the time period as well as considering the impact of the Tudor period on British History. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed listening to and appraising a number of 'old school' Hip Hop – songs in music, discussing how they were influenced by events at the time of composition.

Year 6 have advanced their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths, as well as beginning to solve problems involving algebra. The children thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Wonder', looking closely at the main themes of the story and produced a range of thoughtfully written pieces in various styles as a result. The children have conscientiously studied the Second World War, using a range of primary and secondary sources to deepen their understanding of its causes and impact. In Science, the children have investigated the movement of light energy in straight lines, how objects are reflected and how light travels from a source to the eye. In Art, the children went on a virtual tour of the Louvre gallery, closely investigating well-known landscape paintings before creating their own painting in a similar style.



Year 3 investigating soil types



Year 4 with their clay designs



Year 5 friction investigation



Year 6 investigating bird beak types

CHILDRENS' CREATIVITY CONTINUES TO FLOURISH REMOTELY

This half term has seen children learning remotely, and the system of remote learning has been very positively received by children and parents/carers. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the children whilst learning remotely throughout this half term, as their desire to learn and progress in all areas of the curriculum has been exceptional. The children never fail to impress and their creativity and individuality has been demonstrated when learning remotely on a daily basis. The wide range of end products submitted by the children has made it a real pleasure to assess, with presentations, drawings, diagrams, photographs, videos, voice overs, blogs and even dances all putting smiles on the staff's faces. Well done to everyone involved and keep up the wonderful effort.



A small selection of the creativity displayed by children learning remotely in their submitted assignments

WELLBEING WEEK

For this year's Wellbeing Week, the children took part in a number of creative activities linked to the theme 'Express Yourself.' This included origami, the drawing of personal places of importance as well as creating thank you cards to recognise a helper. The theme itself focused on the children finding ways to share their feelings, thoughts or ideas through creativity and encouraged everyone to take part in activities that make us feel good. There was a huge amount of effort put into the activities from children in school and those learning remotely at home; it is wonderful to see that creativity continues even in challenging times. A huge thank you to parents/carers for their support to make the school's Wellbeing Week a success.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

In the final week of the half term, the children took part in 'Safer Internet Day' to identify ways in which we can keep ourselves safe on the internet and when using technology. This year's theme was 'An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World.' Each year group became 'Internet Detectives' and took part in various activities that focused on identifying trustworthy online content and how to spot 'fake news.' The children thoroughly enjoyed their role as detectives and participating in the different learning tasks both in school and when learning remotely from home.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half Term- School closes Friday 12th February
School re-opens - Monday 22nd February
Easter Holiday – School closes Friday 26th March
School re-opens - Monday 12th April 2021

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

As we are currently unable to hold our Dream, Believe, Achieve assemblies as normal, the celebration of the children's achievements will be held every other week within each classroom. Alongside the certificates received by the children, a telephone call home will be made from the class teacher to discuss and celebrate your child's achievements.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- <https://student.readingplus.com/>
- <https://www.lexiacore5.com/>
- <https://oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- <https://spag.com/>
- <https://www.play.trockstars.com/>
- <http://sumdog.com/>

HAPPY HALF TERM

After another successful and learning filled half term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful break ahead of the next half term beginning on Monday 22nd February. Take care and thank you for your continued support.