



December 2023

Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

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

FESTIVE FUN AT BERNARD GILPIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY YEARS 5 AND 6

The lead roles were taken by Year 6 children, with Alice superbly playing Willy Wonka. The role of the Charlie was played fantastically by Harry and Arthur impressed everyone in character as Grandpa Joe. Newsreaders Will and Tianna had the audience in stitches throughout and The Golden Ticket winners and their parents were impressively portrayed by Connor, Annabell, Eva, Zak, Faith, Oakley, Micaiah and Izabella. The children in Years 5 and 6 also provided enthusiastic vocal backing to the well-known songs throughout and a group of talented dancers provided accompaniment during the songs. A massive well done to everyone involved and a huge thank you for the fantastic support shown by all who attended the shows in large numbers over the week.



Some of the main cast in the performance of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

RECEPTION - THE NATIVITY

The children in Reception performed their very own superb version of a traditional Nativity over the festive period in school, in which the children retold the Christmas story. All children involved performed amazingly well, with lovely, clear speaking voices as well as extremely enthusiastic singing throughout. A huge well done to everyone involved in the production and also to the audience, who gave such a positive response to the children's performances.

YEAR 1 AND 2 - BORN IN A BARN

A big well done to the children in Years 1 and 2 for their performances of Born in a Barn. The Year 2 children took the leading roles and perfected their speaking parts. Both year groups performed some fantastic dance routines and the singing was excellent throughout. The costumes, enthusiasm and smiling faces made the show very enjoyable to watch with many parents and carers commenting on how well the children performed throughout. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making the show a great success.

YEAR 3 AND 4 - IT'S A CENSUS...GET ME OUT OF HERE!

The children in Years 3 and 4 performed 'It's a Census...Get Me Out of Here!' Toby, Freya and Ella played the leading roles as presenters brilliantly, making the audience regularly laugh as they guided them through the story of the Nativity. The children took everyone to the scene of Bethlehem where Mary, Joseph, townspeople, animals, wise men, angels, shepherds and innkeepers were all played superbly by the children. Throughout the show, the Year 3 and 4 singers helped to tell the story through their excellent singing as did the group of talented dancers. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this production a great success all round, as well as to the supportive audiences during the week.



Cast members in 'The Nativity'



The full cast of 'It's A Census...Get Me Out Of Here!'



Cast members from 'Born in a Barn'

OUTDOOR ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT KIELDER FOREST



On a scenic walk around Kielder Forest



A Little Owl at the Birds of Prey Centre



The very popular pizza night in a chalet



Admiring the stunning reservoir views

Year 6 have recently returned from an action-packed, five day residential in Kielder Forest. The children's real life maths skills were put to the test when they went shopping for the week's provisions at Lidl. Working on a budget was a great challenge - one that the children were able to succeed in. The children then went on to take part in a Science workshop at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle before heading off to Kielder Forest. All of the children were involved in a variety of exciting activities throughout the week including a number of scenic walks in the magnificent surroundings, as well as night walks to stargaze at the constellations they had been learning about. Also, over the course of the five days, the children participated in a range of Maths, Drama, Art, D&T and Geography activities, all inspired by the wonderful location around them. Well done to everyone involved in making this a fantastic experience for all involved.

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception at Gibside Woods



Year 1 at the Great North Museum



Year 2 at The Houghton War Memorial



Year 3 at Sainsbury's in Sunderland

Reception visited Gibside Woods in relation to the taught theme of 'Twigs and Sticks.' The children enjoyed creating woodland dens and drinking hot chocolate before going on a leaf hunt to identify which trees could be found in the woods. The children then made 'Stick Man' inspired artwork with materials they found on the visit.

Year 1 visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle linked to their Science unit of Animals Including Humans where they investigated the museum's wide range of animals. The children also classified the animals based on whether they thought they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores as well as identifying specific features and what they are used for.

Year 2 visited the cenotaph at St Michael's Church in Houghton, as part of the 'Remembrance Day' history unit. The children discussed how and why soldiers and the emergency services are remembered before acting out their own remembrance service. On return to school, the children wrote non-chronological reports about the history of Remembrance Day as well as creating some poppy inspired artwork.

Year 3 visited Sainsbury's in Sunderland. On the visit, the children were able to apply their understanding of money in a real-life context by comparing different products to find the best value between branded and non-branded products. They also enjoyed working on various maths problems in the supermarket and navigating their way around the aisles.

Year 4 children visited the Hatton Art Gallery in Newcastle, where they were able to observe first-hand some famous pieces of modern art by Matt Rugg and Kurt Schwitters. The children used this as inspiration to then create their own artwork in a similar style to what they had studied closely around the recently refurbished gallery.

Year 5 visited The Great North Museum in Newcastle, in relation to the Science unit 'Earth and Space.' The children were amazed by the planetarium show, which took the them on a journey through the Solar System and beyond. The children then went on to take part in an Earth and Space related workshop within the museum, during which they developed their understanding of how life on Earth is influenced by space.

Year 6 children visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle in relation to their Science theme of 'Evolution and Inheritance', where they observed the unique adaptations of a variety of animals including humans. They had the opportunity to handle and examine some animals with unique evolutionary traits as well as a range of human skulls. The children also visited 'SafetyWorks!' where they took part in a range of workshops designed to improve their understanding in a variety of real-life contexts.



Year 4 at the Hatton Art Gallery



Year 5 at the Great North Museum



Year 6 observing animal adaptations



FOOTBALL FLAG WAVING AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT

Children from Bernard Gilpin Primary School were given the amazing opportunity to show their, and the school's, support for Sunderland AFC at the recent EFL Championship match against Leeds United. The children were given early access to the Stadium of Light where they were lucky enough to be allowed onto the pitch as players from both teams started to arrive. The children then moved on to the Beacon of Light for a pre-match game of football on the state-of-the-art 4G pitches before returning to the stadium. Each child was then given a large red and white flag, decorated with the BGPS logo, to take onto the pitch to wave as the players entered for the match in front of a 40,000 strong crowd. The children then got to watch the whole match from padded seats on the halfway line, resulting in joyous celebrations as Sunderland defeated Leeds 1-0. A massive well done to the children who represented themselves and the school so well and a huge thank you to AK Teaching for providing the school with this unbelievable experience - one that the children as SAFC supporters will certainly treasure for ever!



The excited children proudly displaying the BGPS flag on the pitch before the match



Waving flags in front of 40,000 supporters The children with SAFC Mascot Delilah



Showing support as the players line up



Pre-match pitch-side stadium access

HOUGHTON DASH

Children from across Years 5 and 6 took part in the annual Houghton Dash, with all children from Bernard Gilpin performing amazingly well in the race - Faith won the girls' race outright and seven of the school's children secured places within the top 10 positions. Despite not finding out on the day, it was later announced that BGPS won the top placed school overall prize and they have recently received the winners trophy - well done to all of the children who took part and performed brilliantly on the day of the race.



The winning Houghton Dash Team



The EFL Kid's Cup Football Team

TEN-PIN-BOWLING SUCCESS

Children took part in the 'Smile Through Sport' ten-pin-bowling event at Riverside Bowling, Sunderland. All of the children involved were highly competitive yet also very supportive of competitors in other teams, with everyone representing the school superbly. The children received Gold overall, with Leon scoring over 100 points for the team - a massive well done to everyone involved in this success.



The successful Girls Football Team



The winning Ten-Pin-Bowling Team

FOOTBALL UPDATE

The school football team recently competed in the EFL Kids Cup Sunderland round, held at the Downhill Football Hub. After playing a total of four highly competitive games, Bernard Gilpin won three and drew one of their initial matches played without conceding a single goal in open play. After reaching the quarter-final stage, the closely competed match went to penalty kicks where the team were unfortunately defeated. A big well done to all of the players involved for playing the game with such determination, great teamwork skills and excellent sportsmanship to the end.

Meanwhile, the Year 5 and 6 girls football team recently participated in a football festival at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The team performed superbly throughout the whole event and although it was a non-competitive festival, the girls were delighted to remain unbeaten in all of their matches - well done to those involved.



CHURCH CAROL SERVICES

The Christmas carol services were great successes once again this year. The children of Year 5 and 6 sang superbly at St. Michael and All Angels' Church. The children of Reception, Year 1 and 2 sang superbly at the Bethany Christian Centre and on the same afternoon, the children of Years 3 and 4 returned to the Bethany Centre and sang beautifully as well. Well done to the children who also gave wonderfully clear readings during the services and thank you for the support of all who attended in large numbers - it was wonderful to see many adults singing along to the Christmas carols and festive songs with the children during the services.



Showing support for Children in Need by wearing spots and yellow clothes

CINEMA AND PARTY DAY

To celebrate another successful term, the whole school visited the cinema, where all of the children thoroughly enjoyed watching either the brand new Disney film, 'Wish' or the new Hollywood blockbuster, 'Wonka.' All of the children also enjoyed their snacks and drinks that they had whilst they were there. In the afternoon, the children danced and played games at their Christmas parties, rounding off the term in style.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Children in Need was another huge success this year with the school raising a large sum of money for the charity. In the morning, the children participated in some mindfulness moments to practise different ways of looking after their own well-being in everyday life. A big thank you to everyone for all of your generous donations towards this excellent cause and for the 'spot-tacular' outfits worn.



Children enjoying Christmas Dinner



Odd socks for 'Make a Noise' Week

ODD SOCKS DAY

The school recently supported Anti-Bullying Week and this year's theme was 'Make a Noise' which focussed on positive relationships and the importance of reaching out to others when they need it. The children and staff came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and what makes us unique - a huge amount of effort was put into the day, as shown by some truly wonderful sock combinations. Throughout the rest of the week, children across all year groups discussed ways in which they could spread kindness and reach out to others in school as well as in other aspects of their lives.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Children in all year groups thoroughly enjoyed Christmas dinner alongside staff and a number of guests in school recently. Everyone enjoyed tucking into their traditional roast dinner and Christmas pudding for dessert. A huge thank you to the kitchen staff for their efforts in making and serving the Christmas dinner, which was enjoyed by all.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently celebrated the children's attendance for the Autumn Term by having an awards celebration assembly. Children who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the first term were rewarded with a certificate and a prize as recognition for the increased learning opportunities that come with high attendance rates across the year. Well done to the children across all year groups who have yet to miss a day of school this year - keep it up next term.



The Autumn Term Attendance Award Winners in one year group with their prizes

POPPY APPEAL

Once again this year, school took part in raising money for the Poppy Appeal. The children had the opportunity to buy traditional poppies as well as other poppy related items. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, as a fantastic total was raised for this superb cause.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Holiday - School closes Wednesday 20th December 2023

School re-opens - Monday 8th January 2024

Half Term - School closes Friday 16th February 2024

School Re-opens - Monday 26th February 2024



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After another exciting term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8th January 2024.

We are continuing to use the Reading Plus and Lexia education programmes both in school and at home. Please encourage your child to continue use these online learning tools as part of their weekly homework. Both of these programmes are invaluable in assisting the children's progress in reading across the school.