



February 2023

# Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

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

# **OUTDOOR ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT DERWENT HILL**



A group taking a moment to enjoy the stunning view on their hill climb

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 recently returned from a fantastic residential visit to the Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre. This excellent opportunity enabled the children to further develop their independence, resilience and respect for the environment in the heart of the stunning Lake District. Everyone involved had an action-packed week, with all of the groups taking part in a rotation of outdoor adventurous activities. Some of the many highlights for the children included canoeing to an island on Derwent Water, where they stopped for hot chocolate, toasting marshmallows on a campfire which they had built themselves using bush craft skills and planning a route to reach the top of the purpose-built climbing wall.

The children also challenged themselves on a hill walk in the beautiful surrounding landscape, as well as orienteering and tackling the low ropes course in Derwent Hill's grounds. Each group also took part in a night walk aimed at developing team-work and taking on the exciting challenge of the high ropes course proved to be a real highlight for many of the children. A huge thank you to everyone for ensuring that the time spent in Derwent Hill was a wonderful experience and that many great and lasting memories were made - well done to everyone involved.



A group canoeing towards One Tree Island on the peaceful Derwent Water



Taking on the climbing wall challenge



Part of the Low Ropes Course



Enjoying the High Ropes Challenge



Big Smiles all round for Derwent Hill

# THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception at Stowell Street in Newcastle



Year 1 at the Shildon Railway Museum



Year 2 problem solving at Sainsbury's

**Reception** visited Stowell Street in Newcastle, where they enjoyed studying the Chinese gate and visiting the supermarket to buy some food and decorations for a celebration back in school. The children also enjoyed sharing fortune cookies and reading the messages inside. The Reception children also went to the nearby Discovery Museum, where they took part in a variety of exciting challenges in the Science Maze.

**Year 1** visited 'Locomotion' at the National Railway Museum in Shildon. They enjoyed investigating locomotives ranging from the 1829 Sans Pareil to the 1970's Advanced Passenger. The children climbed into some of the locomotives and imagined what it might have been like to be the driver of a steam train.

**Year 2** visited Sainsbury's in Sunderland where they were able to apply their understanding of money in a real-life context. The children enjoyed working on various maths problems in the supermarket and navigating their way around the aisles. The children then visited Seaham Harbour where they viewed the two sculptures by Ray Lonsdale before taking inspiration by creating their own sculptures back in the classroom

**Year 3** visited The Great North Museum in Newcastle linking to their Science unit of study on Rocks where the children were able to handle, examine and classify a range of different rock types, including solidified volcanic lava. On return to school, the children of Year 3 went on to discuss the properties of different rock types and produced an information leaflet on how and why each rock type is used in everyday life.

**Year 4** visited the recently refurbished Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland in relation to their art theme of 3D and sculpture. The children were given a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities by an expert guide during which they were able to examine a range of original art work by Francisco de Zurbarán and other famous artists. The children then created their own clay sculptures, taking inspiration from the artwork examined.

**Year 5** visited Bishop Auckland linking to their historical unit of study of Tudor England. The children learned about the history of the area, with focus on the links to the Tudor period including Bishop Auckland Castle. The children then took part in a workshop in which they designed and made a glass Tudor Rose. Back at school, Year 5 continued their Tudor learning by studying different aspects of life in England at this time including crime and punishment, architecture and the impact of King Henry VIII's reign on the country.

**Year 6** visited the fascinating Victoria Tunnel in the Ouseburn area of Newcastle. Although the tunnel was originally built to transport coal during the Victorian period, it was also used as an air-raid shelter during World War II. The children were given a guided tour of the tunnel, learning all about its amazing history before taking part in a workshop which was led by Marion, who lived through WWII as a child. On return to school, the children wrote a letter from the point of view of an evacuee child as well as report on how the tunnel was used during WWII.



Year 3 at The Great North Museum



Year 4 at the Spanish Gallery



Year 5 at Bishop Auckland Castle



Year 6 at the Victoria Tunnel

## DENTAL HYGENE IN RECEPTION

As part of the EYFS curriculum, the children in Reception have been learning about how to keep their bodies healthy. Both classes had a visit from the Dental Nurse, during which she talked about good oral hygiene and the importance of keeping teeth clean. The Dental Nurse also demonstrated how to brush teeth correctly and the children have brushed their own teeth for two minutes after every lunch time, using their toothbrush and toothpaste which the Dental Nurse gave them. The children have enjoyed learning about teeth and are really mastering their brushing technique - well done to everyone involved.



Reception children practicing their technique for keeping teeth clean and healthy

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND ONLINE SAFETY WEEK 2023

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, all year groups took part in creative well-being activities linked to this year's theme of 'Let's Connect'. The theme itself focused on how connecting with other people and the world can help support and maintain our well-being. During the week, the children also discussed the importance of talking to friends and trusted adults, as part of Online Safety Week, and how this can also help to improve our well-being and safety.

## ATHLETICS SUCCESS

After coming in first position in three previous meetings against schools from across Sunderland, the Year 5 and 6 athletics team went on to compete in the North East Regional Final. The team demonstrated superb skill and determination in the track and field events including sprints, relays, javelin, long jump and a team obstacle event. After all events had been completed, Bernard Gilpin finished in sixth place overall in the whole of the North East. A huge well done for this excellent sporting achievement.

## HIGH-FIVE NETBALL

Two teams of Year 5 and 6 children have been participating in the Sunderland Primary School Netball Association (SPSNA) high-five netball tournament, which has been taking place at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The children have remained undefeated in all of their matches played, with both teams winning all games apart from one and drawing the other so far. All of the children have represented themselves and the school superbly, showing fantastic team-work, effort and spirit throughout - well done.



The School High-Five Netball Team



Big Smiles at the Valentine's Disco

## VALENTINE'S DISCOS

The Valentine's Discos took place in school recently and they were a great success. The children's enthusiasm for the event was matched by their fantastic moves on the dancefloor. Thank you to all those who helped to make the event such a success and a special thank you to members of the School Council for helping to provide the music and to serve drinks and snacks to the party goers during the entertainment.

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 2nd March 2023, which is in the first week of next half term. The children and staff are looking forward to this exciting day, on which they have the opportunity to dress as one of their favourite book characters. In preparation for this, the half term holiday is an ideal opportunity to read a new book and come up with an original costume idea that you could design and make. Have fun reading!

## HAPPY HALF TERM

After another successful, exciting and learning-filled half term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 27th February 2023 for another exciting half term.

## DIABETES AWARENESS DAY

On Friday 17th February, the School Council organised a non-uniform day to raise money for Diabetes UK, a charity working to support people living with diabetes as well as providing funding for research, and campaigning to raise awareness. As part of the day, the children learnt more about diabetes and how they can help people with this condition. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous contributions received towards such a great cause.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half Term** - School closes Friday 17th February 2023

**School Re-opens** - Monday 27th February 2023

**World Book Day** - Thursday 2nd March 2023

**Parent/Carer's Evening** - Monday 13th/Tuesday 14th March 2023  
(Letters will be sent out after half term)

**Easter Holiday** - School closes Friday 31st March 2023

**School Re-opens** - Monday 17th April 2023

**Bank Holiday for King's Coronation** - Monday 8th May 2023

**SATs week** - Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May 2023

**Summer Holiday** - School closes Thursday 20th July 2023

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

<https://student.readingplus.com/>

<https://www.lexiacore5.com/>

<https://www.play.ttrockstars.com/>

<https://www.sumdog.com/>

<https://www.spag.com/>



## CLUBS ARE BOOMING

Monday	STEM	Lego	Football
Tuesday	Yoga	American Football	Cinema
			Basketball
Wednesday	Bernard's Master Chef	Drama & Music	Football
Thursday	Computing	Sewing & Crafts	Netball
Friday	Dance	Gaming	Basketball
			D&T