



# Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

Hall Lane, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8DA

tel: 0191 5536523

web: [www.bernardgilpin.com](http://www.bernardgilpin.com)

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

## LONDON CALLING! YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL



One of the underground stops



Trying out the Olympic BMX track



Buckingham Palace by night



Posing at Pineapple Dance Studios

Children from Years 5 and 6 have recently returned from an action-packed, three day residential to London. The children set off bright and early from school, taking the Metro to Newcastle Central Station and excitedly boarded their train bound for the capital. The children made full use of the London Underground and headed straight for the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park, where they experienced the incredible Velodrome and BMX track, as well as completing maths problems based on the inspiring location. After a much needed sleep, the children made their way to the world-famous Pineapple Dance Studios for a lesson from Wicked cast members. After a tour of the Natural History Museum and an awe-inspiring ride on the London Eye, the children then had front row seats for the incredible musical, Wicked - what a show! Day three saw the children experience Trafalgar Square and some priceless works of art at The National Gallery before making their way back home for a well-deserved rest. The children were absolutely amazing throughout the visit - a real credit to themselves and the school. A huge thank you and well done to everyone involved - what an amazing three days!



The famous Olympic Rings



The Natural History Museum



Riding the London Eye



The Olympic Velodrome

## YEAR 4 SKIING RESIDENTIAL - XSCAPE, LEEDS

A large number of Year 4 children recently experienced a two day residential in Leeds. The children headed straight to the amazing indoor ski slope at Xscape, where they received private skiing lessons from professional instructors. The children quickly picked up and developed the skills needed to make their way safely down the slope - they definitely displayed better technique than the teachers, who spent most of their time trying to stay upright! The group were also excited to sledge down the snow covered slope, racing each other to get the bottom first. The children then enjoyed a well-earned meal at TGI Fridays, before watching a film in the cinema later that night. The next day, the children visited Leeds Royal Armouries, where they enjoyed learning about the history of armour. The group were a credit to the school throughout the visit - a great time was had by all. A big well done to everyone involved.



A super snowplough on the slope



Elephant armour at the Armouries



Rosie and Scarlett smile on the slopes



Fun and food at TGI Fridays

# THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Foundation Stage at Ouseburn Farm



Year 1 at Richardson's Garden Centre



Year 2 at the Sikh Gurdwara

**Foundation Stage** visited Ouseburn Farm, where they attended a 'Green Fingers' workshop. They made recycled paper plant pots, planted a seed and talked about the ways we can care for the seeds. The children also attended a 'Farm Animals' workshop where they were given the opportunity to move a group of sheep from the farm to the field by acting as a human fence. They also enjoyed a tour of the farm, as well as feeding the animals.

**Year 1** visited Richardson's Garden Centre in Seaham. Here they looked closely at various types of plants and shrubs in relation to their Science theme of 'Plants.' The children also visited Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, where they learnt about trees as well as making tree sculptures using objects found in the woods. The children then visited Roker beach to identify coastal features. They also made sand sculptures and collected stones to use in an art lesson back at school.

**Year 2** visited the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara in Sunderland to find out about Sikh customs, community and worship. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were amazed by the building's interior and took part in a question and answer session, as well as sketching various parts of the building. Back in the classroom, the children wrote recounts of their visit to the Gurdwara.

**Year 3** visited the Palace Green Library where they took part in an Ancient Greek workshop. The children toured the museum to look at the history of Ancient Greece before identifying different Greek artefacts in the role as archaeologists. Year 3 also travelled to Brimham Rocks in North Yorkshire to investigate different types of rocks. Despite the snowy weather, Year 3 enjoyed climbing and walking around the vast amount of amazing rock formations.

**Year 4** visited Holy Island to study its history, focussing on the life and legacy of St. Cuthbert. The children also experienced the location of the Viking raids made on Lindisfarne Monastery, imagining what it must have felt like for the monks to experience the approaching Viking Ships. The children then wrote a diary entry from a monk's point of view back in the classroom. The Year 4 children also visited the National Glass Centre in Sunderland in relation to their Science theme of States of Matter. Here they studied the history of glass making and watched a fascinating glass-blowing demonstration.

**Year 5** visited the Hatton Art Gallery in Newcastle. The children were given a tour of the recently refurbished gallery, where they closely examined large abstract pieces by the artist, Sean Scully. They then worked in the purpose-built classroom to create their own representations in the style of the artist. Both classes then visited the planetarium at the Great North Museum in relation to their Science theme of Earth and Space. The children were amazed as they were taken on an thrilling virtual tour of the Solar System and beyond.

**Year 6** visited the Victoria Tunnels in Newcastle to introduce their new theme of World War II. The tunnels were used as an air raid shelter during the war and the children were able to experience first-hand how it would have felt to be part of an air raid. In addition to this, the children were able to meet and talk to a World War II survivor, who used the tunnels to shelter during the war. On return to school, the children wrote diary entries from the point of view of a child during an air raid.



Year 3 at Brimham Rocks



Year 4 at Holy Island Monastery



Year 5 at the Hatton Art Gallery



Year 6 at the Victoria Tunnels

## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 15th March, everybody in school - children and staff alike - celebrated stories and a love of reading by dressing up as a favourite book character for World Book Day. The theme for this year was 'Recommend a Book', where the children shared stories they had read and enjoyed with the rest of their class. Many thanks to everyone involved for all of the effort put in to the costumes, which were absolutely fantastic! Every child also received a £1 book token to spend on a book of their choice.

## BERNARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

Bernard Bear Toddler Group have had another fun-filled half term. The children came to toddlers dressed up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day and there were some excellent costumes! The children have also been taking part in a variety of crafts in the run up to Easter. They have enjoyed craft activities including making chocolate crispy cake nests and Mother's Day cards. The children have also enjoyed having a try at hula-hooping for Sport Relief. Please check out the school's website for details of the Summer Term's activities.

## EASTER BONNET PARADE

A huge thank you to the parents and carers for creating some superb hats for the Easter Bonnet Parade. The effort put into the designs was fantastic and the children wore them with pride. The children performed some fantastic Easter songs and poems. Thank you to the staff and children for a simply "eggcellent" performance.



Wonderful World Book Day Costumes



'Eggcellent' Easter Bonnets

## DEMENTIA FRIENDS

The group continue to meet every Tuesday and kicked off the new term with a 'Welcome Back' session involving bingo and fish and chips. They have enjoyed singing and dancing with Catherine, a visit by the band C-Saw and watched 'The Puppets' 60's show. To celebrate Sport Relief, the group took part in some gentle exercise, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Please see the website for details of weekly activities in the Summer Term.

## FOOTBALL UPDATE

Year 4 recently played their first competitive football match for the school in the County Cup competition. The nine boys who represented the school, put in a very good debut performance, but unfortunately missed out on qualification for the next round after winning one game and losing another. However, the future looks bright after playing some excellent passing and free-flowing football. Well done and good luck in future matches.

The first few weeks of the Summer Term will see the school A-team return to action, with a busy schedule of fixtures ahead. The team are currently league leaders, so watch this space for the all-important results in coming weeks.



**The Current League Leaders**



**The Winning Tag Rugby Team**

## TAG RUGBY SUCCESS

Two teams, made up of children from Years 5 and 6, recently competed at a tag rugby tournament, held at Kepier School. The competition was of a very high standard, with fourteen teams participating on the afternoon. Both of our teams performed well in the group stages, with Team B not losing a single game resulting in their qualification for the Sunderland school's final to be held in the Summer Term. Well done to all involved and good luck to the team competing at the final.

## HIGH FIVE NETBALL

Two teams of Year 5 and 6 children have recently been representing the school in the SPSNA netball competition at Oxclose Community Academy. So far, Team A have played four games of which they have won two. Team B have played three fixtures to date, performing well within each game and further developing their netball skills. All of the children have represented the school in a competitive yet fair manner, so keep up the great progress.

## SPORT RELIEF 2018

On Friday 23rd March, the school took part in raising funds for Sport Relief. Children and staff came to school dressed in all manner of sports wear including football kits, American football jerseys and even the odd sweatband and leg warmers! A big well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the extremely generous contributions to this great cause.

## ASH RANDALL RETURNS

Monday 26th March saw the much anticipated return to school of football freestyler, Ash Randall. The holder of eighteen World records once again delighted the whole school in an assembly with his vast array of tricks, flicks, balancing and skills before passing on his advice to groups of children throughout the day during coaching sessions. He even took the time to take film footage of some Year 6 children (and teachers!) demonstrating their skills in and around school - watch this space for further information!

## P.E. TUESDAYS

The whole school will continue to be taught P.E. on a Tuesday. Please ensure your child has their school P.E. kit, including their tracksuit to keep warm, and a change of socks and footwear.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Easter Holidays** - School closes Thursday 29th March

**Year 6 Easter School** - Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th April

**School re-opens** - Monday 16th April

**Bank Holiday** - Monday 7th May

**Year 6 SATs** - Monday 14th - Thursday 17th May

**Half Term** - School closes Friday 25th May

**School re-opens** - Monday 4th June

## DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Years 1, 2 and 3 will have an assembly every alternate two weeks at 2.45 p.m. in the school hall. Years 4, 5 and 6 will have an assembly every alternate two weeks at 2.45 p.m. also in the school hall. 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:

Reading – [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)

Maths - <http://nrich.maths.org/public/>

Maths - [sumdog.com](http://sumdog.com) - [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/)

## CLUBS ARE BOOMING

<b>Monday</b>	Lego - Mrs Russell, Mr Pitt	Drills for skills - Mr Winter,	Martial Arts - Steve Ritson
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ballet - SAFC dance teacher	Brazilian Football skills - Mr Burton & Mr Surrey	Movie Night - Mrs Archibald
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cookery Club - Mr Pitt, Mrs Martin, Miss Craggs & Mrs Stevenson	Dance - Miss Soden & Miss Huitson	Football - Mr Bainbridge & Mr Winter
<b>Thursday</b>	Brazilian Football skills - Mr Burton & Mr Surrey	Gymnastics - Miss Smith & Miss Milne	ICT - Mr Berry & Miss Bridle
<b>Friday</b>	Judo/Martial Arts - Kevin Pattinson & Steve Ritson	School of Rock - Mr Nichol & Mr Wilkinson	Shooting for hoops - Mr Burton & Miss Soden



**Ash Randall showing off his skills**



**Football Kits for Sport Relief**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After another busy and successful term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 16th April.