



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 Easter edition of Bernard Gilpin Primary School's newsletter

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception feeding animals at Hall Hill Farm



Year 1 with their push and pull mechanisms



Year 2 at the Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh

Reception visited Hall Hill Farm near Lanchester in relation to their 'Living Things' theme studied in school. The children were excited to see everything farm life had to offer as they were given a guided tour of the site, during which they thoroughly enjoyed feeding the animals, especially the new born lambs. Back at school, the children were excited to watch the new chicks hatch, helping to take care of them as they grew.

Year 1 have been reading 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson in English. Linking to this, the children have studied a range of levers and mechanisms, looking at a range of existing products and evaluating them. The children then designed and made their own push and pull mechanism which was used to make the whale from the story move.

Year 2 visited the Grace Darling Memorial Museum in Bamburgh, linking to their History study of the RNLI. The children were fascinated to learn more about Grace Darling's famous rescue of stranded sailors in the past and they carried out role play activities in costumes to get into the character's roles. On return to school, the children wrote biographies of Grace Darling as well as their own re-telling of her famous story.

Year 3 visited the Hatton Art Gallery linking to their Art unit on Collage. The children viewed a number of original pieces by the famous 20th Century artist Kurt Schwitters, including the large scale 'Merz Barn Wall.' The children then used the gallery's purpose-built art studio to make their own collages with a range of materials, taking inspiration from the pieces they had viewed around the gallery.

Year 4 visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle linking to their Science unit on 'Living Things and their Habitats.' As part of the day, the children participated in an interactive workshop where they observed a range of animals in order to classify them into different groups based on their characteristics. The children also explored the different habitats and biomes located around the world, before returning to school where they furthered their understanding of how animals have adapted to survive in their specific environment.

Year 5 visited the Durham Heritage Coastline in relation to their Geography unit on 'Coasts.' The children examined first-hand coastal defences including a sea wall, gabions and riprap, as well the effects of coastal erosion such as the formation of a sea stack at Nose's Point and sea caves at Seaham. The children also carried out an investigation to measure longshore drift on the sea front. On return to school, the children further developed their understanding of coastal erosion, by identifying headlands and bays on a map of the Durham coastline that they had visited on the day.

Year 6 visited Roseberry Topping in North Yorkshire in relation to their Geography unit on 'Hills and Mountains.' Both classes successfully took on the challenge of climbing the iconic hill to its summit of 320 metres. Once at the top, the children were able to develop their compass reading skills to find famous landmarks visible in all directions. In school, Year 6 researched the formation of mountains as well as using atlases to locate the highest peaks nationally and internationally.



Year 3 collages at the Hatton Gallery



Year 4 at the Great North Museum



Year 5 observing coastal defences



Year 6 at Roseberry Topping

SKIPPING FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The Year 4 skipping team recently competed against other schools at the Beacon of Light in a range of individual and group events. Their hard work, practice and dedication paid off as gold, silver and bronze prizes were awarded in every event in the festival, resulting in the team winning their heat and progressing to the finals which will be held in June. The children all represented themselves and the school superbly throughout the whole event - well done to everyone involved in this success.

YEAR 6 BASKETBALL

The Year 6 school basketball team recently competed in a number of friendly matches, held at Lambton Street Youth Centre in Sunderland. The squad thoroughly enjoyed competing against several other teams from the local area and they were highly competitive in all of the games they played. The squad are looking forward to upcoming fixtures later in the year.



The successful Year 4 Skipping Team



All smiles for Comic Relief 2024

ENGINEERING SUCCESS

A team of Year 6 children recently competed at the Primary Engineer Competition, held at Sunderland University. The team spent a great deal of time in the weeks leading up to the event designing, making and rigorously testing their own small electric vehicle. Their product was then put through its paces by an expert panel of engineering judges, including its ability to travel up a steep gradient and move in a perfectly straight line, as well as the team being interviewed by a group of local engineers. After all of the events, the team finished in First Place, winning the event outright with the highest score across the board in all areas judged. A huge well done to everyone involved in this success.



The successful Engineering Team



A selection of World Book Day Costumes

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

On Thursday 7th 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 children shared their favourite authors and book recommendations with the rest of their class. Many thanks to everyone involved for all of the effort put into the costumes, which were absolutely fantastic. Every child also received a special World Book Day story of their choice to take home on the day.

COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY 2024

On Friday 15th March, the school celebrated Red Nose Day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Children and staff came to school dressed in red as well as wearing a range of Red Nose Day items including funny noses, glasses, boppers and wigs, to turn laughs into lasting change and help those in need. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous donations towards this great cause.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Holiday - School closes Thursday 28th March 2024

School Re-opens - Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May 2024

KS2 SATs week - Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May 2024

Half Term Holiday - School closes Friday 24th May 2024

School Re-opens - Monday 3rd June 2014



HELPFUL WEBSITES



We are continuing to use the Reading Plus and Lexia education programmes, both in school and at home. Please encourage your child to continue using 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.

CLUBS ARE BOOMING

Monday	STEM	Lego	Football
Tuesday	Yoga	Basketball	Cinema
Wednesday	Bernard's Master Chef	Fitness	Football
Thursday	Drama & Music	Art & Design	Netball
Friday	Dance	Gaming & Computing	Basketball

HAPPY EASTER

After another successful, exciting and learning-filled term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday.

We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 15th April 2024 for another exciting term.

