



February 2024

# 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

Bernard Gilpin Primary School recently had the privilege of being named as a 'Top 500' school as published in The Sunday Times. The school was also named as a 'Top 10' school in Sunderland. Added to this, our school has also received a letter from the Rt. Hon. Damian Hinds MP (Minister of State for School Standards) to celebrate being a 'Top 200' school in the 2023 Multiplication Tables Check. Well done to everyone at Bernard Gilpin Primary School for these excellent achievements and thank you to parents/carers for your continued support in all that we do.

## OUTDOOR ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT DERWENT HILL



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

The children also challenged themselves on a hill walk in the beautiful surrounding landscape, as well as orienteering, tackling the low ropes course and navigating the indoor climbing wall. 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 throughout the week.

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, a speedboat ride, finding the courage to take on the challenge of the 'Big Swing' and toasting marshmallows on a campfire which they had built themselves using bush craft skills.



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



Taking on the 'Big Swing' challenge



Navigating the indoor climbing wall



A speedboat ride on Derwent Water



Big Smiles all round at 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 Coxswain,' a sculpture by Ray Lonsdale, in preparation for creating their own sculptures in the classroom.

**Year 3** visited The Great North Museum in Newcastle linking to their Science unit, Animals Including Humans, where the children examined and identified different parts of the human skeleton. Both Year 3 classes also visited the Ancient Egyptian exhibition, where they were able to analyse a wide range of primary sources, including an mummified human, in order to develop their understanding of this ancient period in history.

**Year 4** visited the Beacon of Light in Sunderland where they took part in a cookery workshop linked to health and well-being. As part of the day, the children engaged in a range of activities from Commando Joe's character education course to further develop their resilience, self-confidence and ability to work well as a team. The children also thoroughly enjoyed developing their culinary skills by learning how to prepare and cook chicken fajitas, which they then took delight in tasting.

**Year 5** visited Newcastle Castle where they ventured into the depths of the dungeon to take part in a Tudor 'Crime and Punishment' workshop, before further investigating this area of history by stopping off at Bessie Surtees' House, a local example of Tudor architecture. 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 Beacon of Light



Year 5 at Newcastle Castle



Year 6 at The Victoria Tunnel

## MENTAL HEALTH WEEK & SAFER INTERNET DAY 2024

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 'My Voice Matters.' The theme itself focused on how expressing ourselves can improve self-esteem, confidence and overall well-being. Children also discussed the importance of talking to friends and trusted adults as part of Safer Internet Day, and how this can also help to improve well-being and safety. Please see the school website for more information on how we can support our own well-being through 'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing.'



'Positivity Pebbles' created by children as part of Well-being Week

## HIGH-FIVE NETBALL

Two teams of Year 5 and 6 children recently participated in the Sunderland Primary School Netball Association (SPSNA) high-five netball tournament, which took place at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The children performed very well in all of their matches played, with both teams winning a number of games they have played so far. All of the children have represented themselves and the school superbly, showing fantastic team-work, effort and spirit throughout - well done to everyone involved.

## SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Children from Years 5 and 6 recently represented the school in the annual Indoor Athletics competition. The athletics team performed superbly in the track events, in which they placed highly across the board. This theme continued in the field events, in which a number of the children were placed in the top three, resulting in the team finishing in first place overall. All of the children performed admirably and were a credit to the school on the day - well done to all of those involved in this sporting success.

## 'GO RED' FOR HEART FOUNDATION

On Friday 16th February, the school had a non-uniform day to raise money for The British Heart Foundation, a charity working to support people living with heart conditions, providing funding for research, and campaigning to raise awareness. As well as wearing red and heart-themed clothing, the children learnt more about the work of the charity and how they help people across the UK. Well done to everyone involved for their efforts and for the generous donations received towards this great cause.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half Term** - School closes Friday 16th February 2024

**School Re-opens** - Monday 26th February 2024

**World Book Day** - Thursday 7th March 2024

**Parent/Carer's Evening** - Monday 11th/Tuesday 12th March 2024  
(Letters will be sent out after half term)

**Easter Holiday** - School closes Thursday 28th March 2024

**School Re-opens** - Monday 15th April 2024

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

**Summer Holiday** - School closes Friday 19th July 2024



Red and Pink for British Heart Foundation

Big Smiles at the Valentine's Disco

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

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

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

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

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

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

## VALENTINE'S DISCOS

The recent Valentine's Discos 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 2024

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7th March 2024, which is in the second 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!

## CLUBS ARE BOOMING

## 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 26th February 2024 for another exciting half term.

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