



December 2018



# 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**



Mowgli and his animal friends in The Jungle Book

### THE JUNGLE BOOK - YEAR 5 AND 6

The children of Years 5 and 6 put on two fantastic performances of 'The Jungle Book' over the festive period in school. The lead roles were taken by Year 6 children, with Alex superbly playing Mowgli, wowing the audiences with his brilliant acting skills. The role of the Bagheera the Panther was played fantastically well by Archie and Lana impressed everyone in character as the loveable Baloo the Bear. Lillie gave a 'groovy' performance as King Louie and despite their best efforts, neither Harrison as Kaa the Snake or Daniel as Shere Khan the Tiger were able to kidnap the man-cub. Year 5 provided enthusiastic vocal backing to the classic songs throughout the show and a group of dancers provided a visual treat during the songs. Well done to all involved and thank you for the fantastic support shown by all who attended the shows. Well done everyone!

### FOUNDATION STAGE - THE NATIVITY

The children of Foundation Stage performed their very own superb version of a traditional Nativity recently, in which the children retold the Christmas story. They were absolutely amazing, with great speaking voices and enthusiastic singing, not to mention some very cute characters. A big thank you to all of the staff who helped with the production and also to the audience, who gave such a positive response to the children involved.



Mary and Joseph in The Nativity



Cast members from Prickly Hay

### YEAR 1 AND 2 - PRICKLY HAY

A huge well done to the children and staff in Years 1 and 2 for their performances of Prickly Hay. The Year 2 children took the leading roles and worked extremely hard on learning and perfecting their speaking parts. Both year groups performed some fantastic dance routines and the singing was excellent. The costumes, enthusiasm and smiling faces made the nativity very enjoyable to watch with many parents and carers commenting on how well the children's performances were. A huge thank you to all of the staff involved and to those who attended and supported the children.

### REINDEER VISIT

The children were delighted when they discovered that Troy the reindeer was visiting school. All of the children in school had the opportunity to have their photograph taken with Santa Claus and Troy, as well as to pet the reindeer who was very well-behaved throughout the whole morning!

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

As a way of saying thank you for all of the efforts this year, governors and all involved with the school were invited in for Christmas dinner alongside the children and staff. A massive thank you to all of the kitchen staff for their efforts in making and serving the Christmas dinner, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

### SEASONAL SONGS - YEAR 3 AND 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 all took part in two wonderful Christmas themed performances entitled 'Seasonal Songs and Festive Fun.' All of the children sang brilliantly and entertained the audiences with their renditions of some traditional carols, as well as some well-loved classic Christmas songs. The children also entertained everyone with some festive fun in the form of jokes making the performances a great success. A big thank you to all of the staff involved and well done to all of the children for their superb Christmas jumpers and hats. Big thanks also to parents and carers who supported the children by singing along with the songs!



Year 3 and 4 Seasonal Singers



Troy the well-loved reindeer



## **CHURCH CAROL SERVICES**

The Christmas carol services were great successes once again this year. The children of Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 sang superbly at the Bethany Christian Centre, whilst the children of Years 4, 5 and 6 sounded equally as good at St Michael's and All Angels Church. Thank you for the support of everyone who attended in large numbers and it was wonderful to see many adults singing along!



## **CINEMA AND PARTY DAY**

To celebrate the end of another successful term, the whole school visited the cinema to watch 'Nativity Rocks' - all of the children thoroughly enjoyed the film as well as the snacks and drinks 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.



**Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Fayre    The Hamper Stall at the Fayre**

## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December saw the return of the hugely popular Christmas Fayre. There was a whole host of festive activities, with the queue to visit Santa Claus in his grotto as long as ever. There were also many sweet treats and Christmas crafts on offer, going down well with everyone who attended. The event went amazingly well and was aided by the generous donations made by parents, carers and families. Thank you for your continued support and to The Friends of Bernard Gilpin for their support in helping to organise the stalls. All funds raised will be used to support future activities in school.

## **YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN'S AWARD**

A highly talented group of Year 6 children competed in the National Young Mathematicians' Award (NYMA) in Sunderland this half term. After an excellent display of teamwork, combined with superb logical thinking skills, the team progressed from the first round in November.

Alongside eight other teams from the North East region, our team went into the second round of the competition where they battled it out to become overall winners of the region. Following an extremely challenging maths problem, our team once again showed great enthusiasm, passion and problem solving skills to come out as eventual winners of the Sunderland region for 2018. Huge congratulations to Ben, Kieran, Demi, Lana and Lucy who worked wonderfully well as a team to see off more than thirty other schools from the area to be named as champions. Well done to all involved!

## **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**

The school recently showed its support for Anti-Bullying Week, with all year groups taking part in various activities. This year's theme was 'Choose Respect' and to kick-start the week, the whole school were involved in an 'Odd Socks Day' where children and staff came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and what makes us all unique.

There was a huge amount of effort put into the day, as shown by some truly wacky and wonderful sock combinations! Throughout the rest of the week, all classes discussed ways in which we can set a positive example by choosing to respect each other at school, in our homes and communities and online.

## **BERNARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP**

December saw lots of glitter and sparkles with the young children having a great time making Christmas cards, calendars, reindeer food and tree decorations. The final week of term was party time for Bernard Bear's group. The toddlers were very excited when they visited Santa Claus and received a gift. They then went back inside for a sing-a-long and party food. Thanks to everyone who attended, making it a very special morning for the children. Lots of activities have been planned for the New Year, so please check the school website and flyers for more details.



**The Maths Challenge Team**



**Some odd socks on display**

## **CHILDREN IN NEED**

Children in Need was another huge success this year and the school managed to raise a substantial amount of money for the charity. This year's theme was 'Wear Your Spots' and the children were encouraged to dress in something spotty for this fantastic cause. There were many fantastic outfits, including many homemade efforts, which was fantastic to see. Thank you very much to everyone for all of your generous donations.

## **DEMENTIA FRIENDS**

The group have enjoyed a range of activities this half-term, including live music from the fantastic vocalist Greg Ross, a bingo and quiz afternoon and a sing-a-long to songs from the Rat Pack. There was also a wonderfully festive afternoon to round off the year, with mince pies and Christmas carols. The activities will resume every Tuesday afternoon in the Living Room from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019, and if you would like to find out more about our dementia group, or to see a list of upcoming events, please visit the school website.



# ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT KIELDER FOREST



The 'King Swing' challenge



A close encounter of the bird kind



Dinner time in one of the chalets



Making a splash at the pool

Year 6 have recently returned from an action-packed, five day residential to Kielder. The children's real life mathematics skills were put to the test when they went shopping for the week's provisions at Sainsbury's. Working on a specific budget was a great challenge - especially when fruit and vegetables came before sweet treats! The children then went on to take part in a WWI workshop at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle before heading off to Kielder. All of the children were involved in a variety of exciting activities during the week including a number of walks in the magnificent surroundings. They also visited the Birds of Prey Centre, where the children experienced some majestic birds up close, with some even holding and feeding them - Willow, the Little Owl, was a big hit! The children also had a great time swimming and braved the challenge of the King Swing over the course of the five days. All children also participated in Maths, English and Art activities, all inspired by the inspirational location. A fantastic experience for all involved!



## THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Foundation Stage at Fenwick's



Year 1 at Beamish Museum



Year 2 at The Life Centre



Year 3 at the Oriental Museum

**Foundation Stage** visited Bob's allotment where the children were able to pick some fresh carrots. Both classes then visited Sainsbury's to buy Indian food to eat during a Diwali party in class, in relation to the 'Festivals and Celebrations' theme. The Reception children were also amazed when they went to see the Snowman themed window at Fenwick's in Newcastle, before picking out a Christmas tree for the classroom in Chopwell Woods. The children then decorated the tree on return to school.

**Year 1** To support their understanding of the history of toys, the children visited Beamish Museum where they spotted toys from the past. When they returned to school, they looked in toy catalogues to compare the old fashioned toys with modern ones, comparing their similarities and differences. They were also lucky enough to experience school life from Victorian times in the Beamish classroom as well as visit the shop to buy some toys that they had seen in the exhibitions, so that they could play with them back at school.

**Year 2** recently visited the Life Centre in Newcastle. It was a great way for the children to end their science theme of 'Everyday Materials.' They thoroughly enjoyed spending the day amongst real-life scientists, where they took part in a practical workshop using scientific equipment to investigate which materials would make the best carrier bag. The children displayed a great ability to work scientifically during the visit, and the range of activities on the day inspired many young minds.

**Year 3** visited The Oriental Museum in Durham, where they worked as archaeologists in studying Ancient Egyptian artefacts. They also acted out a role play of the 'Weighing of the Heart Ceremony.' Both classes also visited Ouseburn Farm where they took part in a workshop allowing them to watch sheep being herded and feed other farm animals. They also were lucky enough to hold other creatures such as lizards, geckos and snakes!

**Year 4** visited High Force as part of their theme of 'Raging Rivers' this half term. Whilst there, the children used their senses to create a descriptive word list in order to create a poem about waterfalls back in class. The children wrote and performed some superb poetry that included rhyming couplets, similes and metaphors. They even read out their poetry to parents on our Back to School Day because they were so fantastic.

**Year 5** visited The Discovery Museum in Newcastle, in relation to this half term's Science theme of 'Forces.' The visit gave the children an opportunity to work scientifically, by designing, building, testing and improving rocket cars. The children worked well in groups and considered the effect of forces including gravity, air resistance and friction. The children also extended their understanding of forces by investigating and carrying out activities in the 'Science Maze' upstairs in the museum.

**Year 6** children visited Newcastle International Airport, where they thoroughly enjoyed completing a variety of real-life maths challenges. The learning was consolidated back in class where they solved timetable based maths problems.



Year 4 at High Force Waterfall



Year 5 at The Discovery Museum



Year 6 at Newcastle Airport



## CLUBS ARE BOOMING



### SPORTSABILITY SUCCESS

Eight children, who were very successful in the initial SportsAbility event at the Sunderland Tennis centre earlier this year, participated in the Sunderland Finals day in late October. The group of young athletes were highly competitive in completing a series of athletics events in both track and field disciplines. Through the efforts and great success of the team, they are now through to the Level 3 Tyne and Wear finals event in January. Well done to the whole team - a great success for all involved.

### CHANGE 4 LIFE CHALLENGE

In November, three Change4Life champions (leaders) and eight Year 4 children attended a Change4Life event at the Sunderland Tennis Centre. The children participated in activities such as archery, cricket, Brazilian Futsal, football, yoga and tennis. All activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all and the children represented the school superbly - well done.



**The SportsAbility Team**



**The Change4Life Team**

### CHANGE 4 LIFE CHALLENGE

In November, two teams from Years 3 and 4 represented our school at the Kepier cluster hockey tournament. The children demonstrated excellent control of the ball, as well as great shooting skills, which enabled one team to progress through to the final, where they were runners up. All children represented their school excellently and showed fantastic team-work. Well done!

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL UPDATE

Bernard Gilpin have started playing indoor football in the Hetton and Lambton league. Both the A and B team have competed in the right spirit and played some really exciting football during the half-term, with the league continuing after the Christmas break. This has given some children a chance to play football for the first time as well as others who played football on a regular basis. The girls also competed in the County Cup where unfortunately they were knocked out in the group stages on goal difference despite being unbeaten in the tournament. Well done to all girls involved.

<b>Monday</b>	Lego - Mrs Russell & Miss Akhtar	Drills for skills - Mr Winter, Mr Bainbridge, Mr Surrey	Fitness - Mr Burton & Mr Warren
<b>Tuesday</b>	Yoga - Yoga teacher	Brazilian Football skills - Mr Surrey & Mr Burton	Movie Night - Mrs Archibald
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cookery Club - Mr Pitt, Miss Craggs, Mrs Stevenson & Mrs Martin	Dance - Miss Smith, Miss Milne & Miss Huitson	Football - Mr Bainbridge, Mr Winter & Mr Burton
<b>Thursday</b>	Arts & Crafts - Mr Pitt, Miss Smith & Miss Akhtar	Brazilian Football skills - Mr Surrey & Mr Burton	Gymnastics - Miss Soden, Miss Ray & Miss Cawthorne
<b>Friday</b>	Fitness - Mr Burton & Miss Cawthorne	School of Rock - Mr Nichol & Mrs Stevenson	Shooting for hoops - Miss Ray & Miss Soden

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Christmas Holiday** - School closes Friday 21st December 2018
- School INSET** - Monday 7th January 2019 - School closed
- School Re-opens** - Tuesday 8th January 2019
- Valentine's Disco** - Thursday 14th February 2019
- Half Term** - School closes Friday 15th February 2019
- School Re-opens** - Monday 25th February 2019
- Easter Holiday** - School closes Friday 5th April 2019
- School Re-opens** - Tuesday 23rd April 2019
- SATs week** - Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May 2019

### 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)
- Touch Typing - [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After another action-packed and exciting term, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year on Tuesday 8th January 2018.

