



October 2020

# Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

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

### **A WARM WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL TO OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

It is with great pleasure that our school gates re-opened to the whole school in September - it has been wonderful to hear the buzz of excitement throughout the school and to witness the enthusiasm for learning taking place in our classrooms once again. Since returning to school, all of the children have been superb and have taken everything in their stride. They have returned calm, purposeful and eager to learn. We would like to thank you for your continued support in recent months and also for your co-operation in the new entering and exiting arrangements at our school. Routines are working well and your support is very much appreciated.



A stick creation in Reception



The Year 1 Geography treasure hunt



Year 2 testing materials in Science

**Foundation Stage:** A warm welcome to the children, and their families, who joined us in September. The children have settled into school very well, meeting and making new friends and exploring the indoor and outdoor environment has allowed relationships to develop through play. Sticks and twigs have been the focus of learning - the children have read a range of stories including *The Gruffalo*, *Stickman* and *Stanley's Stick*. Outdoors, the children enjoyed making stick people with natural resources and collaboratively built dens.

**Year 1** have enjoyed reading and re-telling traditional stories, including *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Three Little Pigs*. They looked in detail at the houses from these stories and used compass directions to follow a geography trail that led them to some hidden houses and the final golden house treasure. In Science, the children learnt about seasonal changes that happen in Autumn, went for a walk and spotted lots of signs of Autumn: their favourite signs were the spinning sycamore seeds.

**Year 2** have enjoyed reading *Little Red Riding Hood* and wrote a non-chronological report about wolves. In Maths, they have been learning about place value and methods to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. In Science, the children tested the properties of materials and chose a suitable material for a waterproof cloak for *Red Riding Hood*. In Geography, they have been learning about the continents and oceans of the world, as well as comparing weather, landscapes and life in England and Kenya.

**Year 3** have been learning about *Animals Including Humans* in Science. They identified bones within the human body on the full size model skeleton and have been looking at how the human body moves. In History, the children have been fascinated whilst studying Ancient Egypt. They have examined in detail King Tutankhamen's tomb and the contents found within it, analysing artefacts from the time period and explaining the steps of mummification. The children also enjoyed creating some excellent Egyptian death masks in Art and designing a sarcophagus for a pharaoh.

**Year 4** have been learning about Roman Britain. The children researched why the Romans invaded and wrote a balanced argument comparing the reasons for and against Boudicca's rebellion. In art, they have experimented with collage techniques inspired by Kurt Schwitters. The children also looked at collagraphs and created a printing plate of a Roman helmet. In music, the children enjoyed listening to ABBA and learning to play along to 'Dancing Queen' using glockenspiels. The children have been practising commands in French and enjoyed making actions to the commands to help them remember.

**Year 5** have become place value superstars in maths by comparing, ordering and rounding numbers up to one million. They have also learnt how to draw line graphs, which they used to present their results from a science investigation based on testing materials for thermal conductivity. In English, the children have enjoyed reading and studying different versions of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and have written some fantastic playscripts based on it. In History, they have been using different forms of evidence to build up a picture of the Norman time period. They then designed and made some excellent Norman-inspired printing blocks in Art and Design, which led to the creation of some impressive repeating prints.

**Year 6** have returned to school with a real desire to make the most of their final year in the school. They have really applied themselves in Maths to further develop their arithmetic and problem solving skills whilst in English, they have enjoyed reading *War Horse*, producing a number of written pieces based on it. Linking to this, the children have also been fascinated when studying the First World War in History, investigating the impact of propaganda posters and the lives of famous figures such as Walter Tull, Britain's first black officer. In Science, Year 6 have learned about electricity and particularly enjoyed designing, making and playing their own electronic board games.



Egyptian art in Year 3



Learning glockenspiel in Year 4



Year 5 Norman inspired prints



Year 6 Science board games

# A TALE OF TWO CITIES: YEAR 5 AND 6 VISIT LONDON & PARIS!

A large group of incredibly excited and highly enthusiastic children from Year 5 and 6, had the amazing opportunity to take part in an action-packed, four day residential in London and Paris back in March. The children set off bright and early from school ("I've never seen this time of day before!" as one child noted), taking the mini-buses to Durham Train Station, where they excitedly boarded the train bound for the capital. On the journey, the children's map reading skills were put to the test as they completed a geography activity, which included locating 6-figure grid references relating to a number of famous London landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and The Shard.



All Aboard the Hogwart's Express!



Crossing the River Seine in Paris



The Tottenham Press Wall



Outside Harry's House at Privet Drive

## YOU'RE A WIZARD HARRY!

After arriving at London King's Cross Station, the children headed across the capital to visit the amazing Harry Potter World. Before beginning the eagerly anticipated tour of the studios, the children were lucky enough to take part in a workshop with the education team at the studios, where the group learned about the art of writing an exciting movie script. They were also fascinated to learn about some of the 'tricks of the trade' such as how Hagrid was made to look like a giant in the films, as well as getting the chance to see some genuine props from the movies, including Hagrid's enormous head! After receiving a free gift of a sticker book, the children eagerly began the tour of the studios with a fully immersive introduction, before walking through some of iconic sets including Hogwarts Great Hall, Gringotts Bank and many more. There really was so much to see and take in that the children which made it a truly magical experience for everyone.



The giant Hogwarts model was one of the many star attractions

## LA TOUR EIFFEL

After enjoying a lovely evening meal and getting a good night's sleep, the children were again up and out of bed with the larks the next morning. We headed for the impressive London St. Pancras Station, where the children settled into their seats on the Eurostar train bound for Paris! In what seemed like no time at all (not surprising as the train reached a top speed of 230km per hour according to the on-board screens!) the children had arrived in the French capital. A short walk later and the iconic Eiffel Tower came into view to gasps of excitement. After stopping to take some photographs, the children excitedly walked across the Seine River and took two elevators up to reach the very top of the world-famous tower. What a view it was! The children then took part in 'Paris Eye-Spy' and attempted to locate well-known Parisian landmarks such as the Notre Dame Cathedral and Le Arc de Triomphe. When the children came back to Earth, they headed back to London for a well-earned rest. What a truly breath-taking and unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



Seventy-four excited children ready to climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower!



One of many underground journeys



Pitch-side at Tottenham's stadium



The script writing workshop



Looking for gold at Gringotts Bank

## **COME ON YOU SPURS!**



**COYS! The home changing room at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium**

## **SPIT SPOT, IT'S MARY POPPINS!**

After leaving White Hart Lane, the children travelled across the capital via the Underground system, to refuel in TGI Fridays, before heading to the West End. It was show time! And what an amazing show it was too. The children took their seats in the Prince Edward Theatre, all of which had a super view, full of excitement and anticipation for the imminent musical performance by everyone's favourite nanny, Mary Poppins. Soon the curtain was raised and the show began with a fabulous performance of the well-known, 'Chim Chim Cher-ee.' From that moment onwards, the entertainment only got better and better, with the children delighting in everything they heard and saw. They were wowed by the incredible dance routines, amazed by the stunning visual effects and laughed out loud to the comedy routines. Of course, they also sang along enthusiastically to the host of classic songs that kept on coming right to the end, as Mary flew off overhead with her umbrella to a standing ovation from all. Many of the children left the West End saying it was the highlight of the visit and feeling inspired to do their own Performance of 'Mary Poppins' - watch this space next term!



**The show must go on! Excitement building waiting for Mary Poppins**

## **PINEAPPLE DANCE STUDIOS**

The final day saw the children head to the world-famous Pineapple Dance Studios in Covent Garden for a dance lesson they would never forget. After a quick warm up session, the children took part in a dance session led by Adam Davison, the very man who had wowed them the night before in his role as Bert in Mary Poppins! In fact, some of you might have seen him recently on national TV, as he performed alongside the cast of Mary Poppins on the final of Britain's Got Talent. Adam put the children through their paces as they learnt the choreography to Bert's big performance of the show, 'Step In Time' (although the walking upside down on the ceiling proved to be a little tricky!). The children then had the opportunity to ask Adam questions about the show and his life as a West End star. It was then time to take the train home with a wealth of unbelievable experiences under the children's belts. An enormous thank you to everyone involved for making these four days such a wonderful and unforgettable experience. It was truly amazing for everyone involved.



**The children ready to dance with Bert at Pineapple Dance Studios**



**Tottenham's Press Office**



**The view atop the Eiffel Tower**



**Getting a groove on at Pineapple**



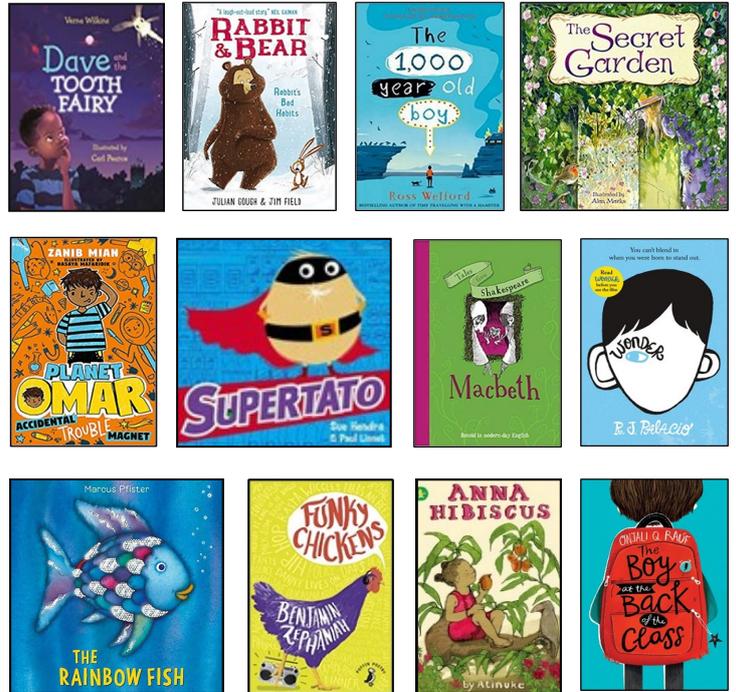
**Harry Potter...is that you?**

# READING ACROSS THE WHOLE SCHOOL

We are sure that you will all agree, reading is the fundamental skill that underpins a great deal of learning at school. From English to Maths, History to Science, every subject involves reading at some level. Since returning to school in September, the children's dedication to further improve their reading has paid off and there is a real enthusiasm. Everyone is keen and eager to read either independently or with an adult, which is wonderful to witness.

After reading one of the school's class texts, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf, Miss Huitson was so inspired that she decided to walk seventy miles in a month to raise money and awareness for the issue of refugee children. Now that is the power of reading - well done Miss Huitson.

A big thank you to everyone for your continued support in encouraging the children to read at home on a regular basis - your support is very much appreciated alongside your positive comments in the children's reading records.



A selection of the class reading books used across our school

## LILLY AND FRIENDS SAVE HALLOWEEN!

No Halloween disco, you say? With this highlight in the school calendar for many children on hold for this year, many were fearing the worst for their scary costumes. That was until Lilly and her friends from Year 6 came up with the fantastic idea of having a Halloween themed fancy dress day on the final day of the half term!

The children right across the school didn't disappoint with some 'spook-tacular' costumes. Well done to Lilly and her friends for coming up with such a great idea for a fun end to the half term and to everyone for their spooky costumes. A big thank you also for all of your generous donations to raise money for the RNLI charity.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS

A huge thank you to everyone for your kind show of generosity and great community spirit in donating towards this year's Harvest Festival display. All of the food has been taken to Street Care, a local foodbank charity to make a real difference to those in need in the area at this time of year.



The Harvest Festival display



Lilly and friends in their costumes

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half term** - school closes Friday 23rd October

**School re-opens** - Monday 2nd November

**School Photographs** - Thursday 19th November

**Christmas Holiday** - School closes Friday 18th December

**INSET** - Monday 4th January 2021 - School Closed

**School re-opens** - Tuesday 5th January 2021

## DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

As, we are currently unable to hold our Dream, Believe, Achieve assemblies as normal, the celebration of the children's achievements will be held every other week within each classroom. Alongside the certificates received by the children, a telephone call home will be made from the class teacher to discuss and celebrate your child's achievements.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

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

[sumdog.com](http://sumdog.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/)

[www.play.ttrackstars.com](http://www.play.ttrackstars.com)

## HAPPY HALF TERM

After a successful, exciting and learning filled start to the year, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful half-term holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 2nd November for another exciting half term. Take care.