



February 2019

# Bernard Gilpin Primary School

Dream Believe Achieve

Hall Lane, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8DA

tel: 0191 917 2999

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

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

## **NATIONAL YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS' AWARD SUCCESS**

A highly talented group of Year 6 children recently represented Bernard Gilpin in the National Young Mathematicians' Award (NYMA) in Sunderland. After an excellent display of teamwork, combined with superb logical thinking skills, the team progressed past some tough competition in the first round. Alongside eight other teams from the North East region, our team then went into the second round of the competition where they faced several extremely challenging maths problems. The team once again demonstrated excellent 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. As recognition for this fantastic achievement, the children were presented with a medal by Joel from the NYMA organisation, in a special celebratory assembly in front of the whole school. A massive well done to the children involved, as well as to Mr Winter who provided expert mathematical coaching sessions throughout the whole experience.



The successful mathematicians proudly wearing with their award medals

## **ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT DERWENT HILL**



Incredible views at Derwent Hill



Challenge of the 'Big Swing'



Children enjoying a hill climb



Kayaking on the lake

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 recently returned from a fantastic residential visit to Derwent Hill in the Lake District. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop respect for themselves, other people and the environment. Everyone had an action-packed week in the crisp weather, giving canoeing, gorge and mountain walking and orienteering a go. Children also challenged themselves on the high ropes course, a night walk aimed at developing team-work and finally, taking on the 'Big Swing' which was a highlight for most children. A great experience for all involved - well done!



Gorge walking at Derwent Hill



Part of the High Ropes Course



Snow-topped mountain walking



Big Smiles for Derwent Hill



# THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Foundation Stage at Stowell Street



Year 1 at Shildon Railway Museum



Year 2 problem solving at Sainsbury's

**Foundation Stage** visited Stowell Street in Newcastle. The children enjoyed studying the Chinese gate and visiting the supermarket where they bought some food and decorations for a celebration back in school. They also enjoyed sharing fortune cookies and reading the messages inside.

**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. It was a great way for the children to apply their recent maths work on money in a real-life context. They thoroughly enjoyed spending the afternoon working on various maths problems in the supermarket and navigating their way around the aisles. The learning was consolidated back in the classroom, where the children used their knowledge of prices to calculate which food brands would make the cheapest Lighthouse Sandwich.

**Year 3** visited Brimham Rocks in North Yorkshire where they examined the amazing rock formations first-hand. Both classes also visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle, in relation to their History theme of Ancient Greece. The children had the opportunity to analyse primary sources from the time period and evaluated life at this time.

**Year 4** visited the National Glass Centre in Sunderland, where they observed an expert glass blower in relation to the Science theme of Properties and Changes of Materials. The children then visited Sainsbury's in Sunderland to complete a maths trail looking at the cost of everyday goods, which was designed to enhance their understanding of real-life problem solving in relation to money.

**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 further, through a debate, when back at school. The Year 5 children also completed an enjoyable real-life maths problem solving trail on the Quayside whilst in Newcastle and Gateshead, including estimating and calculating the area of the Tyne Bridge.

**Year 6** visited the Hatton Art Gallery in Newcastle. The children were shown around the refurbished galleries, before recreating a piece of art in the style of Kurt Schwitters. Both classes then visited Sainsbury's to solve real-life maths problems involving money. The children of Year 6 were also lucky enough to visit the Empire Theatre to watch an amazing performance of 'War Horse' which linked closely to the History theme of WWI.



Year 3 at Brimham Rocks



Year 4 at Sainsbury's



Year 5 at Newcastle Castle



Year 6 at Hatton Gallery

## DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Dementia Friends have enjoyed another half term full of exciting activities, including bingo and sing-a-long afternoons. A highlight was the 'petting day', where dogs were brought in for the group to pet, play with and groom. In the final session, the friends of dementia celebrated Valentine's Day by dressing in red and listening to favourite songs, sang by the brilliant vocalist, Greg Ross. Please check the school's website for details of upcoming activities throughout next half term.

## WEBWISE DAY

On the 31st January, Mark Lloyd from Knetic Education came into school as part of a Webwise Day. The whole day was focused around staying safe online, and becoming more aware of online behaviours. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, and powerful messages were addressed through whole school assemblies, interactive workshops and training for staff. A special thank you to the parents and carers who attended the 'Digitally Aware' session - the workshop was very informative and the feedback was fantastic.

## BERNARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

Bernard Bear Toddler Group have had another busy, fun-filled term. The children loved making their own pizzas and choosing from a range of toppings - there were some imaginative combinations! For Valentine's Day, the group wore red and made Valentine's Day crafts using lots of glitter and hearts. Join us in the next half term for even more fun - please check the school website for future Bernard Bear Toddler Group dates.

## YOUNG ENTERPRISE DAY

This half term, Primary Enterprise World came into school and worked with the children in Years 2 to 6, focusing on developing their understanding of the world through practical and fun games. They learnt about money, how to manage budgets effectively and different job roles. Through these interactive activities, the children developed skills which will translate to real-life experiences and future employment.

## SCHOOL SPORTS SUCCESS

A huge well done to the SportsAbility team who recently won the silver prize in the Tyne & Wear finals, held at Temple Park Leisure Centre. Their success has been fantastic throughout and participation within the events has been greatly enjoyed by all.

A team of Year 5 and 6 children represented the school at the Kepier cluster hockey tournament. The children demonstrated excellent ball control, which enabled one team to progress through to the semi-finals, where they were runners up. Well done to all involved.

Two Year 5/6 teams participated in a netball tournament, which took place over two weeks at the Beacon of Light, Sunderland. Both teams demonstrated excellent shooting skills, which enabled both teams to be highly competitive in all matches. All children represented the school superbly and showed fantastic team-work.



Members of our sports teams proudly displaying the Platinum Award

## SPORTS RECOGNITION AWARDS

We are thrilled to announce that school has recently been awarded with the School Games Platinum Award. We are the only primary school in the whole of the Sunderland Authority, and one of only 104 schools in the U.K. to have received this highly acclaimed award. It recognises our consistently high standards in school sport provision including both curriculum based activities as well as competitive events.

Our school is also delighted to have been recently awarded a Gold accreditation - the highest possible level of achievement - by the Great Active Sunderland Schools Charter. The charter measures schools' performance across four key areas including Education, Sport, Physical Activity and Community Engagement. A huge well done to all staff and children involved in these two wonderful achievements.



Valentine's Disco-goers



Hearts for the Heart Foundation

## VALENTINE'S DISCO

Thank you to the Friends of Bernard Gilpin, who organised the Valentine's Disco, and to our fantastic school council DJs. The children had a great time dancing and many of them won prizes in the games. All money raised will be used to support activities in school.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half term** - school closes Friday 15th February 2019

**School re-opens** - Monday 25th February 2019

**Parents/Carers Evening** - Week commencing Monday 4th March

**World Book Day** - Thursday 7th March 2019

**Easter Holiday** - School closes Friday 5th April 2019

**School re-opens** - Tuesday 23rd April 2019

**SATs week** - Monday 13th - Friday 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 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>    | <b>Lego</b> - Mrs Russell & Miss Craggs                           | <b>Drills for Skills</b> - Mr Winter, Mr Bainbridge, Mr Surrey | <b>Fitness</b> - Mr Burton & Mr Warren                    |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Yoga</b> - Specialist Yoga teacher                             | <b>Brazilian Football Skills</b> - Mr Surrey & Mr Burton       | <b>Movie Night</b> - Mrs Archibald                        |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Cookery</b> - Mr Pitt, Miss Craggs, Mrs Stevenson & Mrs Martin | <b>Dance</b> - Miss Smith, Miss Milne & Miss Huitson           | <b>Football</b> - Mr Bainbridge, Mr Winter & Mr Burton    |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b> - Mr Pitt, Miss Smith & Mrs Reeves       | <b>Brazilian Football Skills</b> - Mr Surrey & Mr Burton       | <b>Gymnastics</b> - Miss Soden, Miss Ray & Miss Cawthorne |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Fitness</b> - Mr Burton & Miss Cawthorne                       | <b>School of Rock</b> - Mr Nichol & Mrs Stevenson              | <b>Shooting for Hoops</b> - Miss Ray & Miss Soden         |

## BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

This half term, the school showed its support for the amazing work of The British Heart Foundation, through a non-uniform day. Staff and children came into school 'wearing hearts' and brought in a donation. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support - the school raised a substantial amount of money for the charity.

## HAPPY HALF TERM

After a really exciting start to the term, 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 25th February.