



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

SCHOOL OFSTED REPORT: BERNARD GILPIN IS OUTSTANDING

After the two day OFSTED inspection which was carried out in school this term, Bernard Gilpin Primary School was judged as being 'Outstanding' overall, as well as being 'Outstanding' in all five areas judged during the inspection. Some of the key findings in the report outline that 'Pupils receive exceptional education and care,' and that pupils are 'extremely proud of the school virtues, which include justice, integrity, positive attitudes and wisdom.' Everyone at Bernard Gilpin is extremely pleased with this judgement and on behalf of the Headteacher, staff and Governors, we would like to thank you all for your continued support in all that we do at our school.



Some of the fantastic main cast in the Year 5 and 6 performance of 'Shrek'

SHREK - YEARS 5 AND 6

The children of Years 5 and 6 put a fantastic performance of 'Shrek' over the festive period in school. The lead roles were taken by Year 6 children, with Summer superbly playing Donkey, wowing the audiences with her beautiful singing voice, as did Isobel during her song. The role of the Shrek was played fantastically, and rather scarily at times, by William. George impressed everyone (except Fiona) in character as Lord Farquaad, and Fiona was played brilliantly by Molly (as a human) and by Misha (in ogre form). An array of fairy tale creatures were impressively portrayed by Piper, Katie, Zack, Scarlett, Mila, Kiera, Libby, Grace and Rowan. Year 5 and 6 also provided enthusiastic vocal backing to the songs throughout and a group of talented dancers provided accompaniment during the songs. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for the fantastic support shown by all who attended the shows.

FOUNDATION STAGE - THE NATIVITY

The children in 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. 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.

YEAR 1 AND 2 - PRICKLY HAY

A huge well done to the children in Years 1 and 2 for their performances of 'Prickly Hay'. The Year 2 children took the leading roles and perfected their speaking parts. Both year groups performed some fantastic dance routines and the singing was excellent throughout. The costumes, enthusiasm and smiling faces made the show very enjoyable to watch with many parents and carers commenting on how well the children performed - a huge thank you to everyone involved.

THE AMAZING ADVENT CALENDAR - YEAR 3 AND 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 performed 'The Amazing Advent Calendar.' This entertaining take on the nativity followed Nicholas Mistletoe, as he travelled back in time to the days surrounding the birth of Jesus and the infamous census where Mary, Joseph, townspeople, animals, wise men, angels, shepherds and innkeepers were all played superbly by the children. Throughout the show, the Year 3 and 4 singers helped to tell the story through their excellent singing voices and actions. Thank you to everyone involved for making this production a great success - well done.



Cast members in 'The Nativity'



Cast members from 'Prickly Hay'



Shrek and Donkey



CHURCH CAROL SERVICES

The Christmas carol services were great successes once again this year. On the morning of Thursday 15th December, the children of Reception, Years 1 and 2 sang superbly at the Bethany Church. On the afternoon of the same day, the children of Years 3 and 4 returned to the Bethany Church and sang beautifully as well. On Monday 19th December, the children of Years 5 and 6 sang superbly at St. Michael and All Angels Church. Well done to the children who also gave wonderfully clear readings during the services. Thank you for the support of all who attended in large numbers and it was wonderful to see many adults singing along to the Christmas carols and songs.



Wearing spots for Children in Need



Odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week

CINEMA AND PARTY DAY

To celebrate the end of another successful term, the whole school visited the cinema, where all of the children thoroughly enjoyed watching 'Elf' and 'Matilda.' All of the children also enjoyed their 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.

POPPY APPEAL

Once again this year, the school took part in raising money for the Poppy Appeal. The children had the opportunity to buy traditional poppies as well as other poppy related items. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, as a fantastic total was raised for this superb cause.



Big smiles all round with children enjoying their Christmas Dinner

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Children from all year groups thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas dinner alongside staff and a number of guests in school recently. Everyone enjoyed tucking into their traditional roast dinner and Christmas pudding for dessert, as well as pulling their Christmas crackers. 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.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Children in Need was another huge success this year with the school, raising a large amount of money for the charity. In the morning, the children participated in some mindfulness moments to practise different ways of looking after their own wellbeing in everyday life. Throughout the afternoon, each year group also took part in Children in Need's 'Moodboosters Work Out' with Joe Wicks - a fun workout to reinforce the importance of exercise for wellbeing. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing the different exercises while answering Joe's quiz questions. Well done to the children and staff for completing their Children in Need P.E. challenge, and thank you to everyone for all of your generous donations.

ODD SOCKS DAY

The school recently supported Anti-Bullying Week, with all year groups taking part in various activities. This year's theme was 'Reach Out' which focussed on reaching out to help others when they need it. 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 unique. There was a huge amount of effort put into the day, as shown by some truly weird and wonderful sock combinations. Throughout the rest of the week, children discussed ways in which they can spread kindness and reach out to others in school as well as in all aspects of their lives.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS

For those families not in receipt of means tested free school meals, there is a range of other support available in communities over the Christmas period. Information is available on Sunderland City Council's website – www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitychristmas – and includes information about access to food vouchers, food parcels and hampers, support with fuel and heating the home, mental health and well-being support, and support for carers, as well as festive activities and other events.



ACTION AND ADVENTURE AT KIELDER FOREST



The Zip Wire Roller Coaster was a hit



A close encounter of the bird kind



Creating pizzas in one of the chalets



The stunning views at the reservoir

Year 6 have recently returned from an action-packed, five day residential in Kielder Forest. The children's real life maths skills were put to the test when they went shopping for the week's provisions. Working on a budget was a great challenge - especially when fruit and vegetables came before sweet treats. The children then went on to take part in a Science workshop at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle before heading off to Kielder Forest. All of the children were involved in a variety of exciting activities during the week including a number of scenic walks in the magnificent surroundings. They also braved the challenge of the Zip Wire Roller Coaster over the course of the five days and participated in Maths, Drama, Art, D&T and Computing activities, all inspired by the wonderful location. Well done to everyone involved in making this a fantastic experience for all.

THE LEARNING CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Reception at Chopwell Woods



Year 1 at the Great North Museum



Year 2 at The Houghton War Memorial



Year 3 at the Baltic Art Gallery

Reception visited Chopwell Woods in relation to the taught theme of 'Twigs and Sticks.' The children enjoyed creating woodland dens and drinking hot chocolate before going on to pick out a Christmas tree for their classroom. The children then enjoyed decorating the tree on their return to school.

Year 1 visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle linked to their Science unit of Animals Including Humans where they investigated the museum's wide range of animals. The children also classified the animals based on whether they thought they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores as well as identifying specific features and what they are used for.

Year 2 visited the cenotaph at St Michael's Church in Houghton, as part of the 'Remembrance Day' history unit. The children discussed how and why soldiers and the emergency services are remembered before acting out their own remembrance service. On return to school, the children wrote non-chronological reports about the history of Remembrance Day as well as creating some poppy inspired artwork.

Year 3 visited Newcastle's Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in relation to their Geography unit of study of Settlements. The children observed a range of human and physical features to develop their understanding of the landscape and environment. The children also studied a range of art by Carolina Caycedo linking to the environment.

Year 4 visited High Force as part of their Geography unit of study about Rivers. Whilst there, the children observed first-hand the incredible power of the waterfall along with several other features of a river including meanders and deposition. When back at school, the children put their understanding into practice by re-creating the journey of a river on a large-scale physical diagram on the yard before drawing labelled diagrams of this back in the classroom.

Year 5 visited The Great North Museum in Newcastle, in relation to the Science unit 'Earth and Space.' The children were amazed by the planetarium show, which took the them on a journey through the Solar System and beyond. The children then went on to take part in an Earth and Space related workshop within the museum, during which they developed their understanding of how life on Earth is influenced by space.

Year 6 children visited the Hatton Art Gallery where they were observed first-hand some famous pieces of modern art by Kurt Schwitters. The children used this as inspiration to create their own collages in a similar style. Year 6 also visited the Great North Museum in Newcastle in relation to their Science theme of 'Evolution and Inheritance', where they observed the unique adaptations of a variety of animals including humans.



Year 4 at High Force Waterfall



Year 5 at the Great North Museum



Year 6 observing animal adaptations

ATHLETICS SUCCESS

After winning in two previous meetings against local schools, the Year 5 and 6 school athletics team recently competed against schools from across the whole of Sunderland. The team faced tough opposition in the track and field events including sprints, relays, javelin, long jump and a team obstacle event. After all events had been completed, Bernard Gilpin finished in first place overall, meaning the team will now represent Sunderland in the Tyne and Wear final to be held in the New Year. A massive well done to all involved in this outstanding sporting achievement and the very best of luck in the Tyne and Wear final.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

The school football team recently competed in the EFL Kids Cup, Sunderland round, held at the Academy of Light. After playing a total of seven highly competitive games, Bernard Gilpin came out victorious - eventually winning the final after a tense penalty shootout. The team will now go on to represent Sunderland in the Northern Final, with the winners of this round going to represent the whole of the north in the grand final at Wembley. Well done for this excellent achievement and the best of luck in the next round.

CLUBS ARE BOOMING

Monday	STEM	Lego	Football
Tuesday	Yoga	American Football	Cinema
			Basketball
Wednesday	Bernard's Master Chef	Drama & Music	Football
Thursday	Computing	Sewing & Crafts	Netball
Friday	Dance	Gaming	Basketball
			D&T

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After an another action-packed and exciting term, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year on Thursday 5th January 2023.

'QUICKSTICKS' HOCKEY

Twelve children from Year 4 participated in the 'QuickSticks' hockey event at Kepier School. Both teams performed very well and due to the children's determination and teamwork, both teams were successful; one of the teams remained unbeaten in all of their games played - well done.



The football team with Director Simon Marshall



The 'Quicksticks' Hockey team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Christmas Holiday** - School closes Tuesday 20th December
- School INSET** - Wednesday 4th January 2023 (School Closed)
- School Re-opens** - Thursday 5th January 2023
- Half Term** - School closes Friday 17th February 2023
- School Re-opens** - Monday 27th February 2023
- Easter Holiday** - School closes Friday 31st March 2023
- School Re-opens** - Monday 17th April 2023
- Bank Holiday** - Monday 8th May 2023
(King Charles III Coronation)
- SATs week** - Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May 2023

HELPFUL WEBSITES

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

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

<https://oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://spag.com/>

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

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



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