



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I spent a very interesting two days this week at the IAPS Headmaster's Conference in London. The conference features a series of lectures and workshops and looks at the issues and developments in Education. It is always a good opportunity to talk to fellow Heads and share ideas and experiences. Of particular interest was a talk on Mental Health by Natasha Devon MBE, most recently the Government's Mental Health champion, who has set up her own organisation called The Self-Esteem Team that deliver mental health education to young people. She talked about the pressures on children and parents in society and the tools we can teach our children for coping with these. I felt lucky and reassured knowing what a supportive set of parents you are and how, on the whole, our pupils enjoy their school and childhood. I will be working with the Leadership Team to factor in further developments to our well-being curriculum for the children.

The last couple of weeks has seen parents' Introductory Evenings take place and I hope that these have given you a useful insight into what the year has in store for your child.

The first of this term's PTA events takes place this evening and I look forward to pitting my wits in the staff team at the quiz night.

Open Morning takes place next Saturday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am. The school looks in great shape with our new facilities: the Prep playground, the MUGA and the Prep Outdoor Classroom. As always, you too are welcome to come and take a look round; do also let any friends and neighbours know if they are considering registering for a place for their child. Berkhamstead children do a fine job of showing prospective parents round and look forward to the responsibility; if you have not already done so then please return the form letting us know whether your child can attend.

FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Mon 3rd Oct

Year 6 Geography/ICT Field trip

#### Tue 4th Oct

Year 1 trip to Primrose Vale  
6.00pm – 4E Parents' Evening

#### Wed 5th Oct

2.30pm – Hockey U10 v Hatherop Castle (A)  
2.30pm – Hockey U11A, U11B v Rendcomb College (A)  
2.30pm – Rugby U10 v Hatherop & Prior Park (A)  
8.00pm - PTA Meeting, Pre-Prep Hall

#### Thu 6th Oct

4.15pm – Cross Country (venue TBC)  
6.00pm – Reception Parents' Evening  
6.00pm – 4T Parents' Evening

#### Fri 7th Oct

2.30pm – Harvest Festival,  
All Saints' Church – parents welcome

#### Sat 8th Oct

9.30am – 11.30am – Open Morning





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school...

### YEAR 1 TRIP TO CLEEVE HILL

On a misty morning last week, Year 1 set off to Cleeve Hill in order to enjoy the view of Gloucestershire and beyond from the great vantage point.

We hiked up to the highest point as the mist lifted and from the top of the hill we managed to see beyond Bishops Cleeve all the way over to Wales. The children all found a clean(!) spot to sit and observed the view closely before sketching some super pictures.

The children all behaved beautifully - we were really proud of them; a passer-by commented "it's lovely to hear the happy voices of the children carrying across the hill this morning".

We all managed to get down the steep hill and back to the car park in time for a biscuit and a drink before returning to Berk. A fantastic trip!



### YEAR 5 TRIP TO @BRISTOL

On Thursday Year 5 went to @Bristol to complement their study of the Earth, Sun and Moon. First we had a 3D show in the Planetarium that took us on a trip through our Solar System. We also learned how special our planet was for it to sustain life and about the search for other similar "Goldilocks" planets.

The pupils then had the opportunity to do a variety of investigations ranging from building a bridge using magnets, creating long bubbles and hearing music through our teeth to creating their own animations. A fun time was had by all.





## BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

### News from the PTA...

#### REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER!!!

This year's Family Fireworks evening will take place on Friday 4th November. Gates will open at 5.30 and the Firework display should take place at around 6.15.

This year we are going to make some changes. The MUGA means we will be building a firing platform to protect it and we will not be able to allow spectators onto that area as in previous years. The display will be totally "aerial" and visible above the roof of the Andrews building from the safety of the Pre-Prep Playground!

Also, in response to some feedback from last year, we are going to be providing more substantial food. Roast pork baps (with all the trimmings) will be available to purchase as well as hot-dogs for those less hungry! The usual range of drinks - mulled wine and hot chocolate will also be available. There will be no requirement to pre-order.

We are also planning to go "cashless" at the food and drink stalls. Last year there were holdups due to those serving food having to deal with change which, in the dark, took time. This year we will be asking you to purchase vouchers from a stall just inside the playground and to use these as a "virtual currency" when you buy your food and drinks. Hopefully this will speed things up!

Once again the children can enjoy a range of flashing novelties that will be on sale so come early and enjoy a fun evening!



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### RUGBY

#### Game - U8 Tag v Richard Pate

What a way to start the season! Richard Pate had 4 teams so both our Bison and Buffalo teams got to play 4 mini matches of seven minutes each. By the end of the afternoon each team had recorded 2 wins and 2 draws.

#### Berky Bisons

In each of the first 2 games we lost the toss and Richard Pate got to start with the ball. Throughout these 2 games however we were able to make the opposing team make more mistakes and we were able to score more tries. The first ended 3 – 2 and the second 4 - 3. In the last 2 games, play was a little more even with each team scoring tries in turn, both ended 3 – 3. Great tries were scored by Otto and Max (4 apiece), Jonny scored 2 and both Rupert and Alex Snell scored one as well. Ollie was unfortunate not to score due to being tagged close to the line and Jonathan played a great role keeping me up to date with scores from the other pitch and encouraging his team mates. Well played, boys!

#### Berky Buffaloes

The Berky Buffaloes enjoyed a successful Friday afternoon at the Richard Pate School. Four quick-fire matches ended with two wins and two draws.

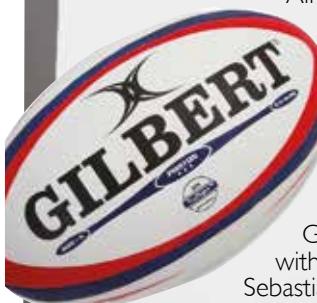
All the players contributed to the unbeaten run. Harry and Jack caught the eye with forceful and intelligent running; Will and Griff were elusive with ball in hand; Sebastian and Archie

proved energetic linkmen, passing and attacking with enthusiasm; Alex D was incredibly swift and hard to catch. All seven players scored tries and all seven players defended and tackled as if their lives depended on it. Importantly, the boys attacked and defended as a team which was the most exciting aspect of the event. Well played, lads!

#### Game - U9 v Beaudesert

On Wednesday afternoon the U9 boys took part in a rugby festival at Beaudesert. They played three different schools which were Dean Close, Beaudesert and Prior Park. Each match was different and they played really well adapting to their opposition. Passes were good and the boys did well to look for space on narrow pitches. There were some great runs from George, Jensen, Noah and Andrew and lots of the boys scored tries. The tackling was strong and all the boys got stuck in which I was really pleased to see. The boys applied everything that they have been taught in training and their teamwork helped them achieve three wins in a row.

Well done U9 boys, a great afternoon of rugby and three deserved wins. Thank you to the parents who came along.



#### Game - U10/U11B Team 1 v Beaudesert

The team consisted of Olly O, Edwin, Max, James C-G, Benjamin J, William and Olly W. The team tried hard but were outplayed by a strong Beaudesert team. The opposition offloaded well and were difficult to catch. We scored two tries, one through Edwin powering through to score from 10 yards and James who ran the entire width of the pitch to create some space to score in the corner.

#### Game - U10/U11B Team 2 v Beaudesert

The team consisted of Rumann, Charlie, Peter, Henry, Archie, James E and George. Again the team tried hard but once more were up against tough opposition. Archie played well competing eagerly for the ball and making some good runs. We scored 3 tries through Charlie, Henry and James E. Peter and Charlie made some determined tackles, Rumann made some good runs and George tried to compete in the rucks but despite this Beaudesert proved too strong.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### HOCKEY

#### Game - U9A v Malvern St James

**Lost 2 - 0**

On the wide Astroturf of Malvern St James the U9A looked very spread out as they stood ready to begin their match. It was the first match of the season for MSJ but their girls had a good grasp of passing and dribbling and play flowed at a fast pace from the outset. Berky rose to the challenge however – Varnika and Anna on the wings ran their socks off, Millie kept a strong attacking centre forward position and Georgina backed her up as centre half. The girls really gave it their all and almost scored on several occasions but just didn't quite get the ball to cross the line. MSJ also attacked well and put Bea, India and Daisy to the test in defence. Goalkeeper Hattie kicked the ball very well, saving several goals but MSJ eventually managed to score. Well played girls, you gave it your all.

#### Game - U9A v St Edward's

**Won 2 - 0**

A buzz of excitement was very evident as the match started. The game was mostly played by all the girls playing down the central part of the pitch with very few balls going anywhere near the side lines - something to work on in our lessons!

However, all the girls played with great enthusiasm and energy and battled away, determined not to let the St Edward's girls through on goal. Berky had the edge throughout the match

and certainly had more chances on goal. Hattie in our goal only touched the ball once. With the game being so crowded it was quite difficult to get the ball through the melee of people but Berky did succeed on two occasions. The goal scorers were Varnika and Daisy and the final result was 2-0 to Berky. Well done, everyone.

#### Game - U9B v Malvern St James

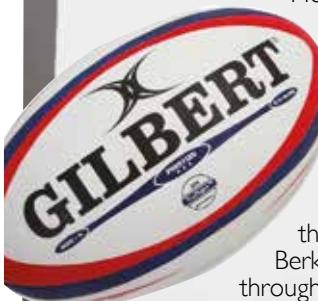
**Draw 0 - 0**

Both Malvern St James and Berky were still getting used to spreading out in this match. Teachers helped remind girls where they were to be and most listened very well. There many good passes delivered, there were many girls getting into a space so that they could receive a pass and there was lots of strong tackling. The match was played with good determination and Lizzie and Frankie in attack came very close indeed to scoring many times. Emily also had a shot that just went wide – well done for a good try. Sophie, in goal, made several very fine clearances – perhaps she has watched the England goalie who helped win the Olympic gold medal for her team. Each girl contributed to the match and well done to Emma, Lorien and Simran for keeping a strong defence.

#### Game - U9B v St Edward's

**Won 4 - 0**

What a busy week the U9s are having - Malvern on Wednesday and St Edward's the day after! With no subs available, the girls were prepared to play a full match and from the whistle they were attacking. Frankie's skills were on show as she dribbled the ball past several defenders and into the D. The St Edward's goalie was brave and came out to meet all the Berky attacks. Through sheer perseverance from Emma, Lizzie, Frankie and Emily constantly attacking the ball, we were soon rewarded by a succession of goals – all scored by Frankie! The defence team of Simran, Lorien and Sophie weren't really troubled, but Simran and Lorien protected Sophie with a couple of timely tackles. A great game, girls; you were really thinking about your positioning and played well as a team.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### HOCKEY

#### Game - U10 v Malvern St James

Won 2 – 0

After a long coach ride out to Malvern, the girls went straight into their match. With little time to warm up, the girls were immediately on the attack on an incredibly wide pitch. Trying to keep the wings wide was certainly a challenge! Berkys began well, spending most of the time in Malvern's D, but that first goal appeared to be elusive. Jemima placed herself well, ready for a sneaky shot on goal but kept being denied by a fearless goalie. Captain Emily worked hard to feed the ball through to Alexa – both showing skills on the ball. But still a goal would not come. Players were rotated; Isi and Florrie sprinted onto the pitch and immediately had an impact on the game. Florrie worked hard down the wing – keeping that width in the game. Finally, just before the half time whistle was blown, Alexa took a strong shot on goal and it went in! The second half was even better than the first. After encouraging reminders from the teachers, they began spreading the ball wider. Alice and Molly worked well together, protecting Leslie in goal and passing the ball out to the wings so that they could press forward. Alexa managed to score a second goal, putting Berkys in a strong position. Emily took over as Centre Forward after some acrobatics from Alexa saw her rolling on the floor.

Isi grew in confidence as she played on and became stronger in her tackles.

Sarah continued to battle hard on the wing, looking up and passing the ball cleanly into space for Emily to run onto. Well done, girls. An enjoyable game with the reward of a great match tea afterwards!

#### Game - U11 v Malvern St James

Won 4 - 1

Apart from the first 30 seconds when Berkys were half asleep which allowed Malvern to score unopposed and a short while afterwards when we missed two completely open goals, we played brilliantly getting better and better as the game progressed. Their goalie who looked about 6 foot tall and wide in her kit was very good and played right out from goal. As soon as the team learnt how to get around her the goals started flowing. Our defence was solid and although Helena didn't have much to do she made a good clearance in the second half. Lovisa, Ellie and Evie combined superbly by the end of the match; lovely passing and great shooting by Lovisa who scored all 4 goals! Well done to the whole team.

