



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting and busy week that has really put us all in a festive mood at Berky!

I was delighted to attend the Early Years' Nativity play, 'One Night in Bethlehem' – it was a wonderful event. Our youngest children have such confidence in performing and it was a joy to see. **I am thrilled and proud to inform you that our Early Years have received, for the third year running, the Bristol Standard Award for Excellence in Early Years education.**

This is a prestigious award and rightly reflects the quality of the education offered by the staff in Kindergarten and Reception ... brilliantly led by Helen Roddy-Watts. Well done to them all.

Pre-Prep's Nativity, 'Babushka,' at All Saints' Church was also a real treat. Poor Babushka is always busy but never happy; she follows a dream and sets off in search of Baby Jesus, performing kind deeds on the way. The children performed with confidence and sang beautifully. Colourful and creative costumes added sparkle to the performance and well-learned lines made it a special afternoon - well done, parents and children! With such lively and vibrant performances, the children have let us all know that the Festive Season is well and truly underway!

Last Saturday saw a super range of stalls at the Friends of Berkhampstead's Christmas Fayre. Hand-made decorations, cards and lovely gifts, games and face painting were sampled by many. The turkey rolls and mince pies went down very well as did the rather strong but delicious mulled wine! The Kindergarten was transformed into an amazing grotto and Father Christmas, assisted by Elf Agg, was very busy - seeing well over 120 excited children in three hours and giving them a specially chosen and wrapped present each. The raffle was a sight to behold - amazing prizes generously donated by parents and assembled into luxury hampers. It was a very busy morning and a great deal of work went into making it such a success. Enormous thanks to Michaela and her PTA team.

The Carol singing at Bay Tree Court, a home for the elderly, was super. It is a real treat to hear how very much the residents enjoy the carols and the subsequent opportunity to chat to our pupils. As always, they acquitted themselves wonderfully and brought a great deal of pleasure, as did the older children outside Waitrose last night. The singing was beautiful and many shoppers stopped for a while to listen.

It's been a pleasure to be able to chat with so many parents, grandparents and friends after the concerts and performances and to partake of the freshly baked mince pies - my thanks to the catering staff.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Carol Service next Tuesday which, as always, is a fitting end to a busy term.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 12th Dec

Prep Dress Rehearsals

Tue 13th Dec

**NO LATE OR SUPERLATE
CLUB**

6.30pm – Prep Carol Service,
All Saints' Church

END OF TERM

Wednesday 4th January 2017
Spring Term begins





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school...



YEAR 4 WASTE WORKSHOP – ‘PIZZA ANY-ONE!’

Year 4 in their Geography lessons have been learning about natural resources, the 3 R's and how humans affect the environment, which ended this

week with them making waste pizzas and dustbins from every item imaginable. Each section of the pizza or bin represented the percentage of different waste that we in Gloucestershire throw away in our bins every year. They were asked to be as artistic as possible and after a few minutes egg boxes, string, orange peel, screws, material, bottle tops, foam, twigs, plastic and polystyrene plus of course copious amounts of glue were everywhere! It was a great way to look at all the waste that should not end up in landfill sites and the fact that we need to recycle more. Lots of fun was had. Well done to all the Year 4's. LW

GET BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

Don't miss out on these fabulous Berky tea towels! An ideal Christmas gift, there are two versions - one features children and staff from the Prep School, and the other, gorgeous self-portraits by the Early Years and Pre-Prep children. Profits will go the PTA, so please support your school! Just £5.

PTA NEWS

As the end of a busy term draws near the PTA committee would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance over the last few months.

We hope that you will have a fantastic Christmas break and come back refreshed and ready to assist with our planning for the events ahead!

One date of note for your diaries! The 2017 'May Ball' will once again be held at the Pittville Pump Room and is to take place on the evening of Saturday 13th May. A planning team will be forming once we return in January and some volunteers to assist with the preparations for the event would be warmly welcomed. *Steve Ackland – PTA Chair.*



NEWS FROM THE
Berky kitchen

CHRISTMAS DINNER ON TUESDAY!

Did you know we will be...

- Peeling and roasting 55kg of potatoes
- Slicing 32kg of Turkey
- Peeling 18kg of carrots
- Stirring a large pot of 25 Ltrs of gravy
- Rolling 450 stuffing balls! ... Phew!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years...

This week has been a very busy but productive week for Early Years children and staff.

On Tuesday and Wednesday it was the Early Years Christmas Concert 'One Night in Bethlehem' which proved to be a huge success. The children did a fantastic job on narrating and singing the lovely songs which re-told the traditional Christmas story.

Kindergarten children made wonderful marching shepherds accompanied by their sheep and very sparkly stars and angels! They remembered all their actions and words.

Reception children undertook the narration very well and all spoke in clear voices and learnt their lines by heart. Parents and staff were very proud of them. It was good to observe how each child knew what was expected of them and staff sat back and let the children take charge of their performance!

A big 'well done' to all the children involved for such wonderful performances, as well as a big 'Thank You' for the parental help with costumes which once again were fabulous.

The Early Years Party was a day to remember for the children. The children and staff spent the morning playing traditional games such as Christmas Lotto and Musical Statues. The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the games and during the afternoon a very special visitor parked his sleigh and came to see the children.

Overall it was a very festive day and children went home very tired but happy!



Don't forget!
To see more Christmas jumper pictures, take a look at our Twitter account @berkycheltenham