



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It's been another very busy week – and I know that I say this often – but there have been so many extras. We are so very privileged to have a body of staff who put on such a range of special events for the children. This week has seen fixtures, visiting speakers, a Design Technology Day and making chocolate truffles in Year 1 ... I found it difficult not to sample these!

I was delighted to welcome Revd. Nick Bromfield to Berkhampstead this week. Revd. Bromfield is the new Vicar at All Saints' Church and is keen to support the Services that we hold there. He is coming into school again soon to lead an assembly and I do hope you have the chance to meet him at our end-of-term Mother's Day Service on 24th March.

We had a fabulous result in the Chess County Cup Final yesterday when the Berky Chess Team, so well led by Toby M, beat St. Gregory's to win the trophy. Please read more in Mr Cole's report later in the newsletter.

Of course, the most hotly contested House Event of the year is the annual House Pancake Races. Do please come along if you can at 3.10pm on the afternoon of Tuesday 28th February to enjoy the spectacle! It is a fine tradition and one that is perhaps the most relished contest in the Berky calendar for the pupils of St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. David's and St. Patrick's (in no particular order!). This will be followed by PTA Pancakes ... on sale in the Pre-Prep Hall.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Tue 28th Feb

3.10pm – Pancake Races, MUGA
3.45pm – PTA Pancake Event, Pre-Prep Hall
6.00pm – 5W Parents' Evening

Wed 1st March

8.30am – Year 2 Parents invited to visit Prep to watch Assembly and tour
2.30pm – Netball U9, U8 v Hatherop Castle (A)
2.30pm – Netball U11A, U11B, U10B v Beaudesert (H)
2.30pm – Football U11A, U11B, U11C v St Edward's (H)
2.30pm – Football U9 v Beaudesert (A)

6.00pm – 5B Parents' Evening

Thu 2nd March

4.15pm – Cross Country at Cheltenham College Prep School
6.00pm – Reception Parents' Evening

Fri 3rd March

8.30am - Visiting Head's assembly Mrs Bird, King's School, Gloucester
2.40pm – Netball U9A, U9B, U8A, U8B v Richard Pate (A)
2.45pm – Football U8 v Richard Pate (A)

Sat 4th March

Malvern St James – Schools Art Exhibition
9.30-11.30 Division 2 Chess Tournament hosted by Berky



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Stop Press...

Four large clumps of frog spawn have been spotted in our wildlife pond.

We look forward to the new arrivals!



News from around the school



MALVERN ST JAMES ART EXHIBITION

Congratulations to the following children for having work selected for the Malvern St James Art Exhibition. The exhibition takes place on 4th March at 10.30am; all Berky children and families are encouraged to visit.

Emilia F, Esi D, Nancy B, Max H, Bea M-D, Michael C, Griff L, Isabel K, Varnika B, Georgie J, George de B-T, Sarah D, Holly B, Nic M, Naomi F, Ethan O' Y.

CHESS NEWS

The Berky chess team retained the Cheltenham and District Knock-Out Cup yesterday afternoon. This is the seventh occasion that the school has won this trophy since 2005. A strong performance saw our talented players defeat a determined St. Gregory's side by 5 boards to 1.

The school should feel very proud of our fabulous captain, Toby and his loyal band (Jack, James, George, Olly and Sam) for representing Berkhampstead with such skill and poise. One league match (against Holy Apostles) awaits and hopefully Berky can record another back-to-back league and cup 'double'.



MUSIC EXAMS

The music exam date has been confirmed as Saturday 18th March at school. Please check that you have received a copy of the appointments by email today.

RECITAL

There is an after-school Recital planned for Thursday 9th March from 4.15-5.15pm in the Prep Hall. Please let me know if your child would like to perform but has lessons outside school. Children who learn with a music teacher at school will be signed up by their teacher if they choose to perform. We would prefer children to refrain from playing if they performed in last term's Recital, but there will be another opportunity in the Summer term.

CELLORHYTHMICS

A reminder that Mr Agg's ensemble will not be rehearsing on Monday afternoon next week, but will be joining with Berky Bows on Friday 3rd during the school day instead.

EARLY MORNING REHEARSALS

Thank you to all the many singers and instrumentalists who made such great efforts to be prompt for 8.20 rehearsals this week - it was much appreciated by the various ensemble directors so please keep it up!





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News from around the school

KINDERGARTEN

The children excitedly greeted each other after the half-term break. It's such a pleasure to see them enthusiastically participate in all the many activities and routines that occur daily in Kindergarten. This half-term we are following on from their interest with 'Time' and our 'Visual Time-table'.

This week we have been engaging the children in circle-time discussions about their daily activities, which will help them to build their understanding of sequencing. This is a very important concept for the children to develop, as it allows them to recognise patterns that make the world more understandable and predictable.

We asked the children to imagine that an alien wanted to have a sleep-over in Kindergarten. Could they explain how to get ready for bed? The children animatedly sequenced their own bedtime routines - bubbly baths to bedtime stories. We then welcomed our alien visitor and helped him get ready for bed, with all the necessary props – soap, toothbrush and sponge, etc. The children took turns to give each other instructions and directions very, very literally! Don't forget to take your socks off before you get into the bath! Alien is tucked up tight for the night with teddy and snoring loudly, ZZZZ...





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from the PTA

AN EASYFUNDRAISING PLEA FROM YOUR PTA!

Easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise money for the PTA and Berkhampstead School!

Planning on booking a summer holiday or organising your child's birthday party? If you make your bookings and purchases through the Easyfundraising site you will be able to enjoy your fab holiday and also raise a few pennies for the school all at the same time!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for The Friends of Berkhampstead School - Cheltenham?

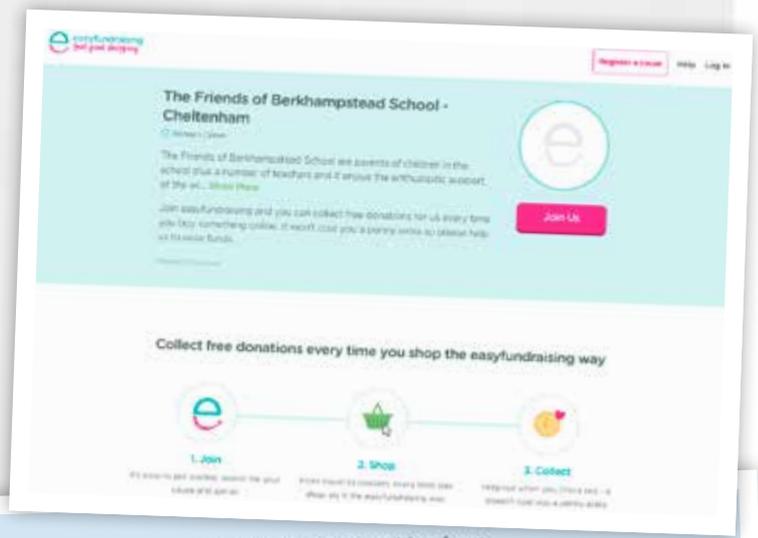
There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/berkhampsteadsch/ and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and The Friends of Berkhampstead School - Cheltenham will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.



You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways

£40 - jet the average family holiday package			
£15 - updating your wardrobe each year			
£30 - when you start your car insurance out			
£13 - every year with your weekly grocery shop			
£10 - making business purchases each year			



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

NETBALL

U11 v Rendcomb College -
Won 18-7

All of our Year 6s travelled to Rendcomb with the As playing in the first half of the match and the Bs in the second half. Our As started off strongly with the team playing fast attacking netball. The shooters were also on fine shooting form. At half time, it was a very comfortable 13-2 to Berky. Now for the Bs which was predictably a much closer game. In fact, honours were even and if we take the second half as a separate match the score was 5-5.

Well done to all our girls.

