

The

BERKHAMPSTEAD  
School  
Cheltenham

Times

27<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Diary Dates**

<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	10.15am – Netball U9, U8 at Cheltenham College Junior School
<b>Tue 31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	6.00pm – 4M Parents' Evening
<b>February 2012</b>	
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	2.30pm – Netball U11B, U9 v Prior Park (H) 3.30pm – Netball U11A v Airthrie (A) 2.30pm – Football U11A, U11B, U11C v Wycliffe (A)
<b>Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	4.00pm – Netball U9 High Five Tournament at St Edward's School 6.00pm – 4T Parents' Evening 6.00pm – Reception Parents' Evening
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	Year 5 History Trip to The Commandery 2.50pm – Football U9A, U9B v Richard Pate School (A)
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	9.30am – 11.30am – Day Nursery Open Morning for parents Berky Chess Congress
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	6.00pm - Year 1, Year 2 Parents' Evening
<b>Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	6.00pm – Nursery Parents' Evening Year 3 Parents' Evening
<b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Year 2 Design and Technology Day 2.30pm – Netball U11A v St Edward's School (A) 2.30pm – Netball U10A, U10B v Cheltenham College Junior School (H) 2.30pm - Football U8, U9 v Wycliffe (A)
<b>Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Year 5 Production Year 2 History Mystery Day
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Prep Mandarin Day Year 2 and Year 4 Cake Sale
<b>Half Term – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	School begins

Dear Parents,

It has been an extraordinarily busy two weeks on the games fields with a whole raft of fixtures for both boys and girls going on. Last Wednesday saw nine competitive matches going on with the vast majority of Prep school pupils involved. School policy is for every child to represent the school competitively and last week nearly everyone did on a single day! We had some super results – not all wins - but crucially, all matches were played in the spirit that we would all wish – that of dogged perseverance, determination and good humour.

It has been a busy week for prospective parents coming to look around the school. It's always a pleasure to show off some of what we do here and I have been delighted in the past couple of weeks to come across many situations during tours where Berky pupils have shown themselves in a splendid light. Pupils are rightly proud of their school and they are our best advertisement when they respond with

honest enthusiasm when questioned. As I walk around it's a real privilege to open classroom doors and see first hand some of the wonderful things that your children are experiencing. We have a superb body of teachers here and they demonstrate daily their commitment to the children.

This morning saw the first of our Visiting Heads' assemblies of the year. Alistair Macnaughton from King's Gloucester came and spoke interestingly about winning and losing and the benefits we gain from taking risks. The children were engaged and offered really perceptive and intelligent answers to his questions.

The schedule for future visits is: You are very welcome to come along to the Pre-Prep Hall and have coffee, biscuits and a chat with any of them after the assembly should you want to make any informal enquiries or simply to socialise.

Next week sees the beginning of the Spring Term cycle of Parents' Evenings and I look forward to welcoming you.

On a couple of occasions in recent weeks we have had problems when parents have parked in the car park in front of the Pre-Prep building when collecting children. Could I please ask that you park on the road in order that we have a clear area for children to enter and leave the playground safely and that the minibuses have easy access.

Rehearsals for the Year 5 play Archibald's War continue apace. The experience of the evacuees is really starting to come to life under the expert guidance of Mrs Milton. It promises to be a splendid performance.

Next weekend sees the Berky Chess Congress with a huge number of children of all ages and abilities competing. Good luck to all involved. This coincides with an opportunity for you to see inside our new Day Nursery. Please come along between 9.30 and 11.30 am for a tour of the facility and to meet our Day Nursery Manager, Mrs Diane Martin. **RPC**

## **PRE PREP AND EARLY YEARS**

Year 2 are now completely immersed in their Victorian studies. They have enjoyed looking at the artefacts that people have brought in and are looking forward to opening the three museum boxes that have recently arrived.

Poor Mrs Williams-Jones has had a nasty chest infection and sinusitis. However, 1WJ have been very well looked after by Mrs Tulacz and the children have continued to thrive and learn. We are pleased to have her back again today! Year 1 are looking forward to their church visit on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Tuesday and Thursday morning breaks are now designated skipping days. After a fantastic demonstration of skipping skills by Ellianna in 1WJ, several children are interested in learning some of her clever tricks. However, due to the lack of space we can only allow a certain number of children to skip at one time; things will improve when the warmer weather arrives and the grass is available!

Please could you ensure that scooters and bicycles are not ridden in the playground at any time as they could cause an accident. Unfortunately, dogs are also not allowed in the playground for health and safety reasons.

The Parents' Evening lists for Year 1 and Year 2 will be up on the Hall notice board from Monday. Please sign up as soon as possible or speak to your child's class teacher if you are unable to attend.

This week Early Years have been very busy with celebrating Chinese New Year and the celebrations have continued throughout the week.

Nursery took a trip out to the shops to buy vegetables. The children loved walking to the shops and buying the ingredients to cook on their return. The children excitedly took their stir fry home to share with the family. Lovely Dragon dances have taken place around the Nursery alongside Chinese music. The children have also enjoyed exploring noodles and found trying to pick them up with tweezers quite tricky! The children sampled a variety of Chinese foods during snack time and enjoyed comparing the foods.

Reception children made red envelopes and were very surprised to find a chocolate coin inside the next day which they of course sampled at once. They also created Chinese dragons which are very colourful and individual. Reception children watched a DVD to learn about this exciting festival and staff and children learned some interesting facts. We also enjoyed sampling lots of Chinese food and there was not one prawn cracker left!

The children are excited about our trip to Oxford museum on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February; please return the signed consent forms.

Staff are looking forward to Parents' Evenings to discuss your child's progress.

Reception Parents' Evening is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.00 pm

Nursery Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm.

Parents' Evening forms are displayed for you to sign up.

**GA/HRW**

## **MUSIC**

Parents' Choir for Spring Concert – I will be holding the first rehearsal for this exciting new venture on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – 9.15pm in the Prep building. Please would you return slips to me or email the office so that I can know how many to expect for organising music copies. You do not need to be an experienced choral singer but an ability to hold a melody and enthusiasm to practise if you do not read music would be helpful.

**PM**

## ***Match of the Week***

### **Netball Reports**

#### **Under 11B v Beaudesert**

This team had the good fortune to play two matches against Beaudesert and they played very well in both; the two matches were very closely fought. Super defence by Hattie T, Corinne and Gemma and accurate attacking play by Nina, Hattie W, Natasha, Milly and Roseanna contributed to the exciting games. Berky lost one game by 2 goals to 1 but won the other by 4 goals to 3. Well done!

#### **Other results**

Under 11A versus Beaudesert lost 4-12

Under 10A versus Beaudesert lost 2-10

Under 10B versus Beaudesert lost 1-6

Under 11A versus The Croft lost 3-10

Under 10A versus The Croft lost 5-8

## **Football Reports**

### **U11B Teams**

U11B v Hatherop Castle      Won 7-0  
U11B v Richard Pate          Won 2-1

A fantastic start to the season with two excellent wins. Both matches demonstrated excellent position play, great passing and above all great heart. The first match became a goal feast with superb goals by Henry Rayner, Jack Cohane, Harry Orme and a superb solo effort by Remo Bassanino. The whole team played exceptionally well with very strong performances by Samuel de Burgh Thomas and Benjamin Fuller. Our second game against RPS was equally fantastic keeping a very good team to a respectable draw until a last minute thunderbolt from Harry Orme secured a memorable victory. Stand out performances this match were George Warley, Henry Harvey and Felix Bird. Really good start, well done to all concerned. **AJM**

### **U11A Team**

Berkhampstead 5 Hatherop Castle 0

Richard Pate 3 Berkhampstead 3

The U11 team have made a great start to the season. Last week they had an emphatic win over Hatherop, displaying excellent passing skills and some clinical finishing. Louis was the creative influence in midfield and scored an excellent hat trick. Further goals were also scored by Luis and Jonah.

On Wednesday we were involved in a super game against Richard Pate. It was closely contested and very exciting to watch. There were some super performances from Lukas, who is proving to be a very good goalkeeper, as well as Fraser, Archie and Jonah. Our goals came from Louis(2), who had another outstanding game, and Matthew, who also played very well. Well done to all the boys and many thanks to our supporters. **PMC**

### **U9A and B v Hatherop Castle and Prior Park**

This was great introduction to the football season for the U9 teams. Both teams played Hatherop and Prior Park (played at Hatherop) and showed significant improvement between the games. For the A team a narrow defeat 3-2 to Hatherop (2 goals from Oliver L) was followed by a victory against Prior Park 2- 1 (one each for Oliver T and Oliver L) and a much more determined defensive performance. The game of the afternoon though was the B team against Hatherop. Following a 2-0 defeat to Prior Park, the B team showed perseverance and determination in drawing the game 0-0. It was end to end play with excellent defence from Henry and Jamie, whilst George got very close to scoring on 3 or 4 occasions. A good end to a very satisfying afternoon of football. Well done boys! **RPC**

### **Other results**

U8 v Prior Park B team drew 1-1  
U8 v Prior Park A team lost 4-0  
U8 v Hatherop Castle A team lost 1-0  
U8 v Prior Park B team lost 3-0