

*The*

BERKHAMSTEAD  
*School*  
Cheltenham

*Times*

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Diary Dates**

**11<sup>th</sup> November – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

<b>Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Year 4 Recycling Workshop
<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	2.30pm Rugby U11A, U11B v The King's School (A) 3.30pm – Hockey U11A, U11B v Richard Pate (A) 8.00pm – PTA Meeting, Pre-Prep Hall
<b>Thu 17<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	PTA Event – Bags2School collection 4.10pm – Chess v Dormer House (6 players) to be held at Whittington Village Hall
<b>Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	2.30pm – Rugby U8 Tag v Rendcomb (A) 3.15pm – Rugby U9 v Dean Close (A)
<b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	4.00pm – Chess v St Edward's (12 Players) (A)
<b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b>	2.00pm – Rugby Festival U11 at Dean Close 2.30pm – Hockey U11B, U10B, U9B v Beaudesert (A)
<b>Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	4.00pm – Chess v The King's School, Gloucester (12 players) (A) 4.15pm – Recital, Pre Prep Hall
<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	2.45pm – Hockey U9A, U9B v Richard Pate (A) 2.50pm – Rugby U9 v Richard Pate (A)

Dear Parents,

Half term is over and we are now well in to the swing of things – it has been a packed first week back with fixtures, a Book Fair, Year 2 starting swimming sessions, a Year 1 Museum trip, Operation Christmas Child and preparations for the Friends of Berkhamstead's Christmas Fayre to name but a few! You may have seen the changes to the foyer in the Pre-Prep building – it makes it a much more welcoming place – it is nearly finished and looks super. Thank you for parking considerately at drop-off and pick-up times, the weather is now rather more autumnal and it is particularly important in the dark evenings that the children stay safe.

The School Council has consulted the pupils and selected the Dog's Trust along with Children in Need to benefit from a mufti day for charity planned for next Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> November – more details on this will follow.

**RPC**

**PREP**

Welcome back after half term. This term we welcome Laura Smith, a gap student, who will be assisting with sport, in the classroom and in the Late Club. Having finished school she is keen to study Sport and Geography at University next year.

Two new lunchtime clubs have started this half term, Touch Typing for Year 3 and a Book Club for Year 5, and whilst spaces are limited all will get an opportunity to attend over the course of this term and next.

As always there are many trips and activities planned for this half term, such as carol singing. Please check the web site calendar for any additional events. **AJM**

## **PRE PREP AND EARLY YEARS**

Although it seems a long time ago now, I cannot let the Japanese Culture Day go by unmentioned. The Year 1 and 2 children had a marvellous last day of half term doing Origami and Calligraphy and experience the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Everyone, including Mr Cross, also dressed up in an authentic kimono. The afternoon was taken up with an Asian Feast for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children many of whom were prepared to sample and experiment with some unusual foods; many thanks to the parent helpers for this event and also to the organiser for the morning, Keiko Hirano.

The Year 1 children had a thoroughly enjoyable trip to the Stroud Museum in the Park. They looked at toys from the past and played traditional playground games and also saw the Rodney Peppe exhibition. The day finished with a fantastic story session. All the children behaved well and were very enthusiastic – we were proud of them!

Please could you look at home for any unwanted DVD's (U rated) and board games in good condition for Late Club. We would also welcome donations of paper for drawing.

Now the busy rush towards Christmas begins! We have the Panto and the Nativity plays to look forward to.

The Nursery children have settled back into Nursery life with great enthusiasm. What a great start to the second half of this autumn term. The children have enjoyed learning about Diwali, the festival of light. They had great fun changing the role play into an Indian house celebrating Diwali. It has been decorated with lights, divas and Happy Diwali cards coloured by the children. The children are enjoying dressing up in traditional clothes and shoes. Staff and children also enjoyed Indian food during snack time and really loved tasting a variety of spicy foods. Staff brought some music CD's so the children could dance and practice their Indian dancing.

What a wonderful first week back Reception have had! We whirled, twirled, and whizzed into action to celebrate fireworks and introduced our theme "Let's celebrate". The children have had great fun finding out about Bonfire Night, creating fantastic pastel firework pictures and writing firework describing words. After all our 'Bonfire Night' activities this week, we are looking forward to celebrating Diwali next week.

Christmas is fast approaching! We are thinking of our Early Years Christmas Concert which will be held in the Andrews Centre on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15. The play is called "Christmas Eve in the Toy Shop". Mrs Sallis is already practising the simple and catchy songs which retell the traditional Christmas story through dance and songs.

Thank you for attending Parents' Evening during the last week before half term. It was lovely to see the large number of parents who attended to hear and share their child's progress.

Children in Reception only need to bring in their duffle coats rather than blazers.

**GA/HRW**

I have been asked to draw your attention to a charity Christmas Concert in aid of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Posters are up on the parents' notice board. **RPC**

# *Match of the Week*

## **Hockey Reports**

### **U11A v St Edward's School**

**Berkhampstead 2 St Edward's 5**

This was a very close and exciting match and even though St Edward's won by 5 goals to 2 the team played superbly. The St Edward's team were very strong but we gave it our best shot and the team supported each other very well and never gave up. Ella scored both goals and we could have scored a couple more if it wasn't for their very strong goalie. Well tried everyone.

### **U10A v St Edward's School**

**Berkhampstead 1 St Edward's 0**

This was an even closer match and I think it gave our team a bit of a jolt as they are used to winning quite comfortably. Incredibly close and hard fought, it was end to end stuff but we did have more shots on goal than the St Ed's team. Everyone played well and Matilda did superbly in her first match for the A team. The final score was 1-0 to Berky and the area we need to work on is to follow our shots into goal. Well done to all who played.

### **U10B v St Edward's School**

**Berkhampstead 5 St Edward's 1**

An amazing game in which all the girls played to their full potential. Great defending, dazzling dribbles, accurate passing and fantastic special awareness led to 5 great goals. The team outplayed St Edward's in all areas of the field. A well deserved victory.

### **U11B v St Edward's School**

**Berkhampstead 1 St Edward's 0**

The U11Bs played 3 matches due to the number of St Ed's girls available. The girls all played extremely well. The first two games ended goalless but in the third game Natasha Hartman scored the only goal brilliantly set up by Phoebe Barnes. It was a great performance by all the girls. **LW**

## **Rugby Reports**

### **U11 v St Edward's School**

**Berkhampstead 7 St Edward's 14**

The Under 11 team continued to make great progress with a fantastic performance against St Edward's. We were the stronger team at the breakdown with excellent rucking from the forwards. This in turn produced some good balls for the backs, who managed to get the ball wide and really test the opposition defence. Rob Caesar scored a super try and came very close to equalising when Felix Bird was stopped just centimetres from the try line. The boys also held their line well with some determined tackling. Well done to all the team. **PMcC**

## **COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL**

For the sake of the environment we will be emailing the newsletter only from now on. If you are having difficulties receiving the emails or would like the newsletter emailed to another address, please let the office know. A paper copy will be available from the School office.

