

BERKHAMPSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE

2020  
SPRING TERM

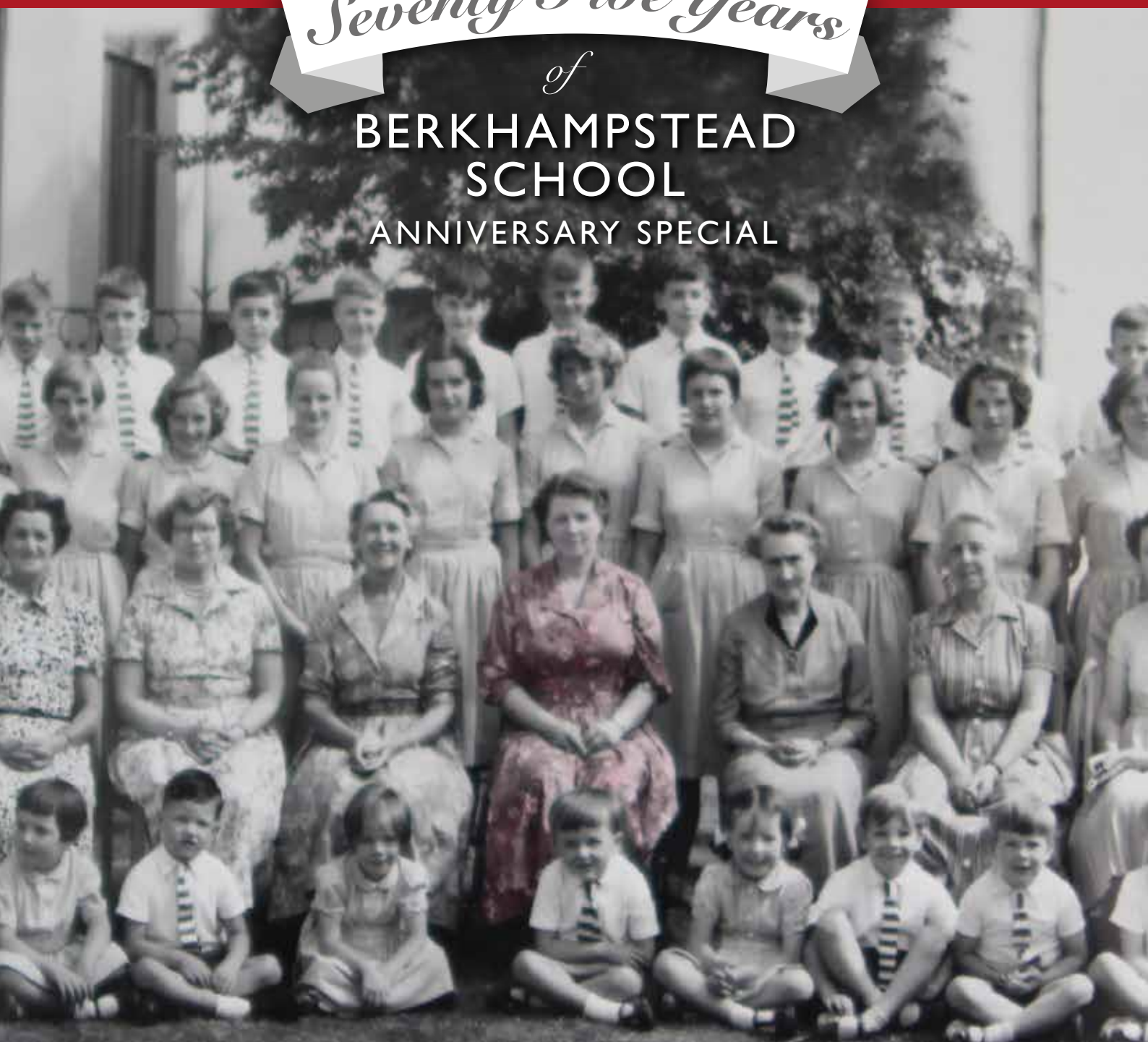
# BLAZER

*Seventy Five Years*

*of*

BERKHAMPSTEAD  
SCHOOL

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



*Outstanding  
in all areas!*

ISI INSPECTION 2019

*Jacqueline  
Wilson*

VISITS BERKY

INSIDE: SPOTLIGHT ON EDNA ANDREWS | SCHOOL NEWS | SPORTS REPORTS





## Thoughts from THE HEAD

Berkhampstead isn't about teaching subjects, it's about teaching children. I believe that we provide an education that is not about possessing the 'answers,' but understanding the importance of the questions. We are a place where the children learn to respect others, become tolerant toward all points of view, not necessarily to accept them as their own, but to understand why someone else might hold them. And our efficacy cannot be measured in numbers.

However, in the last 5 years...

*1140 sports matches have been played against other schools.*

*44 children have performed in the National Children's Orchestra or National Children's Choir.*

*80% of the children who took the Grammar School test have gained a place.*

*70 Independent School Music, Art, Sport and Academic Awards have been gained.*

*4 times the Chess Team have won the District League.*

But most importantly...


**100% of the children are appreciated for their special qualities.**

And this is the same now as when Mrs Edna Andrews started the school in 1945. On our 75th Anniversary I can honestly say that her aims and ethos still shine strong and are as valid today as they were in 1945. Happy children thrive - and they are happy when they are valued for their unique qualities. This was evidenced again by the Independent School Inspectorate last term when the Early Years in the School and Day Nursery were graded outstanding. Glance through this edition of the Berkly Blazer and you'll see evidence of all this.

What a privilege it is to be Head of such a school!

*Richard Cross*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



### BERKY HEADS

MRS EDNA ANDREWS  
1945 - 1964

MR PH SPARKS  
1964 - 1978

MR WALTER MARSH  
1978 - 1996

MR TIM OWEN  
1996 - 2010

MR RICHARD CROSS  
2010 - Current

## Spotlight on MRS EDNA ANDREWS



Edna Andrews - Berkhampstead's founder - was a music teacher who started the school in 1945. She sold the school twenty years later, but kept in touch, and pupils used to visit her in her residential care home, Bay Tree Court, right up until 2009 when she died at the age of 105. This piece is inspired by an interview that was published in the Echo in the year 2000.

### Why did you start Berkhampstead School?

My husband was a GP and very sadly he was struck with Parkinson's disease. I was 41 and was forced to become the family breadwinner to feed our two young children. I was a teacher, and turned our large Pittville home into a kindergarten to support our family.

### What makes a good school?

Good staff make a good school. The staff today don't even need to use the cane. The pupils are all so organised and well-behaved.

### You started with just 22 pupils in 1945. How did the school grow?

We began to take pupils from three to 18. Thanks to a friend of mine at the US embassy in London, many American children attended. There was even a copy of the prospectus on the shelves of the Pentagon, the US defence headquarters in Washington.

### What were your views on school lunches?

I didn't allow sandwiches. I insisted that each pupil should eat a home-cooked, hot meal at school every day. You must have rules. Children need order. I had a first-class cook. In fact, some children liked the meals so much their parents would write letters asking how they could make their gravy as delicious as ours.

### What were the most important values at Berkhampstead?

I vowed that my school should be a happy, nurturing place. Life isn't anything without happiness. I was determined each pupil should have a rounded education, whatever their talents. Some children are good at maths, others are good at art. Both should be encouraged.

### What do you think about the introduction of primary school exams?

It's shocking. It's too early. Sometimes a child must just be a child. If the teacher is teaching them properly the pupils don't need exams. They will face tests all through their lives. Why start so young?

### When did you leave Berkhampstead School?

In 1964, I had built up the school to 200 pupils. I sold the school, retired from teaching and moved to Devon to look after my son John's children when his marriage broke up. He became seriously ill with heart problems and died in 1998, and so I moved back to Cheltenham.

### What do you think of Berkhampstead School today?

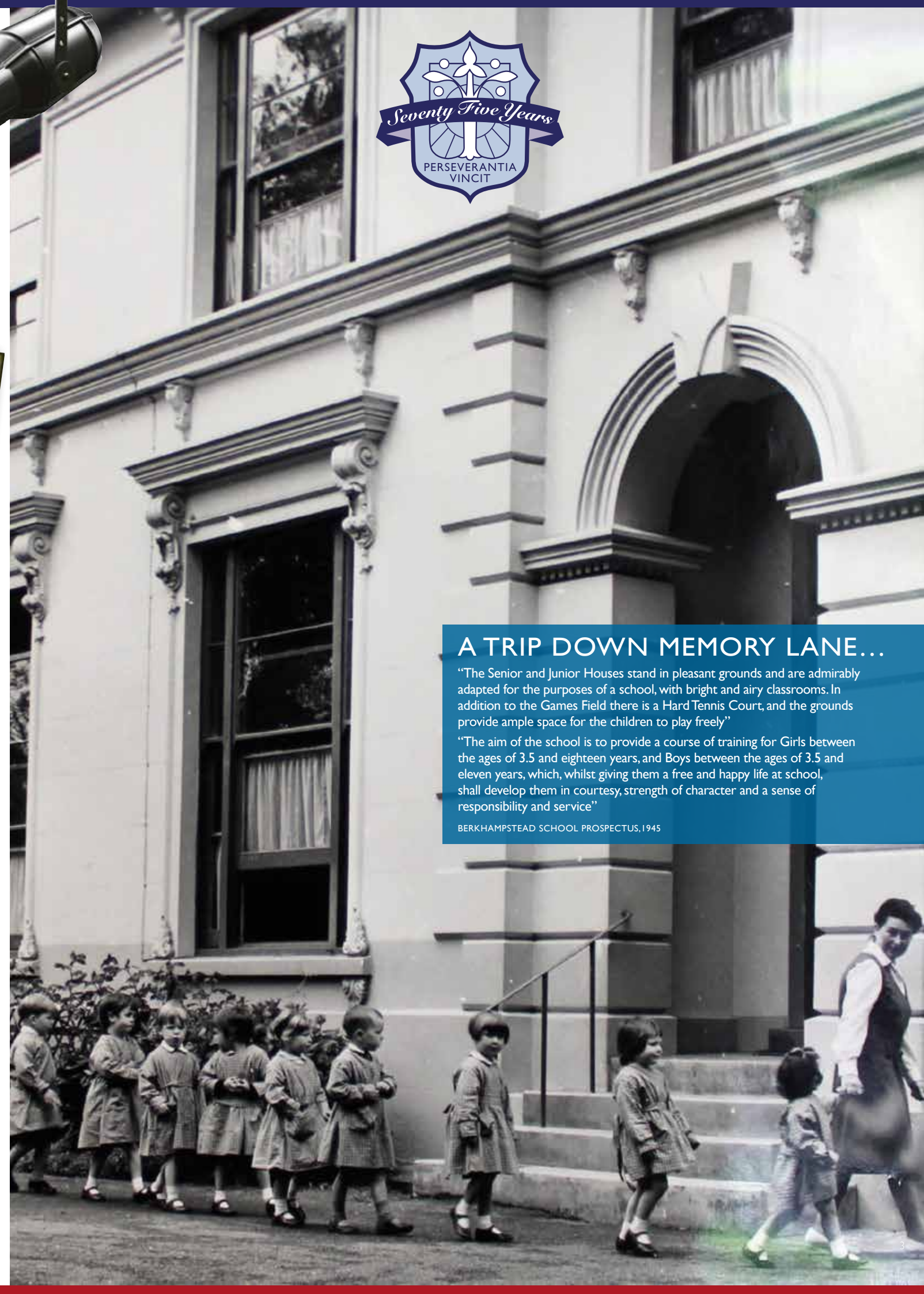
I am immensely proud of the school. It's marvellous, with the same values as when I started it all those years ago.

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

"The Senior and Junior Houses stand in pleasant grounds and are admirably adapted for the purposes of a school, with bright and airy classrooms. In addition to the Games Field there is a Hard Tennis Court, and the grounds provide ample space for the children to play freely"

"The aim of the school is to provide a course of training for Girls between the ages of 3.5 and eighteen years, and Boys between the ages of 3.5 and eleven years, which, whilst giving them a free and happy life at school, shall develop them in courtesy, strength of character and a sense of responsibility and service"

BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL PROSPECTUS, 1945





# News

## FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



### MALVERN ART COMPETITION

The annual Primary Schools' Art Exhibition held at Malvern St James School at the beginning of March has always offered a wonderful showcase for children's art, and this year was no exception. We submitted a diverse selection of art from across the School, and were thrilled that artwork from Ethan S (R) Olivia M (Y1) Ben A (Y3) Joseph W (Y3) Hannah D (Y4) and collaborative Year 6 printwork were all Highly Commended, and Viera M was the winner in the Year 6 category. We were thrilled! Well done to all our talented pupils.

### ALL IN GOOD TASTE

Head chef Alex Risdale and his team are always extraordinarily busy - each day they feed 441 hungry mouths across the School and Day Nursery - but each term they like to spice things up with extra events. This term, Chinese New Year was celebrated with a themed lunch of vegetable spring rolls, a very tasty slow braised five spice and soy beef dish and stir-fried vegetables all served on a bed of rice. Pancake Day was a mammoth undertaking for the kitchen, and they made hundreds for everyone's puddings and for after the House Pancake Races. Parents at the tasting event sampled dishes including tacos, pesto salmon traybake and chocolate brownies. Plans are already in place for an equally imaginative and delicious Summer menu.



### WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was, as always, a fabulous day! Children from all over the school were invited to dress as their favourite book characters, and everyone made a wonderful effort in dressing to impress! We had a plethora of wizards, Hungry Caterpillars, Oompa Loompas, Claudes and a host of beautiful princesses. And refusing to be left out, the staff turned out in eye-catching costumes too - who can forget Mr Morphew and Mr Titley dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, Mr Cross as the Fat Controller or Mrs John's Snow White? A big thank you to all of the parents for their effort on the many wonderful costumes!

### COMPUTING CAPERS

We were delighted to receive a new set of Apple iPads at the beginning of term, to bring our total to 116. As well as using them in Computing lessons, iPads are a superb resource for supporting the teaching in a variety of lessons, and they are used by all the children across the School and Day Nursery. Our youngest children benefit from coding and phonics apps, for instance, and pupils in the Prep School are given their own 'account' so that their Computing work is secure and will remain so during their time at Berky. The older children are also able to access their work at home to complete work started in class. Pupils here are also taught how to use MacBook Airs (we have 20) and Spheros - the latter are brilliant little robots which introduce the pupils to computer programming.



### KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to Rose B who was the recipient of the Sally Lee Kindness Cup this term. This lovely prize is awarded to children in Pre-Prep who have consistently shown care and consideration for others. Sally was a much loved Pre-Prep teacher who sadly passed away a few years ago.



### BERKY GETS GREENER

Our Berky Gets Greener campaign goes from strength to strength, and we are delighted to report that an awful lot of eco-good has taken place during the Spring Term. We have continued to collect crisp packets, and have already sent 12kg to Terracycle for recycling. We are now doing all we can to avoid batteries going to landfill too, and have battery collection points on both sides of the road. These are collected by a specialist company for recycling. The 'Berkhampstead Grove' was a new initiative for this term. Parents were invited to pledge £6 to buy trees in protected sites in the Scottish Highlands - visit the website treesforlife.org.uk if you would like to donate a tree. Other activities have included petitions for McDonalds to stop giving away plastic toys in Happy Meals, and - in a similar vein - Pre-Prep eco-warriors are attempting to put a stop to plastic toys in party bags. A Litter Pick is being organised for the Summer term, and so is an eco-wellbeing garden for the Prep side. We are also looking forward to Year 5 Matilda E's eco sale that will take place in the Summer too. Phew, we are quite sure that Greta Thunberg would approve of all our activities!

### CHARITY NEWS

This term, we have been proud to continue to support Age UK and the Pamoja Tayari School in Mombasa, Kenya. Chosen by our School Council, the aim is to support one local and one global charity, and money raised is split between the two charities. A special mention too, to Year 6's Gracie W who raised an impressive £429.46 for Alzheimer's Society by busking in Stratford and also organising a sponsored silence in school.



### PTA NEWS

The Spring Term is a quieter term for PTA events, but lots has been going on behind the scenes. At the beginning of term, Movie Night took place with the children coming in their PJs and onesies! A great time was had by all - thank you to all the parents and staff who helped on the night. We held our third PTA meeting in February, which was very positive with lots of good ideas and funding approved for a number of projects. These include:

**Wellbeing Den** in the Pre-Prep building - This room will be accessible for all children in the Pre-Prep and a place for them to carry out many activities and have one-to-one sessions with teachers.

**Defibrillator** - This has now been installed on the outside of the Pre-Prep building and is linked to the emergency services. The system is appropriate for both adult and infant use, and staff are trained.

**Secret Garden** - The children were invited to submit designs for a new garden on the Prep side, behind the wellbeing pod. A combination of them will be used for the final layout. This will be a lovely addition, and an area the children can use for a number of activities.

**3D Printers** - We have approved funding for two 3D printers to be used by Years 5 and 6.

**Cycle Initiative Scheme** - A fabulous parent, Fiona Carder-Geddes found out about cycle schemes, and we have put £4000 aside to offer level 1 and level 2 cycle courses to Prep School children. These will be offered over the next couple of years to ensure the maximum number of children can get through the courses.

**PA System** - A new PA system will be shared between the School and the PTA.

If we are back in school, the summer term will see a host of PTA events celebrating Berky's 75th Birthday! We will be inviting parents to the Headmaster's Picnic on Friday 22nd May for afternoon tea and games; information will be sent out in May. Please do come along for a fun afternoon and a chance to get together as a community. The Summer Fayre will have a 75th birthday party theme, and go hand in hand with the alumni event taking place the day before.

This year's Diamond Ball sold out in a record breaking 48 hours! Thank you to everyone who reserved tickets; we look forward to a fabulous evening at Ellenborough Park in July.

As always, if you wish to get involved with the PTA please get in touch via [pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk](mailto:pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk) - we would love to hear from you. Thank you to parents, staff and children for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

Joey Bowden  
(PTA chair)



### THE BRISTOL STANDARD AWARDED FOR THE SIXTH YEAR RUNNING!

Congratulations to our Early Years Department who have again achieved the Bristol Standard award! The Bristol Standard was devised as a self-evaluation document for Early Years settings to develop outstanding practice, and although we are already aware of how noteworthy this department is, it is wonderful to be recognised officially. The areas Mrs Roddy-Watts and her team concentrated on were to improve the children's wellbeing through mindfulness, to develop the children's core and fine motor skills, and to further develop curiosity, enquiry and creativity.

This is the final year that this award is taking place, and because it has been of such huge benefit to Early Years' staff and children, we plan to create our own 'Berky Standard' award!

This will be introduced in September to the Early Years department, and then rolled out to Pre-Prep and possibly our Day Nursery.







# OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS!

THE PENULTIMATE WEEK BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WASN'T THE IDEAL TIME FOR AN INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL AND DAY NURSERY, BUT THIS IS WHAT FACED US AT THE END OF THE AUTUMN TERM

In their customary short notice style, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) rang the school office on Monday to inform us of a Compliance Inspection, and two days later the team of four were here to leave no stone unturned. Although we were confident that we would meet the standards required of the inspection, we take a huge pride in our school and day nursery and were eager to show it off at its best. So all the staff joined forces to make sure everything was ship-shape and to double-check that all the paperwork was in place.

A few weeks later the report arrived, and we needn't have worried - the school met all compliance standards (judgements are either met or not met), and our Early Years Foundation Stage (the Day Nursery, Kindergarten and Reception) - were deemed as "outstanding" in all five areas. The entire Berkhamstead setting was awarded the highest possible grading.

Everyone was delighted with the report, but since the Under 2s received specific scrutiny, Mollie and her team at the Day Nursery were particularly thrilled. The inspectors picked up on many aspects that the staff had worked tirelessly to promote - for instance, the children's excellent behaviour was noted, the safe and happy environment was commended and the strong leadership was admired. Mollie was really happy that the inspectors saw for themselves

that, 'Children show great enjoyment in their learning. They are curious and inquisitive and are keen to explore their surroundings'. The report continued, "Children make excellent use of the available resources in the rooms. These allow them to explore real life objects and experiment with different textures, thereby fostering the children's innate curiosity." The Day Nursery staff are passionate believers in the importance of encouraging a child's natural curiosity and inspiring their sense of awe and wonder, and have adopted more and more elements of the 'Curiosity Approach' over the last couple of years. Rooms are full of 'real life' objects such as kitchen paraphernalia, hammers and nails, hairdressing equipment and objects such as typewriters.

Mollie, clearly thrilled with the inspectors' observations, commented, "We strive to ensure every child has the best start here and pride ourselves on having high expectations of each one of them. I am particularly pleased that the inspectors picked up on the Curiosity Approach and the positive impact it has had on our children. The staff demonstrated how well they know each child and discussed their individual development and next steps with the inspectors." Mollie added, "A huge thank you to all our parents for their continued support."



"CHILDREN MAKE EXCELLENT USE OF THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES. THESE ALLOW THEM TO EXPLORE REAL LIFE OBJECTS AND EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT TEXTURES, THEREBY FOSTERING THE CHILDREN'S INNATE CURIOSITY."

ISI INSPECTION 2019



## NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK

Our Day Nursery children need little excuse to dress up, so were delighted that this was exactly what they were asked to do for National Storytelling Week at the beginning of February. Everyone - staff included, were asked to dress up as a book character, and also to bring in a favourite book from home to share with their friends. And apart from the delight of reading stories, all the activities that week were story-related. The Teddy Bears, for instance - in true Goldilocks fashion - made porridge, and continuing with the bear theme, went on a really fun sensory bear hunt. Meanwhile, our lucky Wise Bears enjoyed a pamper day - including manicures with Georgia - and even had their weekly French lesson with the School's Madame McCreanor dressed as knights and princesses. Our Pre-Schoolers also thoroughly enjoyed a story read by Prep School teacher, actor and playwright Mr Tittley.





# KINDERGARTEN... Whatever Next?

Kindergarten's first topic of 'Space' was great fun, and the children amazed us with their enthusiasm for the subject. The story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy has been a firm favourite and we re-enacted the story together. First the children looked at different story props; a colander, wellington boots, a picnic rug, picnic food, a bird, an aeroplane and a large cardboard box and they instantly knew which book we were sharing and were very excited to act it out together! Bethan and Heath volunteered to become Baby Bear, and everyone helped to tell a part of the story in their own words; we observed fantastic recall of story language.

To start our next topic 'All About Me,' we played games to remember the Kindergarten rules of kind hands, kind feet and using our kind words to show respect for others and to make everyone feel valued. The children have talked about how they love their family and friends and how to look after someone when they are hurt. They understand how to care for the Kindergarten toys. We have been thinking about emotions, how they make us feel and, using mirrors, the children looked at how we use facial expressions to show emotions.

Whilst studying the pop artist Andy Warhol the children have been painting their portraits and creating the classic 'Shot Marilyns' design using their faces with amazing results. MM



# A Roarsome term FOR RECEPTION

Reception travelled back millions of years to a time when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. To start this topic, the children were inspired by their trip to the Oxford Natural History Museum, (see report on page 12) and since the trip, our prehistoric companions have been part of our literacy, construction, design, creativity, movement and so much more! Our young palaeontologists have explored how scientists know what dinosaurs looked like, considered when dinosaurs lived and what extinction meant. They also found out how fossils were made over the ages. To conclude the topic, the children dressed as dinosaurs, and thoroughly enjoyed a 'Roarsome' party!

Our topic "Into the Woods" led the children down the path to discover the magic and wonder of woodlands. They explored story settings, characters, created story maps and innovated stories. The children were inspired by reading 'The Gruffalo's Child' and became budding scientists investigating the circuit equipment to help the Gruffalo's Child to walk through the woods. They had great fun working together in pairs and sharing ideas. We had plenty more planned for the rest of the term, with our trip to Westonbirt, the children's parents coming in to school to read their favourite story to the children, as well as an Easter party, but sadly the term came to an abrupt end with the closure of the school. We can't wait to return to teaching the children in the classroom. HR-WV





# Shiver me timbers!

What a busy term it has been in Year 1! The term kicked off with our 'Pirate Attack' day, where the children were fully immersed in pirate life. From learning to speak like a pirate, to walking the plank, all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The children had great fun learning all about the gruesome Captain Blackbeard, and then writing diary entries as if they were the man himself. On DT day, the children designed, made and evaluated their own pirate ships. In Art, flags were designed and rollers were used to print these. Every pirate needs a treasure map, and there was much excitement when the children made theirs, deciding where to bury their treasure! A particular highlight of the term was our pirate assembly, during which the children shared their pirate knowledge, taught parents how to speak like a pirate, and showcased some sea shanties they have been learning in Music. KT



# Wisdom begins in wonder

SOCRATES

The Ancient Greeks have had a huge influence on our modern life, from theatre to sport, architecture to democracy, science and mathematics, and Year 2 have had a very exciting term finding out all about life in Greece nearly three thousand years ago! Some of the most exciting parts of the topic have been finding out about all the different Greek gods and goddesses as well as some of the amazing Greek myths which the children acted out and rewrote in their literacy lessons. The creativity continued through Art and DT projects where the children made Greek pots, temples and baked their own bread, not to mention creating and painting their own mythical creatures. The more competitive members of the group loved finding out about the first Olympics and recreated some of the events... though we opted to compete fully dressed rather than naked as the Ancient Greeks would have done. We can all now say how important the Greek Empire, was and the huge role it played in history. LL





# Off we go...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR  
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



## OXFORD MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY

Reception children visited the Oxford Museum of Natural History to find out more about dinosaurs. We all became 'Dinosaur Detectives' during our workshop with the museum's dinosaur expert, Chris. The children found out about the different types of prehistoric creatures – plesiosaurs, pterosaurs and dinosaurs, and how the bones of these creatures became fossils over millions of years. We then examined different dinosaur bones, the most impressive was the jaw of a T-Rex complete with teeth! Chris was very impressed with the questions asked by the children and by how beautifully they sat and listened, as were the staff. After our workshop, we had time to explore the rest of the museum where we found even more dinosaur fossils, skeletons and information about what it would be like to live in prehistoric times. JG



## DETECTIVE WORKSHOP

Year 6 - dressed up as book characters (the workshop took place on World Book Day) - were visited for a morning by Jenny Williams who previously worked for the police. She led our pupils on a variety of brilliant, hands-on activities demonstrating how science is used to help capture criminals. The pupils learnt all about finger printing and chromatography, all the time developing science skills already picked up in their lessons. The use of DNA from living cells such as blood or hair roots, dental records, skeletal information were also discussed. To conclude the exciting morning, the pupils were given a crime scene and had to explain what had happened by investigating a variety of clues on a body such as mobile phone, invitation to a party, jelly baby in the mouth and many more. The pupils had a great time and entered into the spirit of things throughout the morning. TM

## COMMANDERY

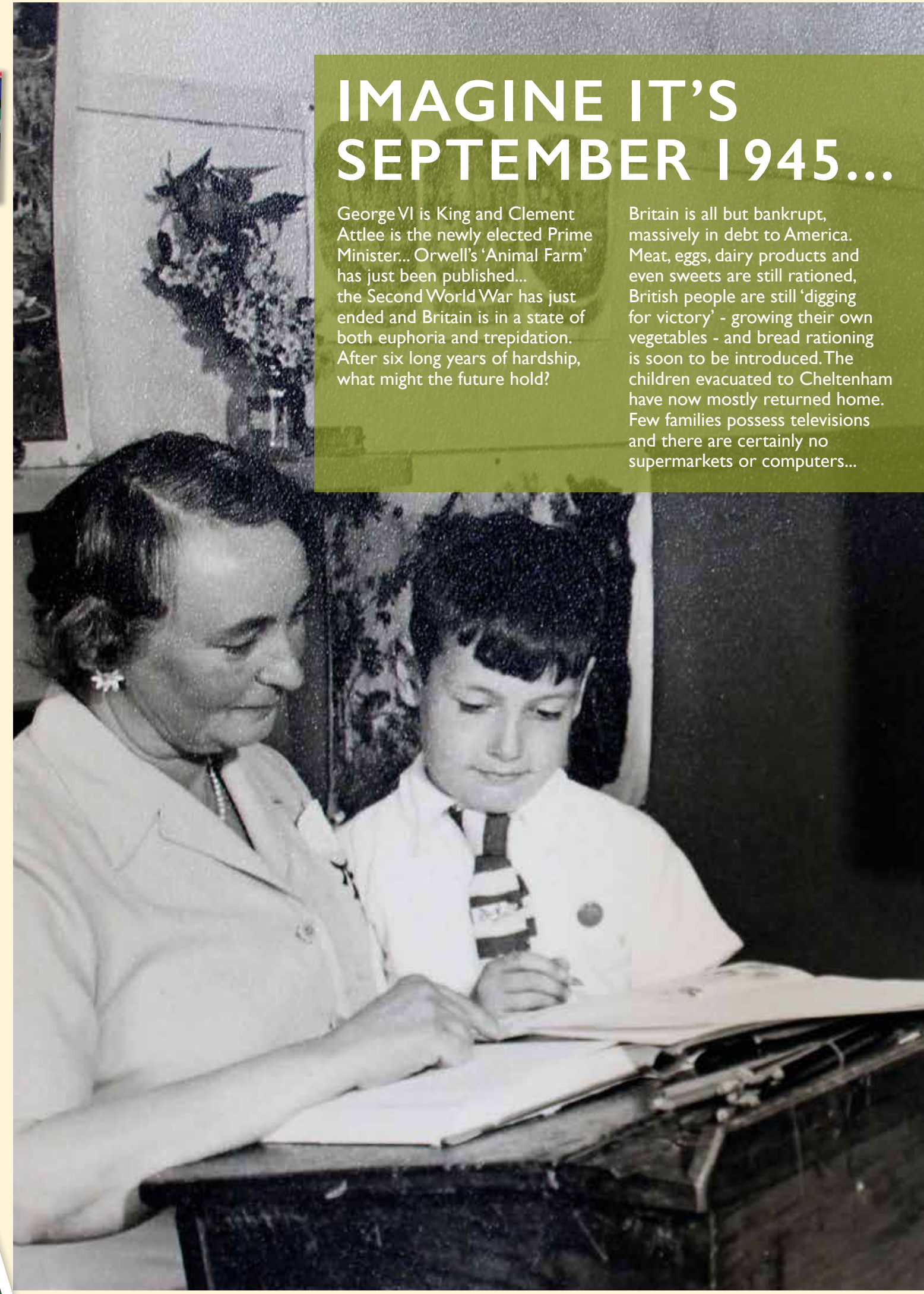
The Year 5 children had a fantastic trip to the Commandery in Worcester, enhancing the work they had completed on the Stuarts. We had a variety of workshops and hands on history experiences. These included learning about the arms and armour that were used on the battlefield, with lots of opportunities to handle the artefacts. We then found out about not only Civil War soldiers, but the supporting people that travelled with them. One of the favourites was the surgeon, as we learned about the gruesome operations that were performed on the battlefield. Our final activity was the more serene and relaxing writing with quill pens and then making our own beeswax candles. This trip gave the Year 5s a different insight into life in Stuart times. It was both very interesting and great fun. P McC



# IMAGINE IT'S SEPTEMBER 1945...

George VI is King and Clement Attlee is the newly elected Prime Minister... Orwell's 'Animal Farm' has just been published... the Second World War has just ended and Britain is in a state of both euphoria and trepidation. After six long years of hardship, what might the future hold?

Britain is all but bankrupt, massively in debt to America. Meat, eggs, dairy products and even sweets are still rationed, British people are still 'digging for victory' - growing their own vegetables - and bread rationing is soon to be introduced. The children evacuated to Cheltenham have now mostly returned home. Few families possess televisions and there are certainly no supermarkets or computers...



## ASHMOLEAN

As Socrates said 'Wisdom begins in wonder' and, after a very exciting half term learning about Ancient Greece, Year 2 have demonstrated this! The children have loved learning about the history of Ancient Greece and were thrilled to visit the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to deepen their wonder further. At the museum, the children enjoyed a wonderful workshop where they studied Greek sculpture and pots, performed some Greek drama and found out about sport and the Olympics. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to handle and study genuine artefacts including silver coins, fragments of pots and parts of marble sculptures. After a delicious lunch we had time to explore some of the other collections held at the museum, these included paintings, antique instruments; costumes and even a few Egyptian mummies and a sarcophagus! LL

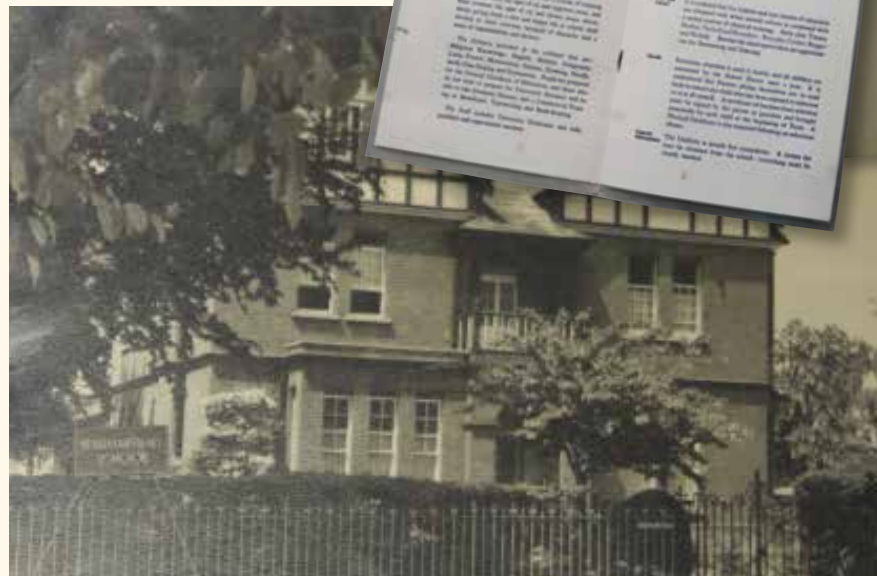
## SKILLZONE

At the start of January both the Year 4 and Year 6 children went on trips to SkillZONE in Gloucester. SkillZONE is a fantastic purpose-built environment for learning all about different types of safety. The Year 4 children visited the Water Safety, Park, House, Road and Farm areas amongst others, whilst the Year 6 visited the Magistrate's Court, a Police Custody Suite, Dark Alley, Train and Bus and Internet Safety areas. Everyone agreed that they had learned something new about how to keep safe whilst having an interesting and fun time, thanks again to the wonderful volunteer guides at SkillZone. MB



Take a walk, now - heading away from Cheltenham down leafy, affluent Pittville Circus Road which, during the 19th century, had boasted several private schools. Only one or two cars disturb the peace as petrol is very hard to come by. On your right, towards the end of the road and sitting amidst the elegant Georgian facades, you will see a later red brick building - Pengwern - which has previously been a school but more recently has been used as a maternity hospital. Finally, on the same side, you will see two imposing semi-detached private houses - Fernbank and Beechmount - and, on the corner, a small, red, Victorian letter box. On your left is the end of a large garden belonging to a substantial red brick house which fronts onto Cleeve View Road, its neat iron railings and ornate gateway demarcating an attractive front garden. This three-storey house with its twin gables and little first floor balcony is called Berkhamstead and its occupants are the Andrews family.

Unfortunately, Dr. Robin Andrews is no longer able to work, leaving Edna his wife - aged 41 and a mother of two - in a predicament. However, with the resilience and determination characteristic of women in wartime, she makes an important decision. Already a trained teacher, she takes advice from the Bursar of Cheltenham College, Mr Eyre, converts part of her home to accommodate a little school and, on 20th September, opens her doors to the first 22 pupils. The fees are just £5 per term! It is not many years before the school needs to expand its premises; half of the Georgian building across the road - Beechmount - is purchased, followed by Fernbank, the other half. With the exception of various new buildings, extensions and adaptations within the grounds, and the momentous purchase of Pengwern in 2010 to open a Day Nursery, the Berkhamstead empire is now complete!



Looking back now, it is evident that Mrs Andrews was a most perspicacious and far-sighted educator; she would have supported our strap line 'Small classes, happy children, excellent results' wholeheartedly. She had very strong opinions as to what was important in a child's education and many of her beliefs are still adhered to in the Berkhamstead School of today. Most importantly, she knew that happy children learned best.

Along with her insistence that all the children should have a hot, home-cooked lunch every day, Mrs Andrews believed that the key to having a successful, happy school was to employ dedicated and inspiring teachers who could teach a broad set of subjects. That way, every child would have the chance to develop their interests and confidence and find their niche in life. She believed that tests and exams were unimportant for young children. She herself undertook to teach music and scripture; music has always been a strength of the school and is as important to us today as it was to Mrs Andrews.



The uniform, characterised by its striking navy blazer with smart red piping and stylish school crest, has not changed that much either. In a newspaper article from the year 2000, Mrs Andrews said, "It makes me so proud to see pupils from the school today still wearing the same blazer we started out with all those years ago." Indeed, thanks to our second-hand uniform shop, there are one or two particularly hard-wearing blazers which have been in circulation if not from 1945, at least for a good many years!

In 1964, Mrs Andrews retired and moved down to Devon. She sold her beloved Berkhamstead School, which now had around 200 pupils, to a new Headmaster, Mr Peter Sparks. However, she always kept in touch, especially after she returned to the area in 1998, attending Berky concerts and other events until she died at the ripe old age of 105. When the impressive new Early Years building replaced the old gym, it was, of course, named the Andrews Centre in her memory.

Our school motto - 'Perseverantia Vincit' (Perseverance wins through) - was devised by Mrs Andrews and remains central to our ethos even now. I think she would be very proud of the wonderful school Berkhamstead still is.

G.Agg





# News

## FROM PREP



### CHESS REPORT

Back in January nearly 40 children packed into the Prep Hall for the tenth annual Berkhamstead Chess Congress. Lots of fine chess was played and too many prizes to count were handed out. The Year Group prize winners were George J (Y2), Tom C-G (Y3), Barnaby W (Y4 Boys), Nancy B (Y4 Girls), Connor S (Y5 Boys), Lilah C (Y5

Girls) and Rupert G, Jonathan B, Griff L, Oli S (Y6). Ben A, Joseph W, Alice S, Thea C and Georgia A all scored highly and qualified for the Gloucestershire Megafinal. Barnaby W won a trophy for winning the Lower School tournament while Rupert, Jonathan, Griff and Oli shared the Upper School trophy.

The chess team has made good progress in its search for silverware. A tense 4-2 victory away at Richard Pate School in the District Knockout Cup semi-final has put Berky in a superb position to regain that trophy while a more inexperienced team defeated St. John's 6-0 in the league. Next term three crucial matches await. We face St. Gregory's in the Knockout Final. Our league campaign ends with key fixtures against Holy Apostles and Richard Pate, the latter potentially a winner-takes-all thriller.

The school chess clubs have been thriving with plenty of stylish chess being played. The winners of the individual leagues will be announced in due course. MC



### CHELTENHAM MATHS CHALLENGE

After last year's success, our team of four arrived feeling a little pressure to match their predecessors - they were set for a day of maths challenges. They were battling against 11 other schools from as far away as Windsor! Phoebe, Griff, Ethan and Harry battled over a series of tough challenges. Alongside their maths knowledge, their reasoning and team skills were tested to the extreme. After several tasks, we were sitting outside the top 5 places, but after an excellent lunch the 'Fab Four' were reinvigorated and showed true Berky perseverance. We finished joint first with The Richard Pate School (this is now the second year we have won this event- no pressure for next year!). Well done Team Berky, I was extremely proud of you. JH

### 500 WORDS

Our very own 500 word story competition was once again a huge success. Imaginations were let loose and the children were ready to take us into the wonderful, wild and sometimes weird worlds of their own.

The children threw themselves completely into the challenge, creating some truly beautiful, gripping and exciting pieces of work. Thesauruses were at the ready and, through their use of vocabulary, vivid and vibrant imagery was conjured up on the paper before them.

The characters, settings and action created demonstrated not only the children's developing knowledge of grammar and language, but also their confidence in their own thoughts and ideas. Stories were well structured and plots developed.

As teachers, we wholly look forward to this time of year and feel privileged to be able to read the stories created. The children should be incredibly proud of the work they created and the effort every single one of them put in. The winners will be announced next term. Well done to everyone. BE



### MUSIC NOTES

Spring has traditionally been a key term in the Berky musical calendar as the Spring Concerts at the Pump Rooms happen then. Months of practice and planning had taken place - but, because of Coronavirus and its implications, we were forced to postpone them. Luckily, some of our children had had the opportunity to perform in the Spring Recital a week or so before this decision was made. Musicians from Prep performed to an appreciative audience, and we heard a great range of pieces and instruments; some experienced performers and some making their debut. Congratulations to all players for practising, preparing and putting themselves forward to perform. It was a lovely concert! PM

#### MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

**Prep test piano:** Barnaby W  
**Initial Grade:** Ena M-L Violin\*  
**Grade 1:** Lucinda F (Trombone), Johnny W (Piano\*\*) Ben S (Violin\*\*), Bea Bea M-D (Guitar\*\*) **Grade 2:** Lottie A (Cornet), Matilda E (Viola\*\*), Henry T (Electric Guitar) **Grade 3:** Viera M (Clarinet\*), Otto B (Cornet\*) Rosemary B (Piano\*\* and Clarinet\*\*) **Grade 5:** Jonathan B (Treble Recorder\*\*)

\*Denotes - Pass with Merit \*\*Denotes - Pass with Distinction



### CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

We have had a very successful year with Cross Country. Unfortunately, one race was cancelled because of the wet weather that we experienced but the children still had one attempt at the St Ed's hill! Patrick and Becky ran extremely well in all 3 races and qualified for the county final. This was held in Berkeley with both runners achieving a gold medal and qualifying for the national cross-country event. Joy, Bella, Hazel, Rupert, Otto and Jonathan have run in almost every race and this is the final time that they will represent Berky at these events. The weather has been challenging this year and every runner has worked hard and persevered to finish the race. We have some promising running talent coming through and I look forward to taking these pupils to future events. DB

## JACQUELINE WILSON VISITS BERKHAMSTEAD!

The end of the first half term couldn't have been more exciting for the Prep School pupils and staff - one of Britain's most beloved children's authors, Jacqueline Wilson came to spend the morning with us! Year 4 pupil Katy P had entered a writing competition, and her super story 'The Secret' had won! The incredible prize was for Jacky to visit school, speak in assembly, be interviewed by Katy and her four pals (Nancy, Ellie, Primmy and Alice) for an article in the Jacqueline Wilson Magazine, and afterwards for the five girls to host a private lunch party with the famous author.

Everyone thought Jacky was wonderful. She is renowned for her stories that depict real children's real lives, and her ability to get on with our pupils and relate to them was testament to how successfully she empathises with youngsters: how they think, what they want to talk about, and, of course, what they want to read. During her fascinating talk, we learnt about her own childhood, and how - although, by her own admission - she didn't shine academically or on the sporting field - her primary school teachers had clearly spotted something, and had encouraged her to write and to read her stories at the front of the class. This she loved, and she had discovered her vocation.

She commended Katy's story for being "well told", "emotional" and for its "happy ending" - praise indeed from such a famous and successful author. She also explained that her own engaging, chatty style of writing was an attempt to reach children who had previously considered reading boring - her intention was to make her stories gripping from page 1, when previously, for some children, too much description in books could have put them off reading. Following in Jacky's footsteps, Katy's compelling story is a page-turner from the offset too.

After assembly, Katy took the role of chief interviewer, and along with her eager pals, asked Jacky some very interesting questions for the magazine article. We learnt that Hetty Feather was Jacky's own favourite story, for instance, and she would have liked to have owned and run a themed children's bookshop if she hadn't become an author. After a well-deserved coffee break in the Prep staff room, Jacky then embarked on a marathon book signing session, and queues of children and staff lined up for signatures and photographs with her! Her visit ended with the private lunch party, and we all agreed that Jacky's visit would have inspired many of our own children, as well as Katy, to become authors themselves.







## U8 | FOOTBALL

It was great to see all of the boys in both teams get progressively better as the season went along. They all grew in confidence and ability on the pitch. Early in the season there were a few times when we were against stronger opposition but our heads never went down and we always kept fighting for the ball. Our latter matches showed us playing some great football. A good season. Well done boys.

**U8 Bisons:** Freddy B, Sebastian C, Tom C-G, William H, Floyd R, Benjamin S, Isaac S

**U8 Buffaloes:** Ben A, Charles C, Harry H, Cameron J, Bertie L, Gideon T, Joseph W



## U9A | FOOTBALL

The U9 boys have once again shown a very enthusiastic approach to their training sessions and have grown steadily in confidence and skill. There has been a great team spirit, with the boys captained by nearly every member of the team.

The U9As had a successful season with only two losses against St Hughes and RPS. Reuben, our goalie, was always reliable and allowed our defence of Max and George to make confident runs into attack. Wingers Ben and Otto allowed the ball to be spread wide which gave us plenty of attacking options. Top goal scorers were Ben, Jacob and Felix with Otto also contributing to our magnificent total of 20 goals in the 9 matches played. The boys played superbly throughout the season; they were a credit to the school and to themselves. Well done boys.

**Team:** Reuben A, George B, M Harrison, Ben J, Otto S, Felix S & Jacob D-T

## U9B | FOOTBALL

The U9Bs had a similarly successful season with excellent displays against St Edward's (6-0) and King's, Gloucester (4-0). Goalkeepers were swapped on a regular basis with the safest pair of hands being Oscar who kept a clean sheet for the 5 matches played. Sam, acting as sweeper, played a very large part in nullifying attacks and allowing our midfield of Jacob, Barnaby and Edward to gain possession and

make shots on goal. Max who mostly played at centre was our top goal scorer with the boys amassing a total of 13 goals with just the one loss against RPS. The Bs were a spirited and enthusiastic group of footballers who improved immeasurably throughout the season and were a very difficult side to beat. Well done, boys.

**Team:** Sam B, Oscar C-S, Jacob F, Edward M, Barnaby W, Max Y



## U10A | FOOTBALL

The U10A team has had a great season of football. They have worked well together as a team, given each other praise and motivated each other when they have needed it. The weather has been pretty poor this term so there have been some match cancellations, but the boys have still had lots of matches. They started with a match against Rendcomb and this was a convincing win. Next they played Kitebrook and again, another convincing win. Things were going well until they faced Hatherop and they found this match a challenge. Hatherop defended superbly which made it difficult for the boys to find the back of the net. This was their first and only loss of the season. The match against St Ed's was a convincing win and the final match of the season was against Wycliffe which the boys also won. Well done boys, you have played some good football this season and I have enjoyed coaching you. Many thanks to those parents that were able to come along to support the boys.

**Team:** Harry A, Freddie B, Albie B, Michael C, Will C, Patrick D, Rufus H, Oliver M, Henry R, Henry T

## U10B | FOOTBALL

Following a term of flooding and social distancing due to the Coronavirus, the U10B team managed to squeeze in 5 matches and showed pleasing progress throughout the season. With players having the chance to try different positions on the pitch, they have improved their skills and tactical attributes within the sport. Their results reflect the effort and skill level they have brought to the 'B' team. Their passing has been pleasing, as has the enthusiasm and volunteering to go in goal. Being more clinical up front would have allowed for more comfortable wins whilst also learning a harsh lesson in defending against St Edward's. However, they should be pleased with their results as they move forward to the 2021 season.

**Team:** Albie B-C, Charles C, Connor S, Harry M, Hugo W, Luke R, Mateo S, Robert A, Will J, Will S



## U11A | FOOTBALL

In a disrupted term, the U11A team has had a fantastic season, playing some scintillating football along the way. They opened their account with two thumping victories against Bowbrook and Kitebrook, both by 6-0. We then had two tougher games against strong opposition in Hatherop and Beaudesert, winning the first by 2-0 and drawing the second. We finished the season with a stunning 7-1 win against St Edward's and a 2-2 draw against Wycliffe. It's such a shame that the boys didn't get to play the full complement of matches, as they were a joy to watch. We were solid in defence, starting with excellent goalkeeping by Alessio T and Alex D. They were well protected by Jack E, Seb L and Max. Lincoln, Theo and Will were the driving force from midfield, creating numerous opportunities for Otto and Johnny amongst others. As a collective this team is as strong as any in my time at Berkly and they entertained the supporters with some stunning attacking football. Well done boys for a great season!

**Team:** (all awarded colours): Will B, Otto B, Max C, Alex D, Jack E, Lincoln H, Theo J, Seb L, Alessio T, Johnny W

**Outstanding Player Awards:** Will B, Alex D, Jack E, Lincoln H, Theo J

## U11B | FOOTBALL

The U11B team had a brilliant season of football. They played with enthusiasm and energy often overcoming more skilful opposition through hard work and determination. Alex, Oli and Griff were tenacious in defending their goal and Ethan and Ellis (playing goalkeeper for a half each) made some incredible saves to ensure victory in several games. Goals came from many players with Harry, Ellis, Ethan, Jonathan, Rupert and Archie combining well in the midfield and attack. The boys were quick to work out the defensive frailties of the opposition and adjust their positioning accordingly which led to many a goal. It was a joy to coach this team and they should be very proud of their attitude and sense of fun in their football this term. Undeclared, yet again - well done!

**Team:** Ethan A, Jonathan B, Ellis F-M, Rupert G, Archie L-B, Griff L, Oliver S, Alexander S, Harry W

	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN
U8 BISONS	7	4	2	1
U8 BUFFALOES	7	1	4	2
U9A	9	7	2	0
U9B	5	4	1	0
U10A	7	4	2	1
U10B	5	4	1	0
U11A	6	4	0	2
U11B	7	7	0	0



## U8 | NETBALL

It has been an interesting netball season this year with England netball changing the game as we know it. The girls were introduced to Bee Netball, 4 v 4 in a third of a netball court. They have all worked hard to get to grips with the basics and, at times, it started to look like a game of netball! It was a learning curve for all schools using Bee Netball during our matches, but the girls played well as the season went on. During our games sessions I was very impressed with how well the girls listened; it didn't always transfer well into matches we had! Our game against St Edward's started well with both teams working hard on their marking. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get any goals. Richard Pate matches saw lots of movement across the teams to allow the girls to play with different people and experiment in different roles. They have all, at times, been able to pass the ball with accuracy and a little power which has allowed them to move the ball down court. Well done girls for your first netball season, great effort by all.

**U8 Squad:** Cressie B, Emily B, Sophia B, Eleanor B, Emma C, Nina C, Esi D, Esha D, Georgia E, Polly E, Emilia F, Alina G, Frankie H, Carly H, Tatty H, Chloe H, Amelia J, Yvie L, Chloe M, Esther M, Alba N, Erin P, Dani R-L, Alexa S, Lettie W



## U9 | NETBALL

Once again, I have been thoroughly impressed by the attitude and the sporting behaviour of the Under 9s at netball this term. The U9s have had a great season, with 3 wins, 2 draws and 4 losses, of which 2 were actually very close matches. The girls have been developing their skills in both the 7-aside and Bee-Netball formats and have progressed tremendously over the season. It has been wonderful to see the enjoyment they clearly have when playing netball in all its forms. The final matches at Beaudesert were testament to this and house matches were certainly fast and furious. Well done girls!

**U9 Squad:** Ellie A, Georgia A, Ellie B, Zoe B, Nancy B, Katy C, Thea C, Hannah D, Sophia E, Chloe E, Lucinda F, Maisie G, Isabel G, Kitty H, Vivienne H, Isla J, Ena M-L, Primrose P, Katy P, Isla R, Zoe S, Alice S, Hetty W, Sydney W



## U10 | NETBALL

Both teams have enjoyed some successes. The girls worked hard to develop some set play and were really beginning to understand positioning on the court. As the season progressed, so did their teamwork and they have become a tight squad, playing in different positions when required. During some of their tougher matches the girls stepped up and played some fantastic netball, putting into practice all the basics we have looked at during the season: driving onto the ball and marking the player and space. The A team have won against Cheltenham College 11-7, St Edward's 16-9, Wycliffe 10-6 with the B team winning against Hatherop 13-7, drawing with Cheltenham College and a few losses. A great season girls!

**U10 squad:** Serena A, Anna A, Lottie A, Jennella A, Rosemary B, Lilah C, Uma C, Isabella E, Matilda E, Hannah H, Holly H, Matilda H, Bea-Bea M, Beatrice N, Elodie O, Lucy P



## U11 | NETBALL

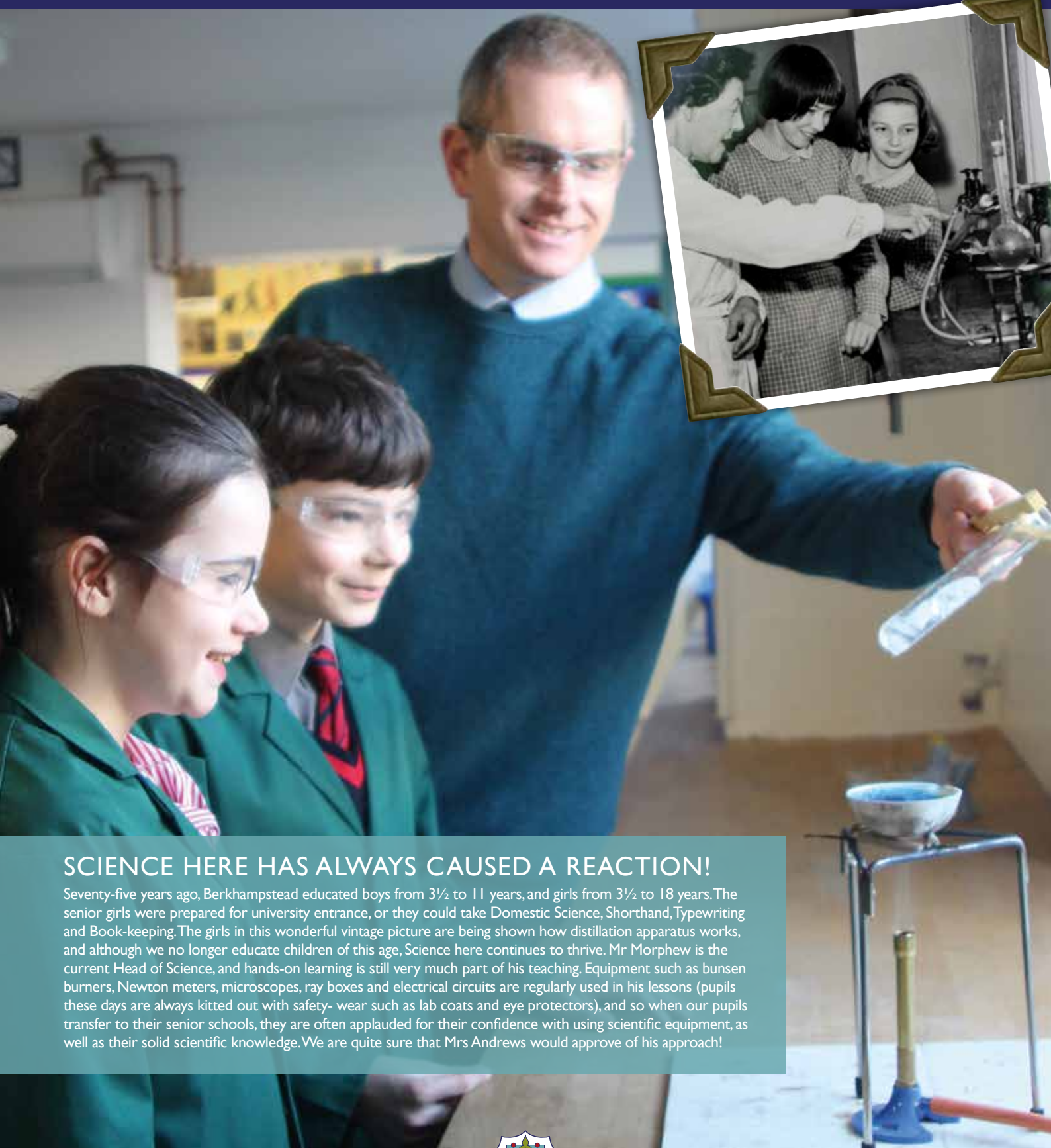
We have had a mixed season this year and a fair amount of games that have ended with a very close score, not in our favour unfortunately! The girls have managed a few wins, the first against Rendcomb at the beginning of the season, and the Hatherop and Wycliffe B game. We have had a lot of movement on court through the season and the girls have stepped up to the changes and challenges. We had some people shooting, who would say they're not shooters by trade but were scoring goals! The A team had some great games against Cheltenham College Prep School and St Edward's; we lost both, but they were really even games and the girls played some outstanding netball (CCPS 6-5 Loss and St Ed's 13-10 Loss). The B team have worked well this season: a win against Hatherop 4-6. Their other games were tough and although the game play on court was fairly even the other teams could get their shoots in on a regular basis. Well done to all the girls and a big thank you to those girls that played out of position on a few occasions but rose to the challenge without any fussing and did so well! Well done girls, some lovely netball this season.

**U11 Squad:** Isla A, Daisy B, Poppy B, Charlotte B, Joy C, Hazel C, Darcey C, Cressie F, Becky F, Viera M, Phoebe M, Jasmine M, Kimora P, Eleri W, Grace W, Bella W

	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN
U8	8	0	8	0
U9	9	3	4	2
U10	7	4	2	1
U11	9	3	6	0







## SCIENCE HERE HAS ALWAYS CAUSED A REACTION!

Seventy-five years ago, Berkhamstead educated boys from 3½ to 11 years, and girls from 3½ to 18 years. The senior girls were prepared for university entrance, or they could take Domestic Science, Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping. The girls in this wonderful vintage picture are being shown how distillation apparatus works, and although we no longer educate children of this age, Science here continues to thrive. Mr Morpew is the current Head of Science, and hands-on learning is still very much part of his teaching. Equipment such as bunsen burners, Newton meters, microscopes, ray boxes and electrical circuits are regularly used in his lessons (pupils these days are always kitted out with safety-wear such as lab coats and eye protectors), and so when our pupils transfer to their senior schools, they are often applauded for their confidence with using scientific equipment, as well as their solid scientific knowledge. We are quite sure that Mrs Andrews would approve of his approach!



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