

BLAZER

On your marks!
SPORTS DAYS
2022

It's showtime!
BERKY TAKES TO
THE STAGE



*We are...
Independent School of the Year!*



Thoughts FROM THE HEAD

What a wonderful Summer Term! The gorgeous weather contributed to making all the superb events and activities such a success. The final term farewell for Year 6 was enormously fulfilling with events including an exciting three days of canoeing, mountain biking, climbing and spending time together. We had a lovely Year 6 Music Recital at the Parabola Arts Centre and the hilarious 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' production. We also witnessed their camaraderie and consideration for others at the annual Sports Day. They are a very supportive and caring group, role-modelling the Berky way for all to see. The Speech and Prize Giving Service was a fitting way to say goodbye and it made it particularly special with Mrs Agg, following her retirement, returning to award the prizes to the children.

It was such a pleasure this term to attend the SoGlos Gloucestershire Award Ceremony and to receive the trophy for Independent School of the Year 2022-23. I did this on behalf of all the staff and pupils. It is our inspirational teaching staff that deliver creative and imaginative lessons, foster self-confidence and a genuine love of learning. It is our pupils who embrace this and achieve such great results academically, musically, artistically and on the sports field. Congratulations and well done to them all.

Sport is such an important part of education; it develops coordination, teamwork and leadership, it helps self-confidence and self-esteem, it enhances the children's social skills, discipline and resilience. These were all witnessed at our annual Sports Days for Kindergarten, Pre-Prep and Prep and I am enormously grateful to such a wonderful staff who care so much for Sport and ensure the children enjoy their participation in it. I am also grateful to the parents for their on-going support of the children and school at these events. This edition of the Berky Blazer is a reflection of this and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Richard Cross

Richard Cross
Headmaster



PLATINUM AWARD

Congratulations to the following leavers who have been awarded their Platinum Award this year:

Georgia A, Zoe B, Sam B, Jacob F and Ena M-L



Spotlight on CAM MACPHERSON-LIGHT

Mrs MacPherson-Light is a teacher in the Prep department, and is currently covering for Miss Evans whilst she is on maternity leave. She teaches English to Years 5 and 6, and has produced and directed this year's leavers' play. She has worked at Berky on and off for the last few years as a teacher and teaching assistant.

What was your first job?

I was manager of a boutique clothing store in London before moving into marketing.

What might you have done if you weren't a teacher?

I would have been an interior designer or a make-up artist.

What do you love most about being a teacher?

The children. No day is the same and each day whizzes by. I love my job and feel incredibly lucky to spend time in the classroom with such fabulous children.

What do you admire most about a Berky child?

They are kind, considerate, accepting, polite and unique individuals with an amazing inner confidence.

What do you love most about Berky?

It goes without saying the children, but also the staff. They are wonderful, make work fun and create a supportive environment. I look forward to going to work every day and feel very lucky to work in such an amazing school. There is such a nurturing and positive atmosphere and a special Berky energy.

Who was your childhood inspiration?

This is rather a tricky question, but I think it must be my grandparents. They were all wonderful. They were honest with big kind hearts and good morals. Not only did they work hard, but they always managed to find time for others as well as time to enjoy themselves. They all had such a wonderful sense of humour and lived life to the full. I still miss them daily.

What skill - that you don't have already - would you like to have?

I would love to be able to dance at a professional level. My daughter and I love to watch Strictly together, and one day we hope to get tickets to go to the recording studios.

What is your favourite children's book?

I absolutely loved The Magic Faraway Tree and Swallows and Amazons. I loved the adventures and would completely immerse myself in the stories.

What else should we know about you?

When I was little I wanted to be a ballerina or a nurse. I get quite scared in hospitals so it's a good thing I'm not a nurse!

What do you do in your spare time?

I love spending time with my family, and adore outings with my daughter. I absolutely love the countryside and being active and spend lots of time running, walking and cycling. I also enjoy yoga and pilates. We are hugely into food, so pottering round markets and food festivals, visiting nice eateries and cooking or baking is also a great way of spending time. I love the theatre but don't go nearly enough.



Pupils, staff and parents marked Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with a special day of celebrations.

The day - which was the culmination of royal activities that had taken place across the school during the week - was certainly one to remember, and the festivities at Berkhamstead kicked off everyone's own half term Jubilee celebrations with a great sense of joy and jubilation!

Everyone came to school looking resplendent in their finest red, white and blue garb, ready for a very special day indeed. Games on the MUGA involved mixed year group teams of pupils from Reception to Year 5, with each team named after palaces

and royal residences. Monarchy-themed traditional party games included Pass the Parcel and Pictionary, and jigsaw puzzles of royal residences could only be completed once the children had found each puzzle piece first. (These were scattered around the MUGA). Meanwhile, Kindergarten children enjoyed their own royalty-themed party day and each child made crowns and bunting, before joining the rest of the school for a celebratory lunch.

Parents arrived at lunchtime, and were greeted with a glass of bubbly and a lovely picnic lunch, and the children enjoyed a 'street' party on the Pre-Prep lawn. Tables were laid with red, white and blue

tablecloths, and metres of bunting blew in the breeze. Once everyone had eaten, parents were invited to join in with the community singing led by Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Sallis. The music department had cleverly adapted lyrics to popular songs, and much to the amusement of the children, their parents were encouraged to join in with all the actions!

In addition to the activities, the PTA generously presented every child in the school with a lovely goody bag containing a Jubilee pencil and notepad, Union Jack stickers and an eco-friendly wooden Jubilee pin badge. What a glorious day to mark the beginning of the half term break!

News

FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



BERKY GETS GREENER

The Pre-Prep children have focused on wanting to preserve water as the taps are often left on in school, so the eco-warriors made 'Turn off the Tap' signs during one of their meetings. Towards the end of term, both sets of eco-warriors went on a joint litter pick, which was great fun, with the older children helping the younger ones. In the Prep, the main activity has been growing plants for the school Fete, and the children have grown sage, parsley, sunflowers, cucumbers and tomatoes. At the Prep meetings, our eco-warriors have alerted us to a national plastic count and the plight of swallows, house martins and swifts. Jacob F wrote to Mr Chalk asking him to join one of our meetings and we were delighted to welcome him into school. Well done to all our eco-warriors and especially to our two leaders, Sam B and Jacob F who have done such a splendid job. LVV



KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to Pre-Prep pupils Milo R and Jacob H and Prep pupils Carly H and Emma C who were all awarded the Kindness Cup during the Summer term.

BERKY'S GOT TALENT



One Tuesday afternoon in June, the eagerly awaited finals of 'Berky's Got Talent' were held with a stellar line-up of acts including comedy, gymnastics, dancing, music and magic! Children and staff from Years 2 - 6 witnessed great courage and energy

displayed by all of our performers - congratulations to you all for taking part and entertaining the audience with such gusto. It was a very hot day, so the ice lollies generously provided by the PTA in the interval were very much appreciated.

PTA NEWS

Although we had a slow start to the year with the dreaded Covid still hanging around, we have ended the year on a high! In the Summer term we saw the return of the wonderful



Summer Ball, Summer Fayre, Cake@Break and an ice-lolly afternoon. There was also a fabulous Jubilee afternoon before half term: it's safe to say the truly amazing Berky spirit has shone through as always!

We have raised funds for the new Prep Jubilee Garden and we are delighted that the garden is almost complete and looking tremendous. It's a fabulous addition to the Prep side of the school to support the children's learning and wellbeing. Congratulations to Nancy (Y6) for designing such a great garden - you should be very proud with the way it has turned out.

This year we have also purchased new football goals for the Victoria Ground, new music stands and a new wellbeing den for the Pre-Prep children. We also hosted the parents at the Jubilee party in May.

Sadly, this has been my final year at Berky, with our son leaving in Year 6 for pastures new. It has been incredible to have been a part of the PTA since Reception and the Chair for a number of years. Thank you to everyone for your support - the teachers,

parents and the wonderful children; it has been a privilege to be a part of it all.

In September, the new Chair is Katie Chapman. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Katie and supporting her with the year ahead.

We hope you have a wonderful Summer and come back refreshed and raring to go for the new challenges in September.

With very best wishes, Joey, PTA Chair



EXCITING OUTDOOR DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE DAY NURSERY



Children are naturally drawn to playing outside, and there are numerous benefits to doing so. Playing outside is fun, exciting and important for children's learning and development. Outdoor play improves a child's mental wellbeing and self-esteem - and happy children are what we strive for from the earliest age here at Berkhamstead. With all these benefits in mind, we were eager to develop our already excellent outdoor provision, and after months of careful planning - and plenty of hard work - in June, we unveiled our new, rather fabulous Discovery Garden.

The generous space is made up of a number of key areas based on the Nursery's belief in the 'Curiosity Approach.' (This is an approach to Early Years learning which encourages a child's natural curiosity and imagination.)

The areas have been designed to be exciting, to develop imaginations, to provide an opportunity for the children to express themselves freely, and to encourage an appreciation of the natural world. Above all, the playground has been designed to be really fun!

The Water Station is an exciting structure made up of funnels, tubes, pipes and jugs. The aim is to encourage the children to test out their own ideas by experimenting with 'open-ended resources.' (Open-ended resources are everyday items - such as water and pipes - that can be used in a range of ways). The benefits of teamwork are learnt - for instance, we see children holding pipes for one another whilst their playmate pours water from the jug - the small team then joyfully watch the travelling water together. Communication and social skills are consequently encouraged.

Needless to say, the Construction Area appeals to plenty of the children who enjoy role play. There is a gravel pit for digging and imaginative play, encouraged by props such as hard hats, high-vis jackets, spades and wheelbarrows - great fun!

The Mud Kitchen is another super area for imaginative play. With its exciting concoction of stones, soil, leaves, pinecones and real pots and pans, the children have tremendous fun mixing their own magic potions and mud pies!

Physical development is encouraged by the brilliant Wobbly Path. It has been crafted from tyres and balancing beams and is beneficial for the children to practise their physical skills. We love watching the children praising one another as they navigate the path without falling off!

Dinosaur World is a fun, small world area for the little ones to explore. This area will change to reflect the children's interests, so could become a fairy world, for instance, or a farmyard. Whatever its guise, young imaginations will be stretched in this area of the playground.

The aim of the Planting Area is to encourage the children to appreciate and learn about nature. Discovering the needs of plants is a fascinating learning opportunity for our youngsters. Already the Wise Bears have planted sunflowers, cucumbers, tomatoes and herbs.

Day Nursery Manager Mollie is delighted with the new outdoor provision and enthuses, 'We are thrilled with the Discovery Garden - the opportunities to learn are countless. We can already see such huge benefits to the children: new interests have been ignited, and we have witnessed improved language skills. It has been such a worthwhile project.'

Never one to think, 'That will do', Mollie is already planning new additions to the play area, one of them being a fabulous Berky Bug Hotel!

This has been such a busy Summer term - the weeks have absolutely flown by. It is a bittersweet term as we see our children move on to their Reception classes, but we are fully aware that they are ready for their next adventure and are happy and confident learners.

Our topic of 'Holidays' involved Andrew Bear travelling around the world in order for us to learn about different countries. The children wrote postcards to him and their friends, and we talked about what we would need to wear if we went on holidays to a hot or cold country. We tasted breads from around the world including pitta, baguette, pretzels, ciabatta and naan. Everyone tried each bread and then drew a happy or sad face next to a photograph of each bread to show their like or dislike. The overall winner was ciabatta.

The Queen's Jubilee celebration was a huge topic of conversation. Our children were convinced the Queen was going to pay us a visit, and according to some children there were actual sightings of her on a few occasions. We loved joining in with the street party with everyone coming together, singing songs, and playing traditional party games.

Our second topic, 'Percy the Park Keeper' was a huge success. The children loved the varied activities and staff enjoyed overhearing the different role play scenarios. 'The Rescue Party' was one of the children's favourite

stories - they acted out their own versions including all the Kindergarten children needing rescuing instead of the rabbit! The children noticed that the animals not only looked different, but they had different personalities, which led us to think about how we are all unique and what our strengths and weaknesses might be. The children's enthusiasm inspired us to make hedgehog cakes using mint sticks for spines. Yum!

The Kindergarten concerts, the trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park, and Sports Day were all so much fun with the children making the adults extremely proud of their impeccable behaviour. MM



Reception's term was packed full of inspiring learning. The Reception children initiated their new topic, 'Around Great Britain with Berky Bear', and enjoyed sharing information about their homes with him. We looked at locations and features on Google Maps and Google Earth, and the children became architects when they created their dream house out of recycled materials! This provoked curiosity about buildings, so Berky Bear and the children went for a walk around the area close to school. We looked at the different types of houses, road features, signs and shops. Berky Bear then waved goodbye, and set off to the Island of Struay in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland to stay with Katie Morag. The children listened to Katie Morag's stories and wrote postcards to Berky Bear to tell him all about the island to help him explore his surroundings. Berky Bear got the travel bug and was keen to explore other countries! The first stop was Italy where he and the children visited the fantastic tourist attractions, and made pizza and ice cream. He went on to visit other exciting destinations including China, Australia, Brazil and New York. The children found out lots of interesting facts about each country, and activities included exploring Aboriginal art, Chinese writing, samba dancing and even visiting Spiderman in New York!

During the Summer term, Reception children participate in the Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild', which challenges everyone to get outside and do something with nature and wildlife every day in June. The super outdoor activities included wildlife-watching, eating outdoors, planting wildflower seeds and listening to birdsong. All the children benefited from the activities, and relished the opportunity to be freer and to learn outdoors.

We ended the year with an Early Years' Summer Concert, Sports Day, and a party to celebrate another fabulous year! HR-W



EARLY YEARS PRESENTS

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF & THE BIG BAD TROLL

The children took their parents on a journey to Fairyland as they performed their concert "The Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Big Bad Troll." All the children performed their parts wonderfully and with confidence. The songs and rhythms were all executed with skill and enthusiasm. HRW



Year 1 have been learning all about the ocean during the Summer term. During the first half of the term, they located the five oceans and explored the creatures that made these oceans their home. The children also learnt about plastic pollution and the effect this is having on our marine life. The children were so passionate about preserving the oceans they made posters and wrote persuasive articles to help save the turtles.

A trip to Bristol Aquarium during our activity week was a definite highlight of the term; the children were amazed to see such a range of animals from jellyfish and seahorses to stingrays and turtles. They listened carefully whilst our tour guide explained about all the different types of animals and got to feed the fish too!

The second half of term saw Year 1 looking at beaches in the UK and identifying different physical and human features before comparing UK beaches to those abroad.

In art, the children made their own 'Under the Sea' dioramas complete with moveable animals, along with rainbow fish collages and observational drawings of shells.

Towards the end of term, Year 1 were thrilled to have a beach day at school; dressed in their finest beachwear the children enjoyed building sandcastles, painting pebbles, playing beach games and of course no day at the beach would be complete without a picnic lunch and ice lolly. JG



YEAR 1



Year 2 have enjoyed diving into their ocean topic with the same enthusiastic attitude that sees them dive into the swimming pool each Thursday afternoon! They have immersed themselves in finding out a range of fascinating facts about the different layers of the ocean and what creatures can be found there. Imagine their delight when they were able to see some of those creatures swimming around at Bristol Aquarium!

Year 2's artistic streak has led to a range of beautiful sea creatures being created for classroom displays. Inventive colour mixing and pointillism has seen a diverse array of artwork.

Jubilee celebrations enhanced the Year 2 curriculum by inspiring them to find out about the Queen's coronation and discover some of the key royal family members. Preparations for Jubilee Day included decorating Union Jack bunting, paper chains and creating flags to adorn the classroom before the serious celebrations began with the rest of the school.

This term has seen a few trips across to the Prep School where Year 2 have loved being dazzled by the drama that is Berk's Got Talent as well as being impressed by the acting ability on display in Year 6.

After being inspired by the Prep School productions, Year 2 showed great enthusiasm as they rallied together to showcase their own talent in the end of term show 'Stella the Starfish!'

There have been a few songs going round on a loop in Year 2 as rehearsals and practices helped to create the wonderful and colourful production that made a great SPLASH with children and parents! GS



YEAR 2



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ YEAR TWO PRESENT STELLA THE STARFISH





A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. Gertrude Jekyll

Taking learning Outdoors By Gill Agg

The pandemic has had many adverse consequences, but it has also brought about some phenomena which were nothing short of miraculous. No one will forget the mountain goats trotting through the deserted streets of Llandudno, enjoying the freedom of a quieter world, and this was no isolated incident: there were similar occurrences world-wide. Many more people also started tending their gardens, growing their own vegetables and enjoying outdoor spaces during this stressful time. To me, it seemed the birds sang louder and the world was a better place - I wished this new, more tranquil world could be here to stay, but it seems we are now 'back to normal' with our busy lives, intense pollution production and general domination of the planet.

While parents undoubtedly want the best for their children, 'the best' has traditionally been equated to academic success with the expectation that children should spend each day glued to their desks in order to learn and improve; however, some Gradgrind-inspired education is far from what is on offer at Berkhamstead. Our teachers are well aware of the value of outdoor learning, and we are lucky enough to have various spaces in which to enjoy what is - ridiculously - a relatively new concept in education.

Since we are situated within the town, we do not have the luxury of our own forest; however, we can plan forest school activities which can achieve similar results - for example, developing communication and problem solving skills in a relatively free setting which gives children opportunities to assess risk for themselves, encouraging a positive attitude to learning, nurturing an appreciation of, and respect for, the natural environment and just having a great time den building and playing with mud. Also, there is much indoor learning that can take place just as well outside. The Early Years department has a wonderful outdoor space for exploration; very young children learn best through their senses and physical experiences, and it is lovely to see their chalk marks on the walls and paving stones round the Andrews Centre, their clay models adorned with leaves, sticks and stones they themselves have gathered, their leaf prints and rubbings and their nature crowns...and the birds are always grateful for their fir cone feeders!

Outdoor learning doesn't stop after Early Years. Studying nature through a magnifying glass, hunting for minibeasts, looking at and comparing different habitats, pond dipping,

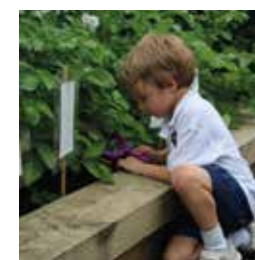
the consideration of animal life cycles and observational drawing continue throughout the school. The Day Nursery children also benefit from regular visits to the school garden; they especially enjoy seeing the hundreds (yes, really!) of frogs which visit the pond in early Spring, resulting in thousands of tiny, squiggling tadpoles.

'No pick, no lick, be careful with a stick' is an important life lesson learned from the youngest age! Gardening is the ultimate in outdoor learning and offers many cross curricular opportunities. Someone once said, 'Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years' and this is undoubtedly true. In these

technological times, it is a relief to take the children away from their screens and out into the fresh air; to encourage them to grow healthy vegetables and fruit, flowers and herbs and discover their uses, to help children to be responsible for keeping the plants alive and to show them the food chain at work through watching the various wildlife visitors to plants and pond. Gardening is a wonderfully cooperative activity. Above all, there are scientifically proven physical and mental health benefits - it is stress-free and active, and it builds up those important Vitamin D levels. Nature certainly has the power to heal; I am reminded of Colin and Mary in Frances Hodgson-Burnett's book 'The Secret Garden' and how those children changed and grew physically, mentally and spiritually through spending their days outside. Year 2 Gardening Club has spent many happy hours weeding and planting and all wish that there was more time to do this valuable work - what's not to like about working as a team and feeling calm and fulfilled?

On the Prep site, Nancy B's winning design is gradually being transformed into a reality - a new Wellbeing/Eco Garden named the Jubilee Garden by the pupils which can be entered through the back door of the Wellbeing pod; this will provide the older children with an opportunity to develop their gardening skills, as well as being a venue for lessons such as reading, mindfulness or Circle Time and a quiet space at break time. Already, the Year 6 children have created their 'legacy' artwork - eight wonderful animal and plant mosaics for hanging in this new haven of tranquillity.

Finally, tending a garden is an eco-friendly thing to do, helping the whole planet in a small but vital way. Surely gardening should be seen to be at least as important - and useful - as learning to use an iPad.



Pirates of the Curry Bear

It was anchors away as excitement swelled and nerves buzzed in the air like flies amongst the Year 6 leavers. The scene was set for a swashbuckling adventure following Captain Redbeard and his roguish pirate crew, the sailors from the Crunchy Frog and the Perriwinkle family. The performance exploded into action and a mesmerisingly electric atmosphere created on stage by the talented performers; meanwhile laughter continuously filled the hall.

Alice summed it up; "As we faced our parents; hundreds of eyes watched as our characters sprung to life. They laughed at jokes and clapped to songs. It felt like we had entered a whole other dimension as if we were really pirates sailing the Seven Seas. Afterwards we had an explosion of compliments."

A huge well done to the fabulous cast; confidence and talent has swelled. Your pace and comedy timing were spot on and your acting and singing incredible. It has been wonderful to see your team spirit shine as you supported and helped each other. Take away with you your Piratical Style and know you can conquer anything!



Summer Exhibition 2022

The creative work of every pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6 was celebrated in our annual Art Exhibition.

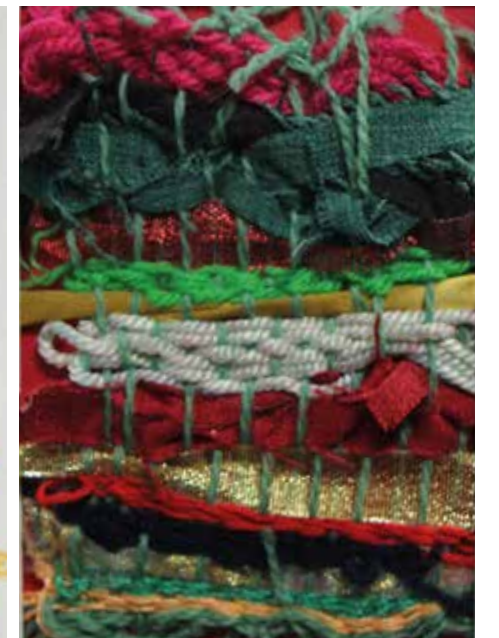
Now in its eighth year, our Summer Art Exhibition took place immediately after half term. Always a crowd-puller, the exhibition showcased the work of each pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6, from pretty Pointillism flowers painted by our Kindergarten children, van Gogh-inspired fishing boat collages by Year 1, Keith Haring canvases by Year 4 to striking collaged masks created by our talented Year 6 pupils; the art on show was both diverse and appealing.

Ceramics included name plates by Year 4, coil pots by Year 3 and castles by Year 2. The standard of work this year was once again exceptional, and Michelle Bareham, Head of Art, commented; "I was very proud of all the children's work on display. It is lovely to see work from every child in the school and it was also super to see so many visitors".

The Summer 2022 exhibition was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing more of the fantastic efforts of our pupils next year.



Devan PY1, Vincent van Gogh-inspired fishing boats



From top:
Eddie H, Y2, **Henry VIII** in oil pastel. Rishik R, Y3, **Weaving**, Elias RS, **Self-portrait**. Tatiana H, Y5, **Bicycle detail on a map**. Huxley R, KG **Pointillism flower**. Arwen H, Y5, **Wayne Thiebaud-inspired cake** in oil pastel. Keith Herring canvases by Y4. Masks by Year 6 Wilf M, Y4, ceramic name plate. Coil Pots by Y3. Collaborative Mosaic by Year 6



ART SCHOLARSHIPS

Our record of Art Scholarships and Awards to senior schools is noteworthy. Mrs Bareham is our inspirational Head of Art, and does a brilliant job of preparing candidates with a great deal of help and advice. In the last few years, pupils here have been awarded Scholarships and Awards to Dean Close School, St Edward's Senior School, King's School, Gloucester and Malvern St James. This year's Art Scholar is Alice S, who has been awarded a Scholarship to Dean Close School. Congratulations!

News

FROM PREP

MUSIC NEWS

MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

In May, we held the annual Music Taster Afternoon for Years 2 to 4 with parents attending and children allowed to try out every instrument for the first time in three years! Each of our wonderful peripatetic music teachers performed, along with some Year 3 players who demonstrated their skills beautifully. Then it was time for the children to try out any instruments to see which they might like to learn, and there were 150 try-outs with many children excitedly exploring different instruments. PM

SUMMER RECITAL

Thirty instrumentalists from Year 2-5 gave beautiful performances at the Summer Recital. We heard a wide variety of different instruments with many players having only started learning this year. All of them played confidently and with composure - it is always delightful to have more experienced players showing their skills, especially for the beginners to aspire to. Congratulations to every single performer for their preparation and presentation. PM

DEAN CLOSE STRINGS DAY

Twenty three children went to Dean Close School for a fantastic Strings Day led by the brilliant Carducci Quartet. There were over 100 instrumentalists involved and we had the largest contingent of a visiting school. Divided between two ensembles, our players spent the day rehearsing new music from sight-reading at the start, to performing for parents in the Bacon Theatre at the end. This is challenging stuff!

Naturally, everyone wants to play well and get the notes right, but in a large group you are required to keep up with the speed of the conductor and play in time with everyone else. But, as we rehearsed, each time there were a few more correct notes and the music was gradually learnt. The larger group performed 'Supercalifragilistic' and 'Mamma Mia', and the more advanced players rehearsed a very descriptive piece, 'The Mary Rose', including many different string techniques of pizzicato, glissando, tremolo and spiccato. They ended the concert with an old favourite, 'Plink, Plank, Plunk', which is played entirely pizzicato! The children were terrific! PM

LEAVERS' RECITAL

Our Year 6 leavers presented a wonderful evening of music at the Parabola Arts Centre. They have many gifts and skills and all were keen to contribute and participate in various ways. The parents were served drinks and canapés by a Year 6 Front of House team whilst others were responsible for stage management and announcing items. Every child had the opportunity to take part in ensembles and we also enjoyed a wide range of solo and duet performances. The recital began with a percussion group sweeping the stage, before they were joined by dustbin players in a rousing 'We will rock you' stomp! Musically expressive performances followed with pupils overcoming nerves and playing with confidence on the stage. A large group of singers performed 'When I grow up' and 'Revolting Children' from 'Matilda' and the final item with everyone singing was 'Piratical Style' from 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean.' Thank you, Year 6, for a wonderful evening of musical entertainment. PM



MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Prep Test: Jasper W (Piano)
Initial Grade: Edie M (Piano*), Ella H (Piano*)
Grade 1: Wilf M (Cello*), Erin R (Violin*), Katy C (Piano*)
Grade 2: Tom R (Clarinet), Harry H (Piano*)
Grade 3: Nancy B (Saxophone)
Grade 5: Ted L (Treble Recorder**) (Theory*)

*Denotes pass with merit **Denotes pass with distinction



CHESS NEWS

Happily, plenty of chess was played at Berk during the 2021/22 season. The clubs were thriving at lunchtimes and all the domestic leagues were able to be completed. There were four leagues in the Y4-6 Club and the winners were as follows: Division One, Seb C; Division Two, Tom R; Division Three, Sophia E; Division Four, Tommy G. Division One in the Y3 Club was won by Jasper W while Rishik R claimed the spoils in Division Two. Barnaby W captained the school team in their first match in over two years, a fixture against a Gloucester Schools representative team. The chess team also defeated the staff team 9.5-3.5 in the annual challenge match. Barnaby and Georgia A won the Howard and Cole Cups for Chess at Speech Day. MC

VISITING HEADS

The Prep School have welcomed visits from local senior school heads this term, including from Dean Close, St Edward's, King's School, Gloucester, Cheltenham Ladies' College and Cheltenham College. All delivered interesting and enjoyable assemblies and stayed to chat to parents afterwards.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE QUIZ

Berkhampstead School entered the Gloucestershire Schools' Wildlife Quiz for the first time this year. This proved a really worthwhile and enjoyable experience. All the children who participated learnt a great deal as well as demonstrating a broad knowledge of British flora and fauna. A comfortable victory over Greatfield Park in the first round propelled our team to the Cheltenham semi-final where we were just pipped by the Richard Pate School. Congratulations to a fine team: Izzy C (captain), Amelia J, Ben A and Harry H. MC



Ohh we go...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

The Kindergarten trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park was a huge success with the children making the adults extremely proud of their impeccable behaviour. We thoroughly enjoyed a train ride around the park, and saw white rhinos, giraffes, lions and zebras. We also saw parrots, penguins and primates in the walled garden, and the lovely birds in the aviaries fascinated the children. The day was very busy, and some of the children were so exhausted at the end of the day that they needed a little doze on the coach on the way back to school! MM



THE LIVING RAINFOREST

What an authentic trip to the rainforest! Going at this time of the year made the glasshouses hotter than usual and then to top it all we had a tremendous storm, the glasshouses leaked and the rain poured in on us. This group of Year 5s were also very lucky, Cinnamon the sloth was in clear view and very close to the ground, an Asian water dragon decided to wander across the path in front of us, the green iguana somersaulted off his branch to get to the water and Tommy the toucan showed off as we learnt about how his huge beak is not only used for eating and drinking but amazingly it regulates his body temperature both when it is hot and cooler. Considering we did this topic in the Autumn term the children answered all the questions put to them and more - they did Berk proud. They were very well behaved and I hope all of them enjoyed the trip. Well done to all the Year 5s. LW

LOWER MOOR FARM

Year 3 spent a lovely day at Lower Moor Farm reinforcing their topic about helping plants grow. We enjoyed a variety of fun activities; pretending to be seeds trying to get water, air, warmth and nutrients in order to grow well - but being eaten by crows or being affected by drought! We matched the seeds to their dispersal methods and created beautiful collages of seeds. The afternoon was spent looking for minibeasts and identifying them. TM



SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Year 4 spent a really fun day at Cheltenham Science Festival. They watched a brilliant, interactive show called 'Weirdology: Revolting Bodies' and spent time looking around the Discover Zone. Here is what a few of the pupils thought:

'I really enjoyed being in the Discover Zone. I liked learning about flood defences - we were able to make our own with sand.' Ben

'We really enjoyed the practice activities as you got to be involved with the experiments. There was a ball catching activity where you had to sort out green balls which were 'recycling' - it was so much fun! Estella and Ella

'Our favourite bit was the show - it was absolutely hilarious - I learnt so much and it was so funny! I also really enjoyed the Discover Zone - the sensor robots were fascinating.' Sid and Tom

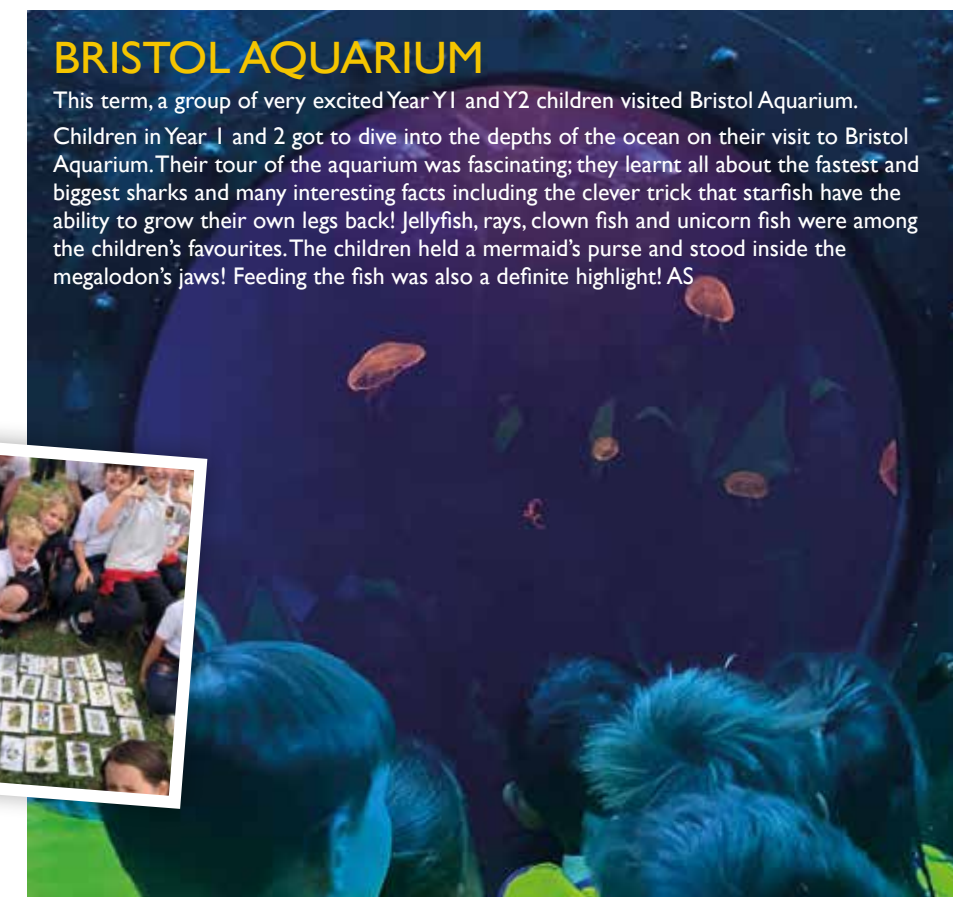
'We loved having a go with a virtual reality headset - we learnt all about the pressure in space - it was amazing as we had to move our bodies around to react to what we were seeing.' Zack and Jack



BRISTOL AQUARIUM

This term, a group of very excited Year Y1 and Y2 children visited Bristol Aquarium.

Children in Year 1 and 2 got to dive into the depths of the ocean on their visit to Bristol Aquarium. Their tour of the aquarium was fascinating; they learnt all about the fastest and biggest sharks and many interesting facts including the clever trick that starfish have the ability to grow their own legs back! Jellyfish, rays, clown fish and unicorn fish were among the children's favourites. The children held a mermaid's purse and stood inside the megalodon's jaws! Feeding the fish was also a definite highlight! AS



Ohh we go...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS

CHEDWORTH VILLA

The Y3 children have really enjoyed learning all about life in Roman Britain during the spring and summer terms. To support their learning, they spent a fascinating day at nearby Chedworth Roman Villa - a wonderful resource that is practically on our doorstep. The trip started with a tour of the villa (a place of remarkable wealth, comfort and luxury when last inhabited in the 2nd century CE) where the children were shown striking features such as the famed mosaics, the underfloor heating system - the hypocaust - and the baths. The children appreciated a hands-on session of mosaic making before a final look around the site. Before returning to school, the party diverted to Mrs Mitchell's back garden in Chedworth for a taxing Roman quiz. MC



BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

The Year 5 children enjoyed a step back in time when they visited the Black Country Museum. Enhancing our studies about the Victorians, we got to see some back to

back houses, the hardware store, a chain maker at work as well as experience a lesson in a Victorian School. The children enjoyed visiting the traditional sweetshop as well as

a spectacular mine show, where we learned about the dangers and difficulties of the job. The Year 5s thoroughly enjoyed the day. P McC



MARY ARDEN'S FARM

Wandering through the great hall at Warwick Castle, Year 2 were amazed by the knights, the medieval weapons and chainmail! Climbing to the top of the Conqueror's Fortress gave amazing views of the whole castle including the huge trebuchet. A visit to the Peacock Garden and Horrible Histories Maze further sparked the children's enquiring minds - with great acting skills in the stocks! AS



KINDERGARTEN



RECEPTION



YEAR 1



On your marks

TRACK EVENTS

The Kindergarten children were absolutely fantastic, all were focused and all performed so well, jumping, running and balancing on all kinds of equipment! Despite the heat - plus a few nerves - everyone joined in and worked hard on completing the events.

Reception houses some competitive sportspeople, and they were ready to race! There was some great movement and determination displayed in many of the events, with others concentrating on the skills at hand! Year 1 also has some competitive sportspeople who were focused and ready to race! They had shown great teamwork during the practising, and the relays at the end were brilliant! Year 2 were competitive and showed great skill in every race. Every one of them tried their best and enjoyed the races! I was very impressed with how well they organised themselves for each race. Great work, Year 2 - Prince of Wales Stadium next year!

FIELD EVENTS

It was a glorious, sunny day for the field events, with Year 6 running the event. Reception, Year 1 and 2 moved around six stations during the morning, participating in long jump, speed bounce, bean bag aiming, quoit throwing and a javelin. There was great support and encouraging words from the older pupils - I was so proud of all the children. CK



YEAR 2

Pupils take the lead

PREP SPORTS DAY 2022

The weather was on our side, and the morning was cloudy for the Prep pupils to take part in the field events - quoit and shot putt, cricket and rounders throw, standing broad jump and the long jump. After a much needed lunch break, the pupils were back in action, this time on the track, with ample spectators filling the stands. The Year 3 girls started the afternoon events with the middle distance. Having had a few disrupted Sports Days over the last couple of years, due to Covid, the roars and cheers coming from the stand were exhilarating! For Years 3, 4 and 5, it was their first proper Prep Sports Day and Year 6s second full Sports Day, and all the children performed to the best of their ability. Well done to all the competitors and the spectators for the cheering and support! CK

RECORDS BROKEN

Congratulations to the following pupils for breaking the following Sports Day records:

Evie W Long Jump 2m 73
Chloe H Shot Putt 9m 73
Isla R Rounders Throw 33m 90

WHAT AN AMAZING DAY OF SPORT AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT! IN TRUE BERKY STYLE, EVERY CHILD APPROACHED EACH DISCIPLINE WITH A SMILE AND A 'CAN DO' ATTITUDE!

MRS HOLLAND



CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

We started the evening with our distance runs, and all pupils fought hard in their run, with Max H (Y6) taking silver. Polly B, Oli B, Lydia M, Alistair M, Sophia B, Maisie G and Otto S all qualified for the individual sprint finals. There was some good competition on the night, and we achieved good results with Polly B and Oli B both gaining bronze in their finals. We had worked hard on our handovers for the relay, and the following teams got through to the finals. Year 3 boys and girls, bronze medals, Year 4 boys and girls just missed out on the medals with 4th and 5th, Year 5 boys, fifth place and Year 6 boys and girls, sixth place. This year, the field events happened on the same night - Isla R and Ben J both gained silver in the vortex throw. The Year 6 jumped well in the standing long jump, but not enough to gain a medal. Well done to all the athletes who attended the event; it was a superb effort by all. CK





YEAR 3



YEAR 4



YEAR 5



YEAR 6

U8 | GIRLS' CRICKET

This season, the girls have enjoyed learning new skills and playing some competitive fixtures. We began the season focusing on the new skill of bowling over-arm; all the girls made great progress and the consistency was fantastic. We then improved on our batting technique where the girls learnt to move their feet to suit the delivery, allowing them to make better connection. We then started the girls on trying to identify where the gaps in the field were and hitting the ball towards them. This in turn helped the girls identify the importance of fielding where they demonstrated good concentration and some outstanding catches were made. During our fixtures, we have performed extremely well, resulting in Berky winning most of our games. The girls should be proud of themselves as I am extremely proud of all of them. IP

U8 Team: Annabelle A, Rose B, Polly B, Isabella B, Lara C, Harriet C-W, Rosie E, Amelia E, Melba F, Charlotte H, Eliza L, Olivia M, Matilda M, Florence P T, Hannah P, Allegra S, Diana S, Evelyn W, Yaz Y

U9 | GIRLS' CRICKET

In our games sessions this year we have been able to 'resume play' and so have mostly had a normal summer of cricket training sessions and fixtures, allowing the girls to build upon their skill and test their abilities against other schools. The three elements of batting, bowling and fielding have been in focus, concentrating on the techniques required as well as learning the rules. The girls have also begun to develop an understanding of tactics used in matches and, as the season progressed, we won more matches than we lost, taken more wickets than had taken and scored more runs than were scored against us. Our House Matches played with the boys were also feistily played and some expert skill was witnessed. Once again, I am very proud of these girls. C McC

U9 Team: Claudia C, Harriet E, Eva H, Kitty H, Ella H, Charlotte J, Ara K, Estella L, Lydia M, Coco P, Ellie P, Millie R, Mollie R, Georgiana S, Olivia W



U10 | GIRLS' CRICKET

The girls have enjoyed a full season of cricket training and matches. Their confidence has certainly improved and, alongside this, so has their bowling. They have the correct action and now need to use this to increase the power of their bowling by introducing a short run up. Some girls have begun to bat with intelligence, thinking about where they would like to place the ball. We have had some good wins and learnt from our losses. Well done ladies - roll on Y6 cricket season! JH

U10 Team: Emily B, Sophia B, Emma C, Nina C, Esi D, Esha D, Alina G, Georgia E, Arwen H, Frankie H, Emilia F, Carly H, Tatty H, Chloe H, Amelia J, Yvie L, Chloe M, Erin P, Erin R, Alba N, Alexa S, Lettie W

U11 | GIRLS' CRICKET

This term the girls have looked at all the main aspects of cricket and gained a good understanding of the rules. They have played well as a team and worked hard to steal lots of runs. Our bowling has been good this season with the girls really working hard to improve it; unfortunately for us, this meant it allowed some of the opposition the chance to hit a ball, not something we always got the chance to do! The girls started to implement tactics into their matches. We have had some nice wins, with a handful of girls gaining a few 4s or 6s! CK
U11 Squad: Georgia A, Ellie A, Ellie B, Zoe B, Nancy B, Isabel C, Katy C, Thea C, Sophia E, Chloe E, Lucinda F, Maisie G, Isabel G, Vivienne H, Isla J, Ena M-L, Edith M, Primrose P, Katy P, Isla R, Zoe S, Alice S, Hetty W, Sydney W
Outstanding awards: Nancy B, Primrose P, Isla R
Colours: Georgia A, Ellie B, Thea C, Sophia E, Lucinda F, Maisie G, Vivienne H, Zoe S, Alice S

U10/U11 MIXED CRICKET

The U10/U11 have improved their skills across all aspects of the game, and I have been pleased with their progress. Their first match was against King's, Gloucester and unfortunately this was a loss, but they bounced back from this and won their next game against St Edward's. The next game was against Rendcomb and they played well and won! After half term, the team played Cricklade, and narrowly lost, and they unfortunately lost against Beaudesert. The team learnt from this and won their next match at Hatherop. The last game of the season was against The Richard Pate School and this was a loss. A mixed bag of results but a great season. I look forward to seeing some of this team play again next year. DB

U10/U11 Team: Ben A, Victor B, Seb C, Tom C-G, Katy C, Thea C, Oscar C-S, Sophia E, Jacob F, Maisie G, Will H, Harry H, Cameron J, Bertie L, Primrose P, Floyd R, Ben S, Gideon T, Joseph W

U8 | BOYS' CRICKET

The boys had three matches this term and everyone played their part. Cricket is a very skilful game and it takes a little while to get to grips with the skills. As such our boys tried very hard in their practice sessions in order to improve. Watching the boys in their matches gave evidence as to how well they have progressed, particularly with their bowling. In preparation for next year's cricket season; a bit of extra throwing and catching in the garden or local fields would be very beneficial. A good season. Well played, boys! TM

U8 Team: Hughie B, Oliver B, Leo C, Lucas DCV, Jacob D, Jack F, Charlie F, Fergus G, Jack H, Miles H, Tharusa J, Atlas M, Rishik R, Toby R, Isaac SR, Charlie W, Jasper W

U9 | BOYS' CRICKET

Both squads were full of enthusiasm and ready to draw a line under a disappointing football season. Batting, bowling and fielding drills developed the boys' confidence early in the season and by the third week of the term we were ready to hit the ground running, which we did with our first match and win of the season against St Ed's. Two further convincing wins against Beaudesert and King's saw the boys gaining in confidence, hitting the ball freely and bowling more accurately. After half term, we faced probably our strongest opposition in RPS and Dean Close. Facing faster bowling and not having the home advantage didn't seem to phase the boys. They hit freely scoring plenty of 4s and 6s and taking 10 wickets to win both matches comfortably. Both the As and the Bs fully deserved an unbeaten season; they attacked quality opposition with the resulting wins often being in little doubt from the outset. Well done, boys! SM

U9 A Team: Dylan B, George J, Edward L, Alastair M, Wilfred M, Zac P, Sidney R, Ben R, Tom R, Ben S

U9 B Team: George E, Jack F, Tommy G, Hugo H, Freddie L, Luis M-R, Owen P, Isaac R, Ben W



U11 | BOYS' CRICKET

The U11 boys have enjoyed a successful cricket season and unusually haven't lost any matches to the weather. We had some fantastic victories against King's, Beaudesert, Rendcomb and The Richard Pate School, as well as reaching the final of the Cheltenham Knockout trophy.

It was pleasing to see the boys develop their technique and see their love for the game develop. They were cohesive as a team, showing great support to each other and always celebrating each other's successes.

Inevitably there were a few stand out moments. Max's 33 not out to take us to victory against King's, Manas scoring a half century in the game against RPS and Felix achieving a triple wicket maiden in the same game are just a few.

The team were an absolute pleasure to coach. Well done to everyone for such a great term. P McC

U11 A Team: Manas A, Reuben A, Sam B, Sebastian C, Jacob D-T, Max H, Ben J, Felix S, Otto S, Joseph W, Barnaby W

Colours: Manas A, Reuben A, Sam B, Jacob D-T, Max H, Ben J, Felix S, Otto S, Barnaby W

Outstanding awards: Manas A, Max H, Ben J, Otto S



YEAR 3



YEAR 4



YEAR 5



YEAR 6



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



The Blazer is printed on carbon balanced and FSC certified paper using vegan based inks.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

PRIZE WINNERS 2022

ENGLISH CUP Zoe S
MATHEMATICS CUP Barnaby W
SCIENCE CUP Georgia A
COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY CUP Sam B
FRENCH CUP Zoe B
SPANISH CUP Chloe E
HISTORY CUP Isabel C
GEOGRAPHY CUP Nancy B
RS CUP Katy P
ART GOBLET Alice S
CWB CUP Oscar C-S
CUP FOR ALL-ROUND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT Reuben A

JAMES AGG JAZZ CUP Lucinda F
WENDY BURROWS CHORAL CUP Katy C
CHORAL CUP Primmy P
CUPS FOR INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE Nancy B
CUP FOR KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP Ellie A
CROKER CUP FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE Sophia E
PROGRESS CUP Thea C
BARTLETT ENDEAVOUR CUP Isla J

HEADMASTER'S AWARD Hannah D
HEADMASTER'S AWARD Jacob D-T
HOWARD CUP FOR CHESS Barnaby W
COLE CHESS CUP Georgia A
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER CUP (SPORT) Felix S
PATRICIA SMITH CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP (GIRLS) Vivienne H
WILLIAMS SPORTS CUP FOR GIRLS Isla R
PODMORE CUP Ellie B
SPORTING EXCELLENCE - CRICKET Manas A

SCOT-SIMMONDS SPORTS CUP FOR BOYS Max H
MOSS CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP (BOYS) Ben J
ADVENTURE SHIELD Edie M
PLATINUM AWARD TROPHY Ena M-L
ALL-ROUNDER CUP (GIRLS) Isla R
ALL-ROUNDER CUP (BOYS) Otto S
BUDDY CUP Sydney W
COURTESY CUP Hettie W
BERKY AMBASSADOR CUP Maisie G
COMMUNITY CUP Isabel G
ECO-WARRIOR CUP Jacob F
BERKY PRIZE Zoe B

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2022

Reuben A
Pate's Grammar School
Ellie A
Rendcomb College
Georgia A
The Crypt Grammar School
Manas A
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester Academic & Sport Scholarship
Ellie B
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports Scholarship
Zoe B
Cheltenham Ladies' College
Samuel B
King's School, Gloucester
Nancy B
Ribston Hall Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester Sport & Music Scholarship
Isabel C
Balcarras School

Katy C
Ribston Hall Grammar School
Thea C
King's School, Gloucester
Oscar C-S
Balcarras School
Jacob D-T
The High School, Leckhampton
Hannah D
Home education
Sophia E
King's School, Gloucester;
Drama Scholarship
St Edward's Honorary Academic & Drama Scholarship
Chloe E
Cheltenham Ladies' College, Beale Award
King's School, Gloucester Drama Scholarship
Lucinda F
The Crypt Grammar School
Jacob F
The High School, Leckhampton

Maisie G
St Edward's School
Isabel G
Pittville School
Max H
Balcarras School
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship
Vivienne H
King's School, Gloucester
Isla J
Burford School
Benjamin J
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Ena M-L
Balcarras School
Edith M
Denmark Road Grammar School
Primrose P
Cheltenham Ladies' College
Malvern St James, Sports Scholarship & Exhibition

Katherine P
Cheltenham Ladies' College
Isla R
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship
Felix S
St Edward's School, Academic & Sports Scholarship
Otto S
Dean Close Prep School, Academic & Sports Scholarship
Zoe S
Balcarras School
Alice S
Dean Close Prep School, Art Scholarship & Headmaster's Award
Henrietta W
King's School, Gloucester
Sydney W
Balcarras School
Barnaby W
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester, Academic Scholarship

