

BERKHAMSTEAD
SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

SUMMER TERM
2023

BLAZER

CLASS ACT
PUPILS TAKE
TO THE STAGE

WELLBEING

IT'S AT THE HEART OF
EVERYTHING WE DO

PUPILS TAKE THE LEAD
SPORTS DAYS 2023

INSIDE: SUMMER ART EXHIBITION | SPOTLIGHT ON KEIR JONES | DAY NURSERY NEWS



...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 CLC Parabola Arts Centre and the hilarious 'Amazing Adventures of Superstar' production. The Speech and Prize Giving Service was a fitting way to say goodbye and it made it particularly special to have Lexi Dunley, who left Berky in 2016 and is now studying History at Durham University, to award the prizes to the children.

Whilst I continue to avoid mentioning the word COVID, it is a huge credit to the staff and children that the academic achievements this year have been so superb, considering the lockdowns and remote learning they have had to endure in previous years. The number of Grammar School places and Independent School Scholarships - 36 in total - is remarkable. Alongside this the truly holistic educational approach of equal emphasis on the academic, music, art, games, trips, clubs and living in a community was back to its absolute best.

I am enormously grateful to such a wonderful staff who care so much for the children's well being and academic progress and to all the parents for their on-going support of the school. 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: Chloe H, Amelia J, Alba N, Harry H, Ben A, Erin R, Tatty H, Frankie H, Alina G, Sophia B.

...SPOTLIGHT ON... MR JONES



Mr Jones joined Berky in January 2023 and teaches in the Pre-Prep department, in Year 2. He worked in student support in the Higher Education sector after graduating university, before retraining to become a primary teacher in 2011. Since then, he has taught across a range of year groups, covering all subjects. Mr Jones is married and has two young children.

What are your initial impressions of Berkhamstead School?

I have felt so welcomed into the school since joining at the start of the year. From Mr Cross, to my teaching colleagues, the kitchen staff, cleaners, school leadership and, of course, the children - it feels like one big family. I'm so pleased to have joined such a lovely team.

What do you enjoy about being a teacher?

I absolutely love working with children - it sounds like a cliché, but helping pupils achieve that 'lightbulb' moment when something just clicks is magical. Also, no two days are ever the same and I can honestly say that every single day of my working life, there are moments when I genuinely smile and laugh out loud - not many jobs allow you to do that this regularly!

What are your favourite subjects to teach?

It's a tricky question; I love teaching loads of subjects, but I have a real passion for STEM subjects, especially computing, maths and science. I actually studied English Literature and Art History at university, but my enjoyment for STEM has really come through teaching it in primary settings and seeing how much enthusiasm it sparks, both with pupils and (some, but not all) teachers!

What qualities do Berky children have?

I think this is an impossible question to answer, as the word that immediately comes to mind is unique! Berky children love to show enthusiasm for areas that interest them and, as a school, I'd like to think we encourage and support them in doing this. So yes, while we strive for pupils to show perseverance, thirst for knowledge, confidence and kindness; embracing the individual is key and that really shines through at Berky.

What hobbies do you have?

I love sports, and play and watch football regularly. I was born in Southampton and have supported the Saints since I was 5, so I try to visit St Mary's a few times each season. I also love cooking; in fact, one of my heroes is Gordon Ramsey - what a talented guy! However, my biggest love is music, so I can often be found bouncing around the kitchen, trying to 'influence' my children by playing them my favourite songs and bands!

What is your favourite book?

My favourite books are Philip Pullman's Dark Materials trilogy. They are the most incredible books with rich, complex characters and such depth of feeling; I can't even think of the ending without getting a lump in my throat! In fact, I love them so much, we almost called our daughter Lyra, before eventually settling on it as her middle name - she's actually called Alice, after Lewis Carroll's eponymous character.

What is your dream?

As a youngster, I dreamed of becoming a professional footballer; but I think that ship has now sailed. As an adult, I've settled for a slightly more grounded dream; going into space! You never know...



CORONATION STREET PARTY

In anticipation of the Coronation of King Charles III, on Thursday 4th May, the staff, parents and children were invited to get into the celebratory spirit and wear red, white and blue, or to come to school dressed as a king. Before lunch, children from Reception to Year 6 were divided into mixed year group teams with names such as 'Coronation Crown', 'Westminster Abbey' and 'King Charles III' and enjoyed playing an array of brilliant coronation-themed party games. Having built up an appetite for lunch, everyone gathered together on the Pre-Prep lawn for a wonderful street party lunch. Union Jack bunting joyfully festooned the school and there was a real air of excitement for the weekend ahead. Thanks to Rob and his team for the delicious spread, and to the PTA for funding the parents' lunch.



...NEWS...

FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

CAIN & HELEN

We were delighted to welcome Cain and Helen to school to deliver memorable assemblies to the children. Twenty-one-year-old Cain has cerebral palsy, and he and his carer Helen visit schools and other institutions breaking down barriers and raising awareness about disability.

Important messages - delivered with humour - covered the requisite to treat disabled people with understanding, empathy and kindness, offering help in public places and most importantly, not to stare.

Thank you to Cain and Helen for providing our children with these all-important messages.



CHELT FPA

Children across the school enjoyed huge success in May's Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts and we celebrated the achievements of all of our drama students, musicians and dancers in assemblies and on our social media platforms. Shown here is our Chamber Ensemble, who achieved top marks in the Instrumental Group - 11 years and under - and took home the MP Price Quartet Cup!

(See Page 10 to read about Year 2's achievements).



KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to Pre-Prep pupils Kitty L and Florence R and Prep pupils Harriet C-W and Isabella B who were all awarded the Kindness Cup during the Summer Term.



BERKY GETS GREENER

The Pre-Prep Eco-Warriors have been busy this term creating 'Save Our Oceans' and 'Save our World' posters, and have discussed various ways this could be done. They have also been working hard to earn their Eco-Warrior badges, simultaneously promoting the Berky Eco Pledge to their friends. We are proud of the four children who have been awarded their badges.

In Prep, the Eco-Warriors have built a log pile in the Jubilee Garden and regularly add bird seeds, nuts and fat balls to the bird table. At the end of term, the present committee gave an excellent assembly on how to be awarded an Eco-Warrior badge. Most families will already be doing their bit for the environment and planet Earth, and we hope Prep pupils made good use of the summer holidays to gather evidence so that lots of badges can be awarded during the Autumn Term.

All the information on how to carry out the Berky Eco Pledge is on the school website, under 'Berky Gets Greener'. Please send the evidence to office@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk or ecowarriors@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

Thank you to all the eco committee members who have worked very hard this year to make Berky greener.
J K-M & LW



We've now got a lovely team of PTA parents - more always welcome - and they all help us to do more and more for the school. We're already planning ahead to the Autumn Term, and we look forward to our annual Quiz Night, another disco and plenty of festive fun. We'll share more with you soon!

PTA NEWS

It's been such a fun Summer Term! The term kicked off with the School Disco - we loved seeing the children dressed up and dancing with their friends (and teachers joining in too!) We had two Cake at Breaks sales, which the children love, and we wrapped up the term with our Summer Festival. This was a lovely event for our School and Day Nursery community.

All events are planned with fun placed firmly at the forefront, but they also help us to raise money which can then be used to enhance the school and benefit the children. It's always nice to say 'yes' to requests from the school, and this term, we've agreed to fund another Music Hands Workshop and Code Show, to pay for sports equipment and a PA system that can be used for events such as the Summer Festival and Berky's Got Talent.

ENRICHING LIVES

THE BENEFITS OF BRINGING CHILDREN & THE ELDERLY TOGETHER

What better way to kick off celebrations of the King's Coronation bank holiday weekend, than with a quintessentially English afternoon tea party? The kind-hearted Day Nursery folk, always up for a party, decked out their marquee with red, white and blue balloons and bunting, asked the kitchen to bake special Coronation fairy cakes, and invited a group of elderly friends from Oakhaven Residential Care Home for a session of Coronation-themed arts and crafts followed by afternoon tea.

The super gathering resumed the Day Nursery's collaboration with Oakhaven for in-person get-togethers after a hiatus due to Covid restrictions. Before the pandemic, the Day Nursery regularly visited Oakhaven for shared activities such as arts and crafts, carol singing and Berky Bear music sessions with Mrs Sallis. And during the pandemic, their elderly friends were not forgotten, as there were shared zoom calls and letter exchanges. Happily, this term, Berky Bears Music also resumed, when the Wise Bear children visited in May.

Staff at both Oakhaven and the Day Nursery have witnessed the tangible benefits of the intergenerational initiative, from 'magic moments' shared between the elderly and toddlers to physical and mental improvements for both generations. Staff at the Day Nursery are very positive about the link with the care home and have witnessed the children developing empathy and respect for their elderly neighbours as well as improved communication skills. Stigmas about care homes and growing old are also combatted. 'Seeing the children create precious moments with the elderly residents is wonderful,' raves Day Nursery Manager, Mollie Dodds. 'The get-togethers are beneficial to both generations.' Staff from Oakhaven are just as positive about the collaboration, and enjoy witnessing the joy in their residents as they interact with the children. Claudia Ehler is the Activities Coordinator at Oakhaven and enthuses, 'When the children visit, our residents often forget their physical limitations, lean up out of their chair, extend a hand and a smile whilst engaging in conversation, song or play; they very much look forward to spending time with the children.'

Needless to say, everyone is delighted that Berky Bear music sessions at Oakhaven will now take place monthly, and that the popular arts and crafts will happen as much as possible too.





KINDERGARTEN

Our topic of Julia Donaldson stories was a big hit with our Kindergarten children. The books are so familiar to the children, they have loved joining in with us to retell the stories and have enjoyed bringing in books from home to share with their friends. Our role play area started as a Gruffalo cave, and lots of amazing storytelling with descriptive language could be heard through play. Julia Donaldson's books gave us many opportunities to learn about rhyme, with the children making up their own rhyming strings and playing games such as rhyming snap.

We linked this topic to Forest School sessions where the children learned the first rules of Forest School "No pick, no lick and be careful with a stick". We went hunting for minibeasts and listened for as many different natural sounds as we could whilst sitting quietly on a log enjoying the outdoor space.

We loved celebrating the King's Coronation, and enjoyed our party day, complete with games and a delicious picnic with our families.

The last term is always bittersweet as we say goodbye to children as they move on to their Reception classes, but our topic of 'Fun in the Sun' was exactly as it sounds; we enjoyed every moment together. The children gave ideas on what they would like to learn, and this time our role play became a beach, complete with sand, buckets and spades, shells and a rock pool. When playing, the children can be heard reliving their own holiday experiences of splashing in the sea, jumping over waves, finding creatures in rock pools, eating ice-creams and picnics on the beach: so many enjoyable experiences to be remembered.

The last couple of weeks, disappeared in a frenzy of Early Years Concerts, a Sports Day, and our Pom Pom Party. Well done to all our children for participating; you have made us extremely proud, and you are now ready for your next adventure! MM



RECEPTION

Reception have spent the Summer Term finding out about different countries, and we started by exploring our local area. We went on a walk of the area around school and identified the different types of houses we could see. We also spotted different landmarks, including Cheltenham Town football ground! The Coronation of King Charles III inspired us to find out all about the early life of the King including his hobbies and interests. We then took a tour of the UK, comparing London to Cheltenham and discovering the different traditions celebrated in Scotland. The children were interested to learn about the patron saints of the UK, especially the legend of St George and the Dragon. Finally, the children discovered what homes were like in the past and compared them to the homes of the present.

After half term, Reception spread their wings and took off and travelled around the world! First, we landed in Antarctica. The children became weather reporters and informed us all about the snow storms and freezing temperatures and created some wonderful printed igloos. We then jetted off to summer climes, visiting Australia, India and Africa where we created some Australian art, tasted Indian food and choreographed our own African dance. We finished the term by writing our own jungle stories.

The Reception children enjoyed their Outdoor Learning afternoons. They enjoyed digging in the Wildlife Garden and exploring a range of different nature-themed activities. In June, we participated in '30 Days Wild'. Reception children complete this challenge annually with the aim being to get closer to nature and value the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed the minibeast week where they went on a minibeast hunt, made minibeasts from natural materials and built minibeast homes. JG



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ EARLY YEARS PRESENT TRAVEL WITH BERKY BEAR



The Reception and Pre-School performances of 'Travel with Berky Bear' were a treat for the parents and staff. Written by Mrs Sallis, the children told the tale of a very adventurous Berky Bear who took a journey around the world, visiting lots of different countries and meeting a variety of native animal friends along the way who acted as tour guides around their countries. The Reception children spoke clearly and performed their songs and African drumming amazingly well, whilst the Pre-School children wowed as amazing monkeys, parrots, tigers, penguins and kangaroos (do-doobie-do!). JG



THE IMPORTANCE OF WELLBEING

IT'S AT THE HEART
OF EVERYTHING WE DO...

PROMOTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING IS A KEY PART OF KEEPING THEM SAFE, HELPING THEM DEVELOP AND ENSURING THEY HAVE POSITIVE OUTCOMES INTO ADULTHOOD. (PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND, 2021).



Historically, the British are renowned for their 'stiff upper lip' – their brave and stoic reaction to adversity; this attitude was considered so commendable that anyone behaving otherwise was scorned or even liable to punishment, as exemplified by the shocking fate of deserters in the World Wars. People, particularly boys and men, were expected to 'man up' and keep their emotions firmly under control; this expectation caused innumerable people lifelong unhappiness, often with serious consequences. With such an ingrained attitude of regarding mental problems as weakness of character; it has been a long, slow process of change, but at last we are progressing - mental health is a hot topic nowadays!

Wellbeing is a combination of physical, mental, emotional and social health, and parents and educators are very aware of their responsibility to foster it in their children. No longer expected to be 'seen and not heard', children have rights and are listened to; we value our young people and recognise the importance of building their self-esteem and confidence. In today's high-pressure world where stress is a fact of life, strategies for achieving wellbeing are actively promoted, and this has to begin at school.

At Berkhamstead, much is done to empower children to look after their own wellbeing. First, there are discrete lessons. All the children regularly participate in Circle Time and have weekly CWB (Citizenship and Wellbeing) lessons focusing on a whole range of important life skills and moral values. The younger children are taught the language they need to express their feelings; using aids such as the Colour Monster; they begin to recognise and label their different emotions. Many initiatives have been introduced by our superb Deputy Head Mrs Bareham, such as the three Schoolbeat visits for Year 6, Skillzone trips for Years 4 and 6 and the Online Pupil Survey used by all Prep children to voice their opinions on a range of social and pastoral matters. Berkhamstead was also one of the first schools to achieve the GHLL Mental Health Champions accreditation, a much-coveted award that we still retain.

There are also more subtle ways in which wellbeing is encouraged - for example, talks in assembly, Anti-Bullying Week activities, raising money for charity, opportunities to work collaboratively both with peers and other year groups, opportunities for leadership including the School Council and Eco Committee, and a constant focus on kindness and empathy rewarded each half term with the Gill Agg and Sally Lee Kindness Cups.

The lovely Prep Wellbeing Pod, designed by Mrs Bareham and filled with many topical books and equipment, is always there for any children who need some quiet time away from the crowd.

However, there is a downside to the new seriousness with which the subject of mental health and wellbeing is treated: there is the risk of wrapping our children up in cotton wool so that they experience as little stress and unhappiness as possible. The fact is, life is difficult and there will always be problems and hurdles to overcome; we are doing our children no favours by protecting them completely from tricky situations. It is by learning strategies for coping that we encourage children to build their resilience and mental strength. There are robust policies and procedures in place to protect children - now we need to give them empowering techniques and strategies to fight their own battles.

Inevitably, though, things happen which cause children major upset, such as a change in family circumstances, cyber-bullying or national - and even global - events, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the terrifying issue of climate change, the Russian invasion of Ukraine or the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. All the Berkhamstead staff see pastoral issues as a top priority and there are always adults on hand who will listen, help and advise. Several children have ongoing mentors - special one-to-one people - either due to adverse home circumstances or to more general feelings of anxiety. There is also a visiting Play Therapy expert who, as well as giving informative talks to parents - part of Mrs Bareham's 'Keeping Parents In The Loop' initiative - provides weekly one-to-one sessions for children in need.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, so they say. With its truly holistic education, Berkhamstead more than fulfils the aims of the Five Ways to Wellbeing - Keep active, Take notice, Connect, Keep learning and Give. Here, strong, trusting relationships are quickly built between staff, pupils and parents. It is evident that the children are very aware of what constitutes good health (both physical and mental) and that they soon learn to articulate their thoughts and feelings, thoroughly preparing them for when things go wrong; happy children engage most effectively in learning and, when equipped with sound strategies for dealing with tricky situations, they are well prepared to deal with life's inevitable challenges. *By Gill Agg*





YEAR 1



It has been an exciting Summer Term in Year 1, learning all about Giants and Minibeasts! During the first half of the term, the children re-enacted the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, and once they were immersed in their understanding of the story, they started thinking of how to edit the story and make it unique. The Year 1 children came up with fantastic dilemmas and endings to their stories and were so pleased with their final pieces.

DT day for Year 1 was a huge success, and the children enjoyed being able to sew together their own minibeasts. The day involved children methodically thinking about the materials they needed and in what order to put the materials together. We had moments of getting in a tangle while sewing, but it was pleasing to see the children solve their sewing mishaps.

A trip to West Midlands Safari Park really excited the children, and they were eager to see some of the minibeasts they had been learning about. Getting to stroke a hissing cockroach was a highlight for quite a few of the children, and all of us really enjoyed learning about tenrecs, which most of us had never heard of before.

To end this wonderful term, having spent plenty of time in rehearsals, the children performed their rendition of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children also spent plenty of time preparing for Sports Day, which they absolutely loved. The races, jumping and throwing practice have been amazing, and the children have been eagerly coming back from PE lessons talking about their new skills. They ended the term with a well earned and game-filled Beach Day! JM



YEAR 2



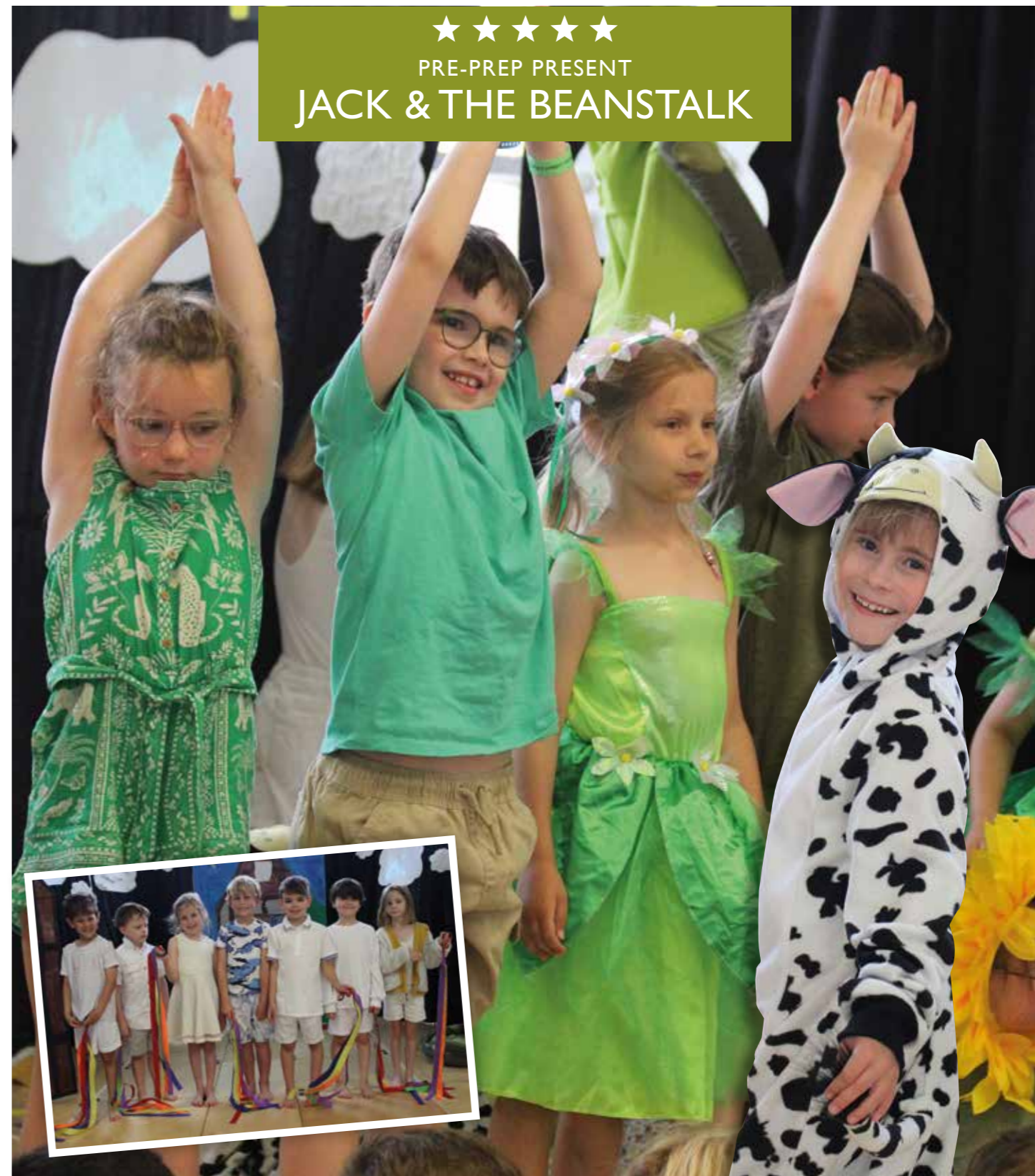
What a Summer term for Year 2! We have voyaged to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean within our Titanic topic, finding out about life on board this great ship and the tragic events of 1912. We've explored the school grounds, including the beautiful Jubilee Garden, identifying and classifying plants, then taking our new found knowledge to the Cotswold Wildlife Park on our amazing school trip - what a wonderful day! We've even scaled the humungous beanstalk during our Summer Production of Jack and the Beanstalk; the children sang, danced, acted and performed incredibly and did us all proud.

Our maths journey has taken us through fractions, statistics and time, while our English focus has been on non-fiction texts; pupils have shown their journalistic abilities while producing top class information texts on subjects of their own choosing - it was amazing to hear about dinosaurs, Bakugan and Matilda the Musical, to name but three diverse topics. Perhaps the pinnacle of Year 2's Summer Term was one glorious morning in May, when children took the Town Hall by storm, claiming the Selwyn Cup for Choral Speaking - the children performed a poem with poise, passion and panache and the judges went wild. The Year 2 pupils are definitely ready for their next adventure into the Prep School; to infinity, and beyond! KJ & GS



PRE-PREP PRESENT

JACK & THE BEANSTALK



The children of Year 1 and 2 have been practising long and hard for their end of year production - 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' The cast and crew have worked tirelessly; creating set dressing and props, learning songs and dances and, of course, all their lines. School productions are the very definition of teamwork, everyone has to pull together and try their best, and Years 1 and 2 are no exception - they've been amazing - one Team, one dream! The shows went down a storm and received a great reception - we just wish we could do it all over again. Well done Pre-Prep, you made your teachers and parents proud! KJ





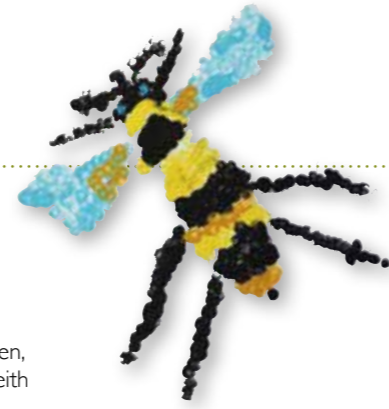
THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SUPERSTAN

The Amazing Adventures of Superstan was made even more amazing by our truly talented Year 6 children. With a dose of secret formula and a pair of fantastic elastic anti-gravity underpants, a Super-Villain determined to conquer the world with his corrupt confectionery and a caped crusader fighting for truth, freedom and justice, this colourful and fun play was brought to life by the wonderful Year 6 children. They threw themselves not only into learning their lines but also into the acting, singing and dancing with smiles on their faces; they brought the fun to the stage. Throughout rehearsals and performances, they have been hugely supportive of each other as well as being eager to do their best. The final performances were a triumph which was down to their hard work and dedication. They are an outstanding year group whose enjoyment of the show shone through. Every single child gave it their all and they should be incredibly proud of themselves. A huge well done. They are quite simply amazing! BE



SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

Now in its ninth year, our Summer Exhibition took place after half term. Always a crowd-puller, the exhibition showcased the work of each pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6, from pretty still life studies of flowers by our Kindergarten children, Pointillism insects by Year 1, a collaborative Keith Haring artwork 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 coil pots by Year 3, name plates by Year 4 and cakes by our Year 5 cohort. The standard of work this year was once again exceptional, and Michelle Bareham, Head of Art, commented, 'I was delighted that so many parents and children came to see the exhibition. It was a wonderful evening and I am so proud of all the children.' We look forward to seeing more of the fantastic efforts of our pupils next year.



Collage dinosaur, George B (KG)
Pointillism wasp, Georgie C (Y1)
Collaborative Keith Haring canvas by Year 4
London Underground in pastel, Henrietta C (Rec)
Egyptian head, mixed media, Eden B (Y3)
Wayne Thiebaud-inspired cake in oil pastel, Freddie L (Y5)
Scottish landscape, Eleanor C (Y2)
Lowry-inspired painting, Ollie S (Y2)
Reindeer skull and pumpkin, Tatty H (Y6)

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 Scholars are Tatiana H (awarded scholarships to Rendcomb and King's, Gloucester) and Nina C, (St Edward's School). Congratulations to you both!

WILLOW SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

One Friday in May, we were delighted to welcome willow artist Chris Oakey to the Prep School to work with our Year 6 children, Mrs Bareham and Mrs Taylor. Having heard about Chris's fascinating journey from primary school teacher to outdoor educator and willow sculptor, the children learnt how to work with willow in order to create the most beautiful fox and badger head for the Jubilee Garden. All Chris's willow is sustainably sourced and the materials he uses for the structure are reused, most fitting requisites for our lovely eco-themed garden. The sculptures will be joining the set of six nature-themed mosaics, created by last year's Year 6.



...NEWS... FROM PREP



CHESS NEWS

Happily, plenty of chess was played at Berky during the 2022/23 season. The clubs were thriving at lunchtimes and all the domestic leagues were able to be completed. There were four leagues in the Y5-6 Club and the winners were as follows: Division One, Tom R; Division Two, Joseph W; Division Three, George E; Division Four, Josiah R. Division One in the Y3-4 Club was won by Jasper W while Angus C and Anna H shared the spoils in Division Two. Divisions Three, Four (A) and Four (B) were won by Jack H, Quinn H and Nancy A respectively. It was wonderful to host the Berky Congress again. Seb C and Ben R came equal first in the Y5/6 tournament while Anna H won the Y2/3/4 contest. Seb captained the school team in a successful friendly fixture against Dean Close. The chess team also took on the staff in the annual challenge match. Seb and Gideon T won the Howard and Cole Cups for Chess at Speech Day. MC

SUMMER RECITAL

What a treat the Summer Recital was when nearly 40 pupils entertained an appreciative audience after school. From trombones to flute, saxophone, drum kit, piano and all the other strings and brass instruments, we heard confident and stylish performances, many by children in their first year of learning. This was the first time that the Year 2 violinists have performed together - we really enjoyed their pieces, and it was also a joy to see some of our more experienced players. Berky Brass have just come together this term and, despite very few rehearsals, performed a rousing 'March' for our finale. PM



LEAVERS' RECITAL

Our Year 6 leavers presented a wonderful evening at the Parabola Arts Centre. They have many gifts and skills and were all keen to contribute and participate in various ways. The parents were served drinks and canapes 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. It was a treat to be provided with a sneak preview into the Year 6 Leavers' Production with the whole year group singing 'Live a Little' from 'The Adventures of Super Stan'. I was most impressed by our Year 6 cohort - thank you for a wonderful evening of musical entertainment. PM

STEM

We had a fantastic STEM day full of fun science and investigations. We welcomed two visitors to the school: The Animal Man and Hands On Science. The highlight for many was The Animal Man who allowed the pupils to get hands on with his animals, which ranged from cockroaches and an owl to a Pac-Man frog and a skunk (luckily it didn't stink us out!) Hands On led the Years 3 and 4 on a rocket building activity in which rockets were fired across the playground, and Years 5 and 6 investigated the chemicals used in fireworks. Mr Banks led a fun activity where the pupils created a craft for the spheros for racing across a paddling pool, and Mr Parker's investigations involved Coke and Mentos. The pupils also took part in a competition to design transport for the future. A brilliant day was had by all. TM



MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

In June, we held an exciting Music Taster Afternoon for Years 2 to 4 - and many parents - who watched our team of wonderful music teachers demonstrating their instruments. Mollie R and Izzy B also performed on flute and piano and the afternoon began with Berky Brass playing a 'March'. Following the concert and talks, pupils went to try out the instruments. We like to give the children an opportunity to try a wide variety of instruments and for them to choose for themselves. The most important thing is that children are ready to take on the lessons and weekly practice - and we have beginners in all Prep years at Berky. Thank you to all our music teachers; we shall look forward to new musicians starting in September. PM



MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to the following musicians who have taken grade exams this term:

Initial - Millie R (Piano*), Barnaby K (Piano**), Zack P (Drum Kit)
Grade 1 - Sid R (Drum Kit*), Freddy B (Sax), Angus C (Piano), Alastair M (Piano), Polly B (Clarinet*), Ella H (Piano*)
Grade 2 - Alba N (Flute), Arwen H (Recorder*), Wilf M (Cello**), Atlas M (Piano**)
Grade 3 - Ben A (Cello), Joe W (Cello*)

*Denotes pass with merit **Denotes pass with distinction

...OFF WE GO...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



CHEDWORTH VILLA

The Year 3 children have really enjoyed learning all about life in Roman Britain during their history lessons in the spring and summer terms. To support their learning, they spent a most interesting day at nearby Chedworth Roman Villa - a wonderful resource that is practically on our doorstep. The trip started with a fascinating tour of the villa (a place of huge wealth, comfort and luxury when last inhabited in the 2nd century CE); 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. The children listened intently throughout the visit and asked plenty of pertinent questions to our guide. MC



SLIMBRIDGE WETLAND CENTRE

To reinforce our biology topic about lifecycles, the Year 5 pupils travelled to Slimbridge. On arrival, our first task was to do some pond dipping. We were led by a member of the Slimbridge staff who made us aware of what animals we would be finding and at what stage of their lifecycle they would be in.

During the rest of the day we were able to investigate the entire Slimbridge site. We saw the great variety of wetland birds at the centre. Having looked at their adaptations, we had a go at designing our own wetlands bird. We had a talk about the birds at the centre which focused mostly on those that could be trained.

Other areas of significance that we visited were the Arctic tundra explorer's hut that showed how explorers live whilst researching migrating birds and the 'Mission Possible' that shows how we are able to help animals that are close to extinction.

It was a lovely day out and highly recommended for a family visit! TM



NOAH'S ARK ZOO

With the shutting of Bristol Zoo, this was Year 3's first trip to Noah's Ark Zoo and I think a very memorable one. Our first stop was our workshop on 'Save our Species' which the children have been doing in class. They were very interested in the talk and I know if there had been time they would have had lots of questions to ask. They were allowed to handle a giant African land snail, an invasive species and the leopard tortoise under threat because of its beautiful, coloured shell. From here to the meercats, where we were given our own private keeper talk and the children could, if they wished, feed the meercats live crickets. Then off to the birds of prey flying field. The weather was superb and the breezy conditions made the birds give a spectacular display. From the large Harris hawk to the hovering European kestrel and finally to the Lanner falcon which swooped in and out of us with terrific speed and agility. We heard the keeper talk about the African savannah elephant, then had one final wander around some of the other animals to end our trip to the zoo. Well done, Year 3. LW

MARY ARDEN'S FARM

As part of their studies on the Tudors, the Year 4 children spent a wonderful day at Mary Arden's Farm near Stratford. It was a very hands-on day, with the children engaging in a range of activities. They made wattle and daub, investigated the medicinal uses of herbs, did some planting on the farm as well as making lavender bags and Tudor sugar treats.

We also had the opportunity to see the animals, explore the buildings and enjoy Tudor games and dancing.

It was wonderful to see the children dressed in Tudor clothes and having such fun with history. P McC



VINEY HILL

Energy, enthusiasm and excitement; a fantastic atmosphere emanated from Year 6 throughout our time at Viney Hill. Split into four groups, nerves were evident; who was going to get the new 30m Jump, or climbing wall first? Meanwhile, the other groups canoed, mountain biked, and took on the challenges of crate stacking and archery. After supper, the children headed out for a night walk.

The following day, the children threw themselves into their activities. It was commented on how polite and well behaved they were and what a fantastic effort they all made. That evening, Mr Cross joined us for a barbecue and a water fight.

The final morning, everyone completed another activity before heading home. Our activity leaders were excellent and many fun memories were made. C M-L

...OFF WE GO...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK

Year 1's 'Giants and Minibeasts' topic was well and truly brought to life on an exciting trip to West Midlands Safari Park. From stroking a Madagascan hissing cockroach during our hands-on session, to observing leaf cutter ants, the children were amazed by some of the park's finest minibeasts. They were all fascinated by the very cute tenrec; did you know that even though they look like hedgehogs, tenrecs are actually more closely related to elephants? Some of the giant animals were firm favourites on the drive-through safari including prowling lions, an elephant and adorable baby giraffes! AS



ALL THINGS WILD

We started off our day with an animal handling workshop where we learnt about different animals' habitats, feeding habits and, for those who were brave enough, a chance to touch and hold some of the more placid exhibits. After lunch, we had time to explore the other animals outside, seeing animals native to the UK as well as the rest of the world. The afternoon was rounded off with a very welcome ice cream. The children were impeccably behaved during all the different activities throughout the day, from animal handling to walking around the animal enclosures, and made the teachers very proud with their listening and consideration for others. Well done! JG

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

The Year 5s enjoyed a super day in the heart of the Black Country. This was a great way to enhance their learning, as they visited various buildings, including a back-to-back house, a chemist and a clay worker's house. We had a wonderful trip down the mine, where we got to see the harsh conditions for Victorian adults and children.

Our final activity was a lesson in a Victorian schoolroom, where the children practised the three Rs and experienced the contrast between their education and that of a Victorian child.

The Black Country Museum is always wonderful and this year did not disappoint. P McC



LOWER MOOR FARM

The Year 3s went to Lower Moor Farm, part of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, to reinforce the study of Helping Plants Grow and to investigate mini beasts. We were very lucky with the weather as the sun was hidden behind the clouds but no rain. This meant that the minibeasts that we were searching for would be easier to capture as they had not warmed up properly. During our bug hunt, the pupils captured a variety of insects with many groups being particularly happy with their damselflies!

We also had a go at pond dipping. Again, we were lucky; because of the recent hot weather, the water level was lower and the bugs were all condensed into smaller areas. This was the best pond dipping that I have experienced



as we caught water boatmen, water beetles, newts and dragonfly larvae to name but a few. All bugs were returned to their habitats after observations. We finished the day by getting arty! The pupils created a bookmark designed around nature using seeds and colourful leaves/petals. They also designed and created their own minibeasts out of clay. TM

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Year 4 had a lovely time at the Science Festival. First, we went to our show called "Fartology!" that was presented by Stefan Gates from the TV. He gave an informative, funny and frank presentation about our bodies and the things about our bodies that we don't normally want to talk about! He created artificial bogeys that he made an adult eat, discussed sphincters and the physics behind the sound that our farts make and plenty of other "gross" topics that the pupils found fascinating.

After the show, we had a picnic in the glorious sunshine then went into the Discover Zone. There was a variety of hands-on investigations for the pupils to have a go at, varying from making landing gear for a plane (both as a model and using a VR headset), how to fool your senses and investigating water wastage at home. It was a brilliant day. TM

KINDERGARTEN & RECEPTION SPORTS DAY

After a reschedule, we were optimistic we were good to go as the forecast looked okay! The Kindergarten were keen and ready to run. They were full of energy and enjoyed waving to their fans! Reception were extremely excited to show their family members what they are capable of! All pupils listened so well and worked hard throughout.

Well done to all involved. Bring on next year! CK

PRE-PREP SPORTS DAY

The Years 1 and 2 children were joyous, lively and ready to race! Starting with the cone race, the children ran competitively and with power. We moved onto the traditional races-sack and egg and spoon - and the children bounced with much joy! Sprints and relays were as competitive as ever and I look forward to seeing the Year 2s at the Prince of Wales Sports Day next year. CK

KEEP ON RUNNING!



KINDERGARTEN



RECEPTION



YEAR 1



YEAR 2

PREP PUPILS LEAP INTO ACTION!

PREP SPORTS DAY 2023

The sun was out when we started the field activities, and what a start to the day: records getting broken and every single child working their hardest and supporting one another! We had many records broken during the morning: Alastair M broke the Long Jump and Standing Broad Jump. Olivia W and Fergus G also both broke the Standing Broad Jump records for their age group. Ella H broke the Rounder Ball Throw and Jasper

W broke the Quoit Throw record. As lunchtime ended, the black clouds started to move over us, but this did not impact the children. They were fast and furious in the track events all afternoon, the wind behind them as they ran was a great benefit! Four more records were broken in the track events. Oliver B broke the Boys' 400m and the 75m Sprint record. Arthur H beat the Year 3 Sprint record and Alastair M broke the Boys' 100m Sprint record.

Everyone performed with enormous effort and determination, cheered on by both the children and parents. Well done to all the Prep children. CK

House relay winner: St Andrew's
Field event winner: St David's
Overall winners: St Andrew's



'THERE WERE MANY PERSONAL TRIUMPHS,
& ALL REVELLED IN THE TAKING PART.'

RICHARD CROSS



COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Ella H, Wilf M and Carly H started well in their distance races, kept a great pace, and were not far behind the medal positions. Well done to Ella and Carly who took fourth place, and Wilf who took 5th. Next were the sprints. With seven of the eight individual sprints through, we were getting excited! The following pupils achieved the following results in their heats: Hermione H 1st, Arthur H 1st, Allegra S 5th, Olly B 5th, Eulalie G 6th, Alastair M 4th and Sophia B 6th

Medals:

Gold Y3 Sprint (50m), Hermione H
Gold Open Girls' Throw, Ella H
Silver Y4 Girls' Relay, Polly B, Evie W, Allegra S and Annabelle A
Bronze Y4 Boys' Relay, Olly B, Lucas DCV, Jasper W and Fergus G

PRIMARY COUNTY SWIMMING GALA

The pupils were so excited to be part of the gala team, despite knowing that some of the other teams had club swimmers, and were going to be strong. Both our relay teams worked hard, fighting to keep up with the leading teams. Unfortunately, neither team made the medal stages. We had four individual races. Hugo H and Bertie L stepped up to have a go in the Open Boys' 2 Length Freestyle, and both worked hard and kept a good stroke going. Unfortunately, they didn't make it through to a medal position. Yvie L and Chloe H had their turn in the Open Individual, both putting up a great fight and working hard. Congratulations to Chloe H who got into the final stage for the individual race, and came away with a second medal.

Well done to all pupils who took part. CK





YEAR 3



YEAR 4



YEAR 5



YEAR 6



U8 | GIRLS' CRICKET

What a brilliant season of cricket! The girls have made outstanding progress, and this has been apparent through the games we have played and the standard of our games lessons. From the first game where very few runs were scored through to our last game where bowling accuracy was outstanding; fielding was efficient and swift; running between the wickets was clear and quick; and our batting when we scored 27 runs off one over. The girls have worked extremely well together as a team, offering support and encouragement when needed as well as demonstrating the Berky will to win whilst maintaining a high level of 'sportswomanship'. Well done girls on a superb cricket season. IP

U8 Team: Nancy A, Eden B, Isabella B, Alanah F, Anna H, Hermione H, Jemima H-S, Amelia I, Ellie K, Iris M, Chloe R and Beau R

U9 | GIRLS' CRICKET

In our games sessions this summer we have had a fantastic mix of cricket training sessions and fixtures, some of which have been alongside the boys and some just the girls. The three elements of batting, bowling and fielding have been in focus, concentrating on the techniques required as well as with regard to the rules and allowing the girls to build upon their skill and test their abilities against other schools. The girls have also begun to develop an understanding of tactics used in matches and, as the season progressed, we have won many more matches than we lost, taken more wickets than had taken and scored more runs than were scored against us. A very successful season! Our house matches played with the boys were also feistily contested and expert skill was witnessed. Once again, I am very proud of these girls. C McC

U9 Team: Annabelle A, Rose B, Polly B, Isabella B, Lara C, Harriet C-W, Rosie E, Amelia E, Melba F, Eliza L, Olivia M, Matilda M, Emily O'K, Megan P, Florence P-T, Hannah P, Isla R, Allegra S, Evelyn W, Yaz Y

U10 | GIRLS' CRICKET

The girls have enjoyed a season of cricket training and matches, despite several Bank Holiday Mondays! We have had a mixture of matches, fielding mixed boys' and girls' teams as well as mixed ages. Their confidence has certainly improved and, alongside this, so has their bowling, especially for those who have regularly attended the lunchtime club. We began the season with some hesitation in the field; however, by the end, girls were diving to prevent balls rolling to the boundaries. 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. In Year 6, we need to develop our fielding skills – learning to throw that ball further! Well done ladies and thank you parents for all your support this year. JH

U10 Team: Betty R, Charlotte J, Coco P, Ella H, Ellie P, Estella L, Eulalie G, Eva H, Francesca M, Harriet E, Georgiana S, Kitty H, Millie R, Mollie R and Olivia W

U11 | GIRLS' CRICKET

This term, the girls have looked at all the main aspects of Kwik Cricket and gained a good understanding of the tactics and rules. They have played well as a team and worked hard to steal lots of runs. Our bowling has been good this term on the whole and that is down to many of the girls working hard. We have managed a good number of games this term allowing the girls to experience a variety of abilities. Many of the girls started to implement tactics into their matches. We have had some wins, with a large amount getting a few 4s or 6s! We were able to do house cricket with the Year 5 girls and there has been some great batting during the house matches.

U11 Team: Emily B, Sophia B, Emma C, Nina C, Esi D, Esha D, Georgia E, Emilia F, Alina G, Frankie H, Carly H, Arwen H, Tatty H, Chloe H, Amelia J, Yvie L, Chloe M, Alba N, Erin P, Erin R, Alexa S. **Outstanding:** Frankie H **Colours:** Frankie H, Chloe H, Esha D, Emma C, Yvie L, Erin P, Esi D, Alexa S



U8 | BOYS' CRICKET

Our boys had three lovely matches this season against The Richard Pate School, King's, Gloucester and Dean Close. It was great to see an improvement in each of their matches as they picked up the skills needed for cricket. A lot of focus had been put into bowling during games sessions and this was evident in our last match. The boys should be proud of the hard work that they have put into cricket and the improvement in their game as a consequence. Well done to all the boys. TM

U8 Team: Freddie B, Ioan C, Jacob H, Quinn H, Arthur H, Edward H, , Barnaby K, Seth L, Max LG, George L, Ellis M, Toby M, Milo R, Oliver S, Ethan S, Edward S, Harvey W, Dion W

U9 | BOYS' CRICKET

Both squads were once again full of enthusiasm and ready to capitalise on an unbeaten 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 King's. Our unbeaten record sadly slipped quite literally between our fingers in our second match away at Beaudesert where we lost an exciting encounter by just 6 runs. From then on, both the As and the Bs had convincing wins at both St Edward's and Rendcomb. Our last match at RPS proved to be our best. Both teams won convincingly with the As hitting their largest score of the season of 139 and taking a large haul of wickets. I was pleased with both squads' determination to improve and perform. All the boys scored runs and took wickets; they attacked quality opposition with the resulting wins often being in little doubt from the outset. Well done, boys! SM

U9A Team: Hughie B, Oliver B, Lucas DCV, Fergus G, Jack H, Miles H, Toby R, Charlie W, Jasper W

U9B Team: Leo C, Angus C, Charlie F, Jack F, Charlie H, Tharusha J, Archie M, Atlas M, Rishik R



U11/10 | WINDBALL CRICKET

It has been a busy cricket season for the children playing in the windball games. They have all made great progress and in the second half of this term I have been pleased to see the skills we have been working on in training put into action in some of the matches. Bowling has been consistent, and the pace has picked up; fielding has improved, and the children have worked hard on their batting. There were some challenging matches this season, but the children have been resilient and worked together. The closest matches were against St Edward's, The Richard Pate School, and King's, Gloucester. The teams beat St Edward's but lost to RPS in very evenly matched games. The final games of the season were superb and for one team, everything rested on the last over: I was impressed; everyone remained calm, and two wickets were taken to secure a deserved win. Well done to all those who played in the windball team this season. DB

U10/11 Team: Lawson B, Freddy B, Alex C, George E, Jack F, Thomas G, Hugo H, George J, Freddie L, Bertie L, Alastair M, Luis MR, Wilf M, Zach P, Isaac R, Sidney R, Josiah R, Floyd R, Ben R, Tom R, Ben S, Ben W

U11 | HARDBALL CRICKET

There were quite a few players who were new to hardball this year, so there was always going to be lots of skills to learn and develop. However, I was delighted with how hard the team worked and tried to implement the advice they were given. Some tough games at the start of the season showed what we needed to work on and steadily, batting and bowling improved. We made a good showing against a very good Cricklade team and had wins against The Richard Pate School and Rendcomb. Towards the end of the season, we played in the Cheltenham Knockout Trophy. After losing in our first match on the last ball, we went into the plate competition, where we beat RPS again and had a convincing win in the final against Bishop's Cleeve, to win the plate.

Although it was a tough season, the team will have gained valuable experience. Well done to all of the players. P McC

Outstanding Seb C, Frankie H, Joseph W **Colours:** Seb C, George E, Tom C-G, Frankie H, Will H, Ella H, Harry H, Wilf M, Sidney R, Joseph W



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 2023

ENGLISH CUP Floyd R
MATHEMATICS CUP Seb C
SCIENCE CUP Ben A
COMPUTING CUP Bertie L
FRENCH CUP Alina G
SPANISH CUP Gideon T
HISTORY CUP Tom C-G
GEOGRAPHY CUP Alex C
RS CUP Esha D
ART GOBLET Tatty H
CWB CUP Nina C
CUP FOR ALL-ROUND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT Emma C
CHORAL CUP Alexa S

WENDY BURROWS CUP FOR ALL-ROUND MUSICIANSHIP Ben S
CUP FOR INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE Harry H
JAMES AGG JAZZ CUP Tom C-G
CUP FOR KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP Sophia B
CROKER CUP FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE Alba N
PROGRESS CUP Chloe M
BARTLETT ENDEAVOUR CUP Erin P
HEADMASTER'S AWARD Will H
HEADMASTER'S AWARD Arwen H
BUDDY CUP Yvie L

COURTESY CUP Emily B
ADVENTURE SHIELD Georgia E
PLATINUM AWARD TROPHY Chloe H
BERKY AMBASSADOR CUP Lawson B
PTA COMMUNITY CUP Erin R
ECO-WARRIOR CUP Amelia J
PATRICIA SMITH CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP Esi D
WILLIAMS SPORTS CUP FOR GIRLS Frankie H
PODMORE ATHLETICS CUP Carly H
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER Chloe H
SCOT SIMMONDS SPORTS CUP Joseph W

MOSS CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP Freddy B
THE HOWARD CUP FOR CHESS Seb C
COLE CHESS CUP Gideon T
ALL-ROUNDER ACHIEVEMENT CUP Harry H
ALL-ROUNDER ACHIEVEMENT CUP Ben A
THE GOVERNORS' CUP Emilia F
BERKY PRIZE Carly H

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

Benjamin A
Pate's Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester, Academic & Drama Scholarship
Lawson B
The Crypt Grammar School
Freddy B
King's School, Gloucester;
Drama Scholarship
Emily B
Ribston Hall Grammar School
Sophia B
Denmark Road Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship
Sebastian C
Pate's Grammar School
Thomas C-G
Pate's Grammar School
Emma C
Cheltenham Ladies' College
Alexander C
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School

Nina C
Ribston Hall Grammar School
St Edward's School, Academic & Art Scholarship
Esi D
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports Scholarship
Esha D
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports Scholarship
Georgia E
Balcarras School
Emilia F
Denmark Road Grammar School
Alina G
Balcarras School
Arwen H
Rendcomb College
Francesca H
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports Scholarship
Dean Close Prep School, Sports Scholarship

Carly H
Cheltenham College Prep School
William H
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Tatiana H
King's School, Gloucester; Art Scholarship
Rendcomb College, Art Scholarship
Chloe H
Cleeve School
Dean Close Prep School, Sports Scholarship
Harry H
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Amelia J
Five Acres High School
Evelyn L
Denmark Road Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship
Bertie L
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Chloe M
Balcarras School
Alba N
King's School, Gloucester; Drama Scholarship

Erin P
King's School, Gloucester;
Headmaster's Award
St Edward's School, Sports Scholarship
Erin R
Cheltenham College Prep School
Floyd R
The Crypt Grammar School
Benjamin S
Balcarras School
Alexa S
St Edward's School, Drama Scholarship
& Headmaster's Award for Excellence
Rendcomb College, Drama & Sports Scholarship
King's School, Gloucester, Sports & Performing Arts Scholarship
Gideon T
Pate's Grammar School
Joseph W
The Crypt Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester, Academic & Sports Scholarship

