

BERKHAMSTEAD
SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

SUMMER TERM
2024

BLAZER

ON YOUR MARKS!

SPORTS DAYS
2024

IT'S SHOWTIME!

BERKY PUPILS TAKE
TO THE STAGE

SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

CELEBRATING OUR
PUPILS' CREATIVITY

INSIDE: SPOTLIGHT ON SALLY JOHN | DAY NURSERY NEWS | A BERKY EDUCATION



...THOUGHTS... FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Summer Term is a favourite term for lots of us with the longer days, potential sunshine and many super events. It is always a jam-packed term full of wonderful treats such as the Year 6 Play, Sports Days, the annual Summer Art Exhibition and numerous workshops and trips out. This Summer Term has been no different and has certainly lived up to the hype. The wonderful production of "What a Knight" showcased the dramatic skills of the Year 6 children. As I said on the night "Brilliant Acting, brilliant singing and brilliant dancing made for a brilliant show".

It is always a special term for Year 6 with so many memories made. The residential trip to Viney Hill is a favourite, alongside the Leavers' Disco and Leavers' Recital. Speech Day is a wonderful way to celebrate our departing pupils. We know that they are ready for the new adventure senior school will bring and we hope that they take our school motto of 'Perseverantia Vincit,' (perseverance wins out) with them as they go.

Someone who most certainly persevered when they left Berky was our guest speaker for this year's Speech Day, Will Armstrong. You may have read about his visit to school this year where he told the children about his charity marathon running challenge. He has such fond memories of his time at Berky and certainly is a good role model. The Year 6 children really have so many opportunities here, whether it be to be a buddy to the younger children or lead one of the house teams. We are proud of all they have achieved, and they are testament to the wonderful job the staff do of not only helping them to achieve all they can academically but also to become caring and well-rounded citizens.

This year's Year 6 I have left with the words from the great Dr Seuss, taken from, 'Oh the Places You'll Go': "Will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.) Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

I hope you enjoy reading about our Year 6 and the rest of the school in this term's Blazer.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



PLATINUM AWARD

Congratulations to the following leavers who have been awarded their Platinum Award this year: George J, Ellie P, Isaac R and Josiah R.

...SPOTLIGHT ON... SALLY JOHN



Mrs John joined Berky in 2016, when she came to do work experience with Year 2. She was offered a full time Teaching Assistant role for the following year, and started in Year 2 before moving to the Prep department. She then began work as a one-to-one TA with a Reception child, and has worked with him ever since. Mrs John's children, Amelia and George both attended Berky. Sadly, the Summer Term has been Mrs John's last as she is leaving to do a PGCE with the University of Gloucestershire.

What did you do before Berky?

I worked as a makeup artist for Space NK as well as doing bridal work during the weekends. I have a degree in Complementary Medicines and Health Science, and am qualified as a stress management practitioner, a holistic and pregnancy massage therapist as well as a hair and makeup artist. I decided to change careers when my daughter joined Berky. I was very impressed with the Kindergarten staff and thought: "I want to do THAT!"

What have been the best parts of your job?

Without a doubt the best part of the job is the children. They make me laugh every day. I have been with the same year group for six years so I feel like they are my extended family! They are such a fantastic group of children and I will miss them all so much! It has also been amazing to watch my one-to-one boy grow and develop over the past few years. I will miss the staff like mad - they are wonderful and I love them all dearly.

What are your best memories of your time at Berky?

Particularly happy memories were watching Amelia in her Year 6 play and George dressed up as a vicar during the Year 1 wedding. Playing pranks on Mr Banks with my Year 5 clan was brilliant, and I won't forget crying happy tears every time a Kindness Cup was awarded. I loved decorating Mr Cross's office as a Santa's Grotto in Year 1, and I shall definitely miss Mrs Taylor's cakes! I am going to miss this job very much!

Tell us about your love of dressing up.

Dressing up is great fun, and during my time here I have been Charles Dickens, Mary Poppins, a giraffe, a mermaid, Snow White, a knight, a polar bear, Draco Malfoy, a ladybird, Mrs Twit and Cruella De Vil. I am sure there are more that I have forgotten about!

What have been your favourite school trips? Why?

My first school trip was to Cadbury World with Year 1. That was such a great introduction to school trips! My favourite trip was with Year 5 to Viney Hill; the staff have been going for years, so they have it organised to a tee. They are absolutely fantastic, full of encouragement, getting the children to have a go at all the activities. I was also pushed out of my comfort zone on several occasions! We left Viney Hill with lots of great memories and new skills.

What about your own children and their Berky experience?

Amelia started Kindergarten in 2016, and George in 2017. They both went all the way through Berky. Amelia left Berky feeling confident and optimistic for the next chapter; that's all you can ask for really! George has just finished Year 6, and has loved Berky. Not all schools have the same sense of community, Berky is a very special place.



OLYMPIC-THEMED STREET PARTY

In anticipation of the Paris Olympics that were taking place later in the summer, parents and children were invited to get into the spirit and celebrate with an end of half term Olympic-themed party. Before lunch, children from Reception to Year 5 were divided into mixed year group teams - which were named after countries - and enjoyed playing an array of fun party games on the MUGA. Having built up an appetite for lunch, everyone gathered together on the Pre-Prep lawn for a wonderful street party lunch. Rob and his catering team had prepared a fantastic buffet for everyone - which included homemade sausage rolls, sandwiches, crisps, and fabulous Berkhamstead/Olympics medal biscuits and Olympic torch fruit desserts! The parents also enjoyed celebratory glasses of bubbles and fruity mocktails. Thank you very much to the PTA who so generously paid for the parents' lunch.



...NEWS... FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to Pre-Prep pupils Eleanor W and Louie D who were awarded the Sally Lee Kindness Cup during the Summer Term.



PTA NEWS

The Summer Term has been full of fun, starting with the School Disco at the Tithe Barn - always a fun Friday night! We then hosted two of our biggest events of the year: the Summer Celebration and the Summer Festival. The Summer Celebration was held at The Frogmill - for parents and school staff - and we enjoyed sunshine as well as good food, magic, wine and late night dancing. This lovely event raised more than £3,000.

This was followed by the Summer Festival, an annual favourite event for the whole school community. Again, we were lucky with the weather! The hay bales were out, Pimm's was poured, faces were painted, teddies found new homes and many cakes were baked and bought. Along with our Berky Summer Hamper Raffle, we raised more than £3,500.

These events were a brilliant way to wrap up the Summer Term, and my two years as Chair of the PTA. Money raised is always put to good use, and we have funded cycling proficiency, workshops and playground and other school equipment. A big thanks to everyone for your support. We'll have lots to look forward to in the Autumn Term with Charlotte, Lottie and the PTA team taking the reins.



CHELTENHAM 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!



BERKY CHANGEMAKERS

We were delighted to launch our new social action group, 'Berky Changemakers' during the Summer Term. The brainchild of parent, Mrs Howard, her mission was to encourage the Berky community to do even more than they already did to make the world a better place. One of Changemakers' first initiatives was Food Waste Week. The whole school took part in a lunchtime competition to reduce food waste, and the kitchen staff weighed each house's daily food waste over the course of a week, to determine which house was the least wasteful. Well done to St David's who were awarded the Food Waste Trophy!

RAINFOREST DAY

The school buzzed with excitement on Rainforest Day as pupils came to school dressed as vibrant rainforest animals - and in tropical colours - to raise funds and awareness for Rainforest Concern. Helen Brown - from the charity - ran fascinating workshops for Years 3 to 6, and with everyone contributing at least £1, the day raised a considerable sum of money which will go towards sponsoring acres of threatened rainforest.



BERKY GETS GREENER.....

This term, the Eco Committee continued with their focus on air quality, working alongside Hannah Leatherland from Cheltenham Borough Council's 'Care for Our Air' campaign. World Health Organisation figures show that 91% of the world's children breathe toxic air every day and that 29% of all lung cancer deaths are attributed to air pollution.

The children recognised that to improve the quality of the air around the school grounds, it would be useful to know what the current

levels were. Hannah helped us with this by loaning us 'Monty', the air quality monitor that was installed on the lamppost outside the main school gates. He constantly recorded the levels of nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter in the air. Monty stayed in place into the summer holidays so that we were able to compare data in and out of term time. JH



BACK TO NATURE

Every couple of weeks, our Pre-School Wise Bears don their wellies and finest outdoor clothes, and excitedly board the school minibus to travel the short distance to Woodmancote to take part in Forest School.

Badger Wood Adventures - who deliver our Forest School sessions - is run by outdoor enthusiasts Mindy and Linny, who are both passionate about encouraging children to enjoy nature and outdoor play. 'It was obvious to me that being outdoors had huge emotional health benefits for children, as well as encouraging their appreciation and responsibility for the natural environment,' enthuses Mindy, 'In the current technological environment children seem to be losing touch with nature and I feel it is important to do something about this now, to get children outside and let nature work its magic.'

Here at Berkhamstead Day Nursery we agree wholeheartedly with Mindy's sentiments. Our child-centred approach encourages 'free-flow' independence, with the children making their own decisions as to whether they play inside or outside; outdoors, happily, is a popular choice, and we witness first hand how outdoor play promotes a child's self-esteem, creativity, confidence and sense of independence. Initiating dedicated Forest School sessions earlier this year was therefore an obvious course of action. So far, our Pre-School children have enjoyed plenty of brilliant hands-on activities, which have included building dens, making clay animals, fishing and making a zip-wire for the bucketsful of 'treasure' that the children have gathered. We have seen plenty of benefits of this sort of learning, and above all, we hope that Forest School will ignite a lifelong love for the great outdoors and an appreciation for nature.





KINDERGARTEN

The Air Ambulance visited us at the beginning of term, and the children pretended to fly the helicopter, and become a doctor or paramedic. The children's fascination with what to do when they grow up led to lots of role play; we have many police people, firefighters, a future Queen, train drivers, a wild human, and some doctors! The end of the first half of term finished on a high with a celebration pom-pom party. The children also loved joining in with the Olympic-themed Picnic.

The children gave us ideas about what they would like to learn, and the Kindergarten began to resemble a beach, with sand, buckets and spades, shells, and a rock pool. The children could be heard reliving their own holiday

experiences of splashing in the sea, jumping over waves, finding creatures in rock pools and eating ice-creams on the beach.

Throughout this term, the children took part in Forest School and cooking activities with Miss Wootton. In Forest School we have observed the life cycle of frogs, used a variety of tools to dig the soil, been on many minibeast hunts, painted with mud and water, made bird feeders and worked together to build dens with wood and logs.

The Summer Term is always bittersweet as we say goodbye to children as they move on to Reception, and so our topic, 'Moving On' was helpful for helping the children to understand what happens next in their school journey. MM



RECEPTION

The children returned from their Easter holiday, stepping back 200 million years to discover what life was like in the time of dinosaurs! Our topic of 'Alive or Extinct' allowed us to imagine a world where vicious T-Rexes and squawking Pterosaurs roamed the planet! The children had some wonderful existing knowledge about dinosaurs and enjoyed sharing and extending their learning with one another, particularly creating small world areas and even dinosaur traps with the junk modelling. We were fascinated by the theories of dinosaur extinction and enjoyed creating our own clay fossils. These were then fired in the kiln, glazed and fired again giving them an authentic look. The life story of Mary Anning, the first female palaeontologist, inspired us all and we created fact files

and information videos about her amazing discoveries on the beaches of Lyme Regis.

The second half of term led us to the enchanted world of fairy tales. We began reading Rapunzel, contemplating what we might do if we were stuck in a tower for years on end! The children came up with wonderful ideas to keep them busy, from learning magic, to writing their own book and learning how to cook! We explored other traditional tales, including the Three Billy Goats Gruff and Little Red Riding Hood. In art with Mrs Hartley, we created mini dragonfly sculptures using wire and recycled materials, as well as stunning watercolour fairytale castles. Z M-S



KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE

One important weekly highlight for our Kindergarten children is being taught by our amazing specialist teachers, Madame McCreanor, Miss Keegan and Mrs Sallis. At the end of the Summer Term, the children

were delighted to showcase their talents to their parents. In groups, the children either performed a dance, sang songs, played percussion instruments, or spoke in French to retell the story of

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. I was so proud to see the children happily and confidently perform a wonderful end of year show. MM



RECEPTION ASSEMBLY

As our wonderful Reception year draws to an end, we wanted to showcase all that we have learnt in a magical class assembly. Our half term focus of fairy tales allowed the children to be transported to Jack's beanstalk,

Red Riding Hood's cottage and even the troll's bridge, as the children re-told some well-known stories alongside Mrs Sallis's original compositions. The children brought the house down with their wit and sweet storytelling,

reflecting on the progress they have made over the course of the year. The teachers' and parents' pride in the children was palpable! Z M-S

‘EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.’

WB YEATS



WHY DO PARENTS SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO BERKHAMPSTEAD? THERE ARE VARIOUS POSSIBLE REASONS: BERKY CHILDREN RECEIVE A BROAD AND THOROUGH EDUCATION, THEY ARE IN SMALL, LESS DISRUPTED CLASSES, THERE IS A STRONG WORK ETHIC, THEY RECEIVE EXCELLENT PASTORAL CARE, THEY MAKE LOVELY FRIENDS... AND, FOR SOME PARENTS, THEY ARE WELL PREPARED FOR THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEST, TAKEN IN SEPTEMBER OF YEAR 6. BY GILL AGG

The word 'education' comes from two Latin words - 'educare' meaning 'to train' or 'to mould' and 'educere' meaning 'to lead out'. The educator Sir Ken Robinson observed, 'The real role of leadership in education is not and should not be command and control. The real role of leadership is climate control, creating a climate of possibility,' adding that, 'Great teachers are not just instructors and test administrators: they are mentors, coaches, motivators and lifelong sources of inspiration to their students.' In the past, education was very much a case of 'educare' - a one-way system from teachers to pupils, who were expected to be largely passive and mute; these days, 'educere' is, happily, in the ascendant.

Yes, education has definitely progressed and this is certainly true at Berkhamstead; our subject specialist teaching means that children learn with passionate enthusiasts in each area of the curriculum. Look at the exciting, hands-on, exploratory way STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) are taught! Arts subjects, in which the development of soft skills and creative thinking is more obvious, are equally valued; looking ahead to the world of work, a recent report notes that

creativity, persuasion and collaboration are the top three skills companies seek in prospective employees.

Teaching for a deeper understanding of concepts and encouraging pupils to problem-solve, contribute to their own education and think for themselves is vital for progress and innovation; impressing facts upon pupils does not bring about change or new ideas - quite the opposite, as it perpetuates outdated thinking and does not empower learners or give them self-confidence. Ken Robinson believes that children are born creative and have an extraordinary capacity for innovation, as well as having no fear of making mistakes; however, as they grow up and are subjected to 'education' by parents and teachers, these valuable attributes dwindle, or are even lost altogether.

For many years, there has been a slot on the Prep School timetable called Critical Thinking which people tend to associate with grammar school preparation. However, it is about rather more than this.

Berkhamstead is a happy, inclusive school that does not believe in mindless drilling for tests; critical thinking is encouraged in every subject and creative teaching is the norm.

The Critical Thinking lesson itself is attended by all pupils regardless of ability as we know critical thinking to be a useful life skill, developing the capacity to think and evaluate for oneself. Of course, English and maths are studied anyway but in Critical Thinking, they are approached from a different angle; verbal and non-verbal reasoning are also focused upon to hone reasoning skills in all kinds of different applications. Puzzles are regularly set to promote different types of thinking and problem solving. This weekly lesson is an hour for Year 5 and half an hour for the other Prep year groups. In the holiday prior to the grammar school exam, Year 5 children are also offered grammar 'workshops' - friendly mornings designed to familiarise the children with the test format, practise working through papers and focus on any topics that need revisiting. Advice is also given about exam strategy and how to manage stress.

The grammar school test is challenging and designed to help schools select the most academically able children, although opinion is divided as to whether this segregation is beneficial. Many academically able children either do not take the test or do take it and do not achieve a place; the test does not suit all types of brain! Also, there are children who, however bright, might not cope with the faster academic pace or constantly being surrounded by a highly competitive atmosphere.

Fortunately, grammar schools are not the only places offering an excellent education. We have a wealth of schools in Gloucestershire: numerous top quality comprehensive schools, no less than seven grammar schools and a plethora of independent schools, each with many strengths.

What is most important is that children go to the most appropriate school for them.

With no associated senior school, Berkhamstead has no vested interest in where children move on to; the staff value all the children equally and excel at giving informed, impartial advice. Our grammar school results are consistently excellent, particularly impressive considering our non-selective intake and inclusive ethos. Equally valued, though, are the scholarships and places awarded at other schools; all the Year 6 leavers' names and destinations are proudly displayed on our Honours boards.

It is a happy coincidence that the Berky setting for our youngest children is called the Nursery; like seedlings, our smallest pupils are nurtured and provided with the optimum environment for all-round development in our excellent Day Nursery - soon to be one of two. To quote Ken Robinson yet again, 'The gardener does not make a plant grow. The job of a gardener is to create optimal conditions for growth.'

Returning to the initial question, the overriding reason for choosing Berkhamstead should be that it is a supremely happy and caring school which builds self-confidence and gives each child the best possible start in every respect, thus enabling them to thrive both at a secondary school that is the most appropriate for them and in their subsequent life.



MEANWHILE, YEAR 2'S CURIOSITY IS IGNITED!

During the Summer Term, pupils have been getting themselves ready for the big move to the Prep side, with a little help from their teachers. Developing independence and resilience is key, and the Year 2 children have shown they have these qualities in droves. They have written stories, created pictograms, coded robots, sculpted flowers from wire, swam lengths, strummed ukuleles and have even become mini-experts on the Great Fire of London! They looked at how the fire started, why it spread so quickly and what impact it had. They've smiled, laughed, had fun and made so many memories; all in a term's work for Year 2 - they take it all in their stride! KS



THE GREAT FIRE!

Year 2 travelled back in time to discover exactly what went on in Thomas Farriner's bakery in 1666. Surprisingly, there were a lot of cheesy jokes written by our very own Mr Jones! Year 2 looked splendid in their costumes, but Christopher Wren's wig must have a special mention thanks to the creative work of Christopher's mum also known as Mrs Curran. The acting was superb and enhanced by the wonderful props that Mrs Jones managed to find or make. The scenery was splendid, and really helped to create atmosphere; Year 2 were delighted to discover Mrs Bareham and Mrs Taylor had painted it. The creativity of the staff knows no bounds when it comes to the wonderful music performance that Mrs Sallis choreographed and led. Another musical triumph! However, the shining stars of the show were without doubt the children themselves. They sang, acted, played instruments and performed their very best to ensure that the play of the Great Fire was not only informative but it was also very funny and hugely entertaining. Well done to everyone in Year 2! GS





WHAT A KNIGHT!

What a performance! What a Knight! Two contrasting castles - one home good, the other evil, a magic mirror, a talking dragon and two unlikely heroes - the scene was set and ready to be brought to life. With expectations high for this Year 6 cohort and a love of drama running through their veins, the pressure was on. However, as if there was ever any doubt, they pulled off two truly spectacular performances for their families. With well-timed jokes, brilliant singing and impressive dance moves, they gave it their all; with smiles on their faces and their enjoyment shining through they brought the fun to the stage.

Every single pupil in Year 6 should be incredibly proud of themselves not only for the final performances but for their efforts in rehearsals. They have been hugely supportive of each other throughout and never shied away from things that were asked, however challenging or silly. They threw themselves into it completely. I could not have asked for more from them. A huge well done and thank you. You really did do your very best! BE



SUMMER ART EXHIBITION 2024



Emily Garfield-inspired map, Jack F



Kathleen Ryan-inspired rotten fruit sculpture, Coco P



Marcia Baldwin-inspired rainforest detail, Toby R



Botanical art in acrylic, Rose B



Picasso-inspired study in acrylic and ink, Eddie S



Pencil and oil pastel fruit, Hermione H



Andre Derain watercolour, Arturo P



Olympic-inspired textile study, Archer D

Our annual Summer Art Exhibition celebrated the incredible talent of every pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6 with an outstanding collection of over 500 pieces on display. The exhibition, which is always a crowd-pleaser, was curated for the first time by Head of Art, Natasha Hartley, who was appointed at the beginning of the school year. Impressed by the standard of creativity across the school, she commented, "It was fantastic to see everyone's artwork on display. I felt very proud to have played a part in the children's artistic journeys, and it was so exciting to see the variety of art created." The exhibition showcased a diverse range of art which included paintings inspired by Henry Matisse, the rainforest and the Great Fire of London. Ceramics on show included textured slabs by Year 4, fruit and vegetable - inspired pots by Year 3 and Olympic medals by our Year 5 ceramicists. The art exhibition was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing more of the fantastic efforts of our pupils in next year's exhibition.



Observational study of flowers in watercolour pencil, Georgina C



Great Fire of London scene, Heath G



Tonal ocean study with acrylic silhouettes
Sophie B



Flowers in oil pastel, Florence D



Self-portrait, Dylan B



Beach huts, Sophie W



Fork flowers, Willow McC



PRINTED TEXTILE WORKSHOP

Just before half term, we were delighted to welcome artist Teresa Paiva from Wise Moves art workshops to the Prep School to work with our Year 6 children and Head of Art, Mrs Hartley.

The theme of this year's collaborative Year 6 art project was the Paris Olympics, and in art lessons prior to the workshop, Year 6 had great fun sketching one another in athletic poses. During the workshop, these sketches were transposed onto fabric, and colour was added with acrylic paint. The pupils also explored block and sponge printing techniques. The completed wall hangings - which made a significant impact - were showcased at the Summer Art Exhibition, and were very well received. Well done, Year 6!

...NEWS... FROM PREP



BERKY QUIZZERS

It's been a busy and successful year of quizzing for our young general knowledge aficionados. Our Y6 team came a very creditable third in the annual Rotary Club Quiz for Cheltenham schools. In the county Wildlife Quiz organised by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Berkhamstead came second in the Cheltenham Grand Final, just missing out on qualification for the County Championship. The National Schools' Quiz Championships saw our team come a remarkable fifth in the country - a huge achievement. Well done to all the children who took part in these events. MC

CHESS NEWS

Another busy chess year. The Summer Term was ushered in by the annual Berky Chess Congress. Over 40 competitors packed the school hall with the main trophies going to Tom R (Y5 and Y6), Oliver S (Y3 and Y4) and Maddie LG (Y2). House Chess took place in July with St George's emerging as overall winners. The Y2 Chess Club was well-attended and bustling while the Staff vs. Pupils match proved as enjoyable as ever. Well played, everyone. MC



KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to Prep pupils Isabella B and Jasper W who were awarded the Gill Agg Kindness Cup during the Summer Term.

BERKY'S GOT TALENT

One Thursday 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, karate and music! Children and staff from Years 2 - 6 witnessed impressive ability and boundless energy from all of our performers - thank you for entertaining the audience with such gusto. The ice lollies generously provided by the PTA in the interval were very much appreciated.



MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to the following musicians who have taken grade exams this term:
Initial - Isabella B (Piano)** Isla R (Double Bass)*
Oliver S (Drums)** Dion W (Drums)**
Grade 1 - Iris M (Violin)* Chloe R (Violin)* Starlar H (Cello)* George L (Double Bass) Angus C (Double Bass)** Jack F (Saxophone) Zack P (Drum Kit)** Jacob H (Viola)*
Grade 2 - Angus C (Piano)* Annabelle A (Violin)*
Grade 3 - Wilf M (Cello)* Starlar H (Trombone)* Ben R (Piano)*
*Denotes pass with merit **Denotes pass with distinction



MUSIC NEWS

MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

Head of Music, Mrs Mitchell held an exciting Music Taster Afternoon for Years 2 to 4 - and many parents - who watched our music teachers and some of our pupils demonstrating their instruments. Following the concert and talks, pupils went to try out the instruments. Thank you to all our music teachers; we look forward to new musicians starting in September.

SUMMER RECITAL

Twenty-four plucky pupils from Years 2 to 5 entertained an appreciative audience after school in our Summer Term Recital. Some of the children had only this year started learning their instruments, and it was the first time that our Year 2 violinists had performed together. There were many noteworthy performances, from beginners to the more experienced musicians; well done to you all.

MUSIC DAYS

Twenty-eight of our Prep Schools string players visited Dean Close to enjoy a specialist Strings Day led by the world-class Carducci Quartet. There were over 100 instrumentalists involved and we had the largest contingent of a visiting school. Divided into 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. Meanwhile, a group of our wind and brass players enjoyed an Orchestral Day at King's School, Gloucester. The children rehearsed three pieces, ready for a concert for the parents at the end of the afternoon. Well done to everyone involved in these days, and thank you to Dean Close and King's for hosting such fun and beneficial days.

LEAVERS' RECITAL

The Leavers' Recital was held once again at the Parabola Arts Centre in June. We have enjoyed many wonderful drama and music performances from this very talented group of children over many years, and this final opportunity to see them performing in such a beautiful venue was very special. Each child had a role in the event with the presenters and performers demonstrating talent and confidence on stage. We heard many delightful solos, duos and small ensembles - Chamber Ensemble, Rock Band, Berky Beats, Y6 Singers and Wind Group and a final song from the whole year. Well done and thank you for a fabulous entertainment. PM

...OFF WE GO... LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



MARY ARDEN'S FARM

The Year 4 children enjoyed a wonderful trip to Mary Arden's Farm to support their learning of life in Tudor England. They took part in an array of activities which included creating lavender bags, making wattle and daub and Tudor dancing, as well working in the garden and learning how herbs were used for medicinal purposes.

It was a day filled with practical experiences which demonstrated the lives of the poorer Tudors. It was great fun and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. P McC



COTSWOLD FARM PARK

Kindergarten's trip to Cotswold Farm Park was brilliant! The children enjoyed their circular walk to observe the farm animals and participated in woodland activities, including den building, bird spotting and bug detecting. MM

VINEY HILL

Having arrived at Viney Hill, after a quick lunch, the children were ready to begin their first activities. Two groups were biking on the trails in the Forest, whilst one was remaining for archery and crate stacking. Although some of the cycling was rather challenging, everyone displayed typical Berky spirit and thoroughly enjoyed cycling through the muddy puddles. The group onsite had enjoyed similar success in their activities. In the evening, we ventured out on a night walk, back into the forest, and back into the mud! The following day saw groups down on the lake and others climbing and jumping off the 'high tower'. All the leaders were impressed with the children's manners, enthusiasm and 'have a go' attitude. That evening, we enjoyed a barbeque and sat round the campfire, toasting marshmallows and reflecting on the day. This was such a special time, all the Year 6 huddled together around a campfire sharing their 'best bits'. By lunchtime, the following day, everyone was feeling a happy exhaustion - it had been a fantastic residential. Thank you to the accompanying staff, and special thanks to Mr Hibbert, who came down for the day to take photos and videos - far better quality than our usual photography from the teachers! JH



COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

Year 2 were lucky enough to spend time with penguins, zebras and even a lion or two at Cotswold Wildlife Park! We disembarked from the bus while being observed by the locals - some camels and some emus - and headed towards the colobus monkeys, stopping en route for an ice cream. Then came the minibeasts and reptiles: huge spiders, cockroaches and the biggest anaconda our intrepid Year 2 explorers had ever seen! Onwards to the walled garden and our 'habitat' talk from the resident experts while studying prairie dogs, otters and meerkats. This was followed by a jolly around the park on the miniature railway and then a look at the clouded leopards, white rhinos and giraffes. We returned to school with our brains full of animal facts, inspired by the incredible feats of nature we'd experienced that day. KJ



ALL THINGS WILD

Reception children became dinosaur explorers for the day when we visited All Things Wild. We began by digging for fossils in the sand, the eagle-eyed children found many different treasures including fools gold, star shaped crinoids and sharks' teeth. The children were also able to handle and investigate larger fossils ranging from a dinosaur claw to some fossilised dinosaur poo! During the afternoon, our trip took us back to prehistoric times as we walked around the dinosaur field, finding many life-like replicas of the children's favourite dinosaurs - many of them were able to move and sounded very realistic! Thankfully the dinosaurs were not hungry and we all made it back to school safely. JG



...OFF WE GO...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS

SLIMBRIDGE

To reinforce their Biology topic about Habitats, Year 4 pupils went to Slimbridge. On arrival, our first task was to do some pond dipping. We were informed about what animals we would be finding and at what stage of their lifecycle they would be.

During the rest of the day, we were able to investigate the entire site, and saw a great variety of wetland birds. We had a talk about the birds, which focused mostly on those that could be trained. Other areas of significance 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. TM



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 of our guide.



CRICKLEY HILL

Kindergarten began their Summer Term with an amazing trip to Crickley Hill. On arrival, the children sat on logs at base camp, and their group leader read a story about minibeasts having a party. The children then went off to explore the enclosed woodland. The activities included the investigation of materials and a minibeast hunt. The children looked under logs and tree stumps to find a variety of creatures, and collected moss, sticks, bark and leaves, which were transported to a large tray for the minibeasts to have their party. The children could also create their own music for the party through rustling leaves or tapping sticks. MM



BRISTOL AQUARIUM

One of the highlights for Year 1 this term must have been our trip to Bristol Aquarium. It was wonderful to see the children so animated and enthusiastically learning about many of the ocean's inhabitants as well as excitedly experiencing feeding fish. C M-L



BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

Our Year 5 visit to the Black Country Museum is always a firm favourite and this year was no different. The children experienced a lesson in a Victorian schoolroom, a trip down a mine, a visit to a hardware store, where we got to see lots of different artefacts, as well as visits to back-to-back houses and a traditional sweet shop. The day gave them a flavour of the difficulties of life in Victorian England and enhanced what they have been learning in school. The children had a fantastic day and I was particularly pleased at the positive comments made about their manners and behaviour. Well done to all of Year 5. P McC



PRE-PREP & EARLY YEARS
HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Kindergarten Sports Day :The Kindergarten children were full of energy and enjoyed waving to their fans! Each child remembered what they had practised and worked so hard in each event. All the pupils listened well and worked hard throughout. Well done. CK

Reception and Year 1 Sports Day: Reception and Year 1 were fast and nimble during the obstacle course, diving under items and throwing their all at it! With some more waving at the spectators, they were all ready to get involved in the traditional events such as the sack race and the egg and spoon. Reception were diligent, listening well and trying their best to win events.

Meanwhile, Year 1 worked well with some of the children focusing on their skills and others focusing on winning! There were some great performances. CK

Year 2 Sports Day: I was impressed with Year 2 this year. They were focused throughout the event, and we saw determination, competitiveness and skill in every race. Every one of them tried their best during the event, and I was very impressed with how well they organised themselves. Great work Year 2, Prince of Wales Stadium next year! CK



PREP PUPILS LEAP INTO ACTION!

PREP SPORTS DAY 2024

"THERE WAS A LOVELY SUPPORTIVE ATMOSPHERE AT SPORTS DAY
DESPITE THE DRIZZLE, WELL DONE TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART."

MICHELLE BAREHAM

As I woke up to a dark damp morning, I was worried about the impact the weather would have on Sports Day. But in true English style, the drizzle ceased as the children arrived and we were ready to roll! All the children worked so hard. Each house supported one another and got as many points as they could for their house. A few records were broken through the day:

Track Records

Year 5 Boys 600m: Olly B

Year 4 Girls 75m: Hermione H

Year 5 Girls 100m: Evie W

Year 6 Boys 100m: Alastair M

Field Records

Year 5 Girls Shot Putt: Florence PT

Year 3 Boys Quoit Throw: Max T

Year 4 Boys Quoit Throw: Jacob H

I was proud of all the children for their efforts. They really have done themselves and the Berky community proud throughout the year. Well done.

House relay winner: St Andrew's

Field event winner: St David's

Overall winner: St David's CK



COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS

The weather was just right for some running! A good handful of pupils this year were old hats at the District, and knew what to expect. Some nerves started to kick in once the event started, but I was so proud of how all the Berky pupils conducted themselves; they each worked hard, not just for themselves, but for the team. We came third overall in the event.

Medals:

Bronze 600m: Olly B

Silver 100m: Alastair M

Gold 60m: Hermione H

Bronze 50m: Max T

Gold Open Girls Throw: Ella H

Silver Open Girls Throw: Polly B

Silver Open Boys Throw: Jack H

Silver Year 4 Girls Relay: Hermione H,

Isabella B, Tamar C and Iris M

Silver Year 5 Girls Relay: Polly B, Evie W,

Allegra S and Annabelle A.

Bronze Year 5 Boys Relay: Olly B, Lucas d CV,

Jasper W and Jack H.

SWIMMING GALA

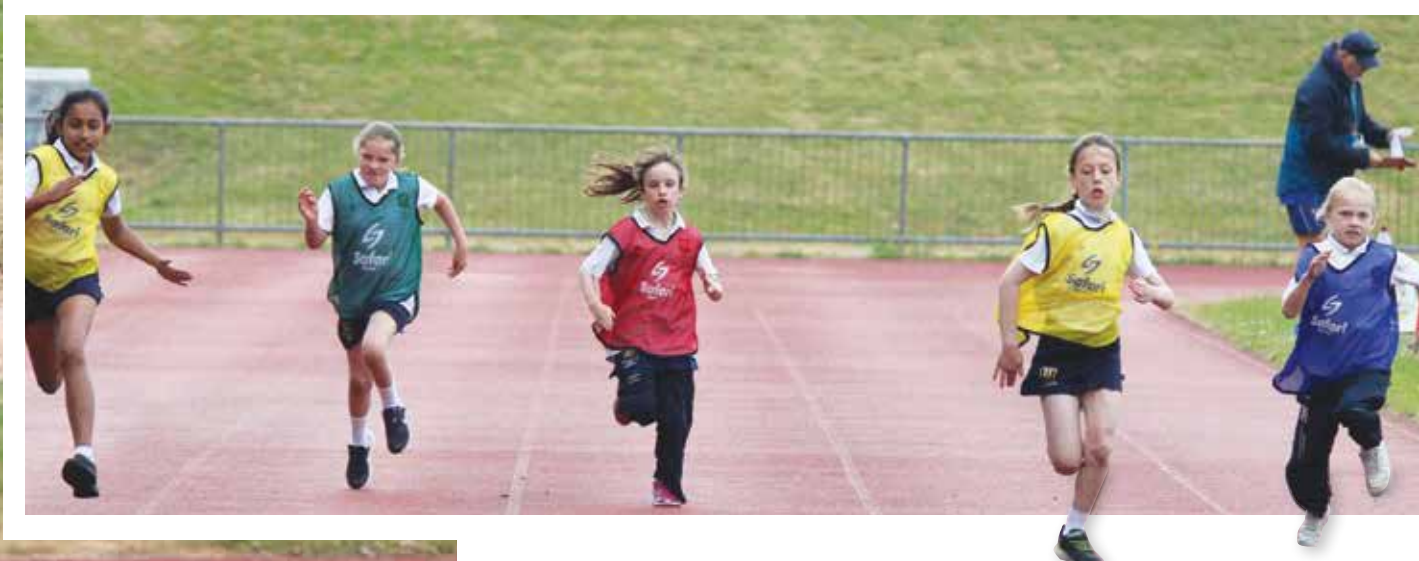
The pupils were a mix of excited and nervous to be part of the gala team.

We knew some of the teams were going to be strong, but the Berky gang were up for the challenge! The races started thick and fast. Both our relay teams worked hard, fighting to keep up with the leading teams.

The Year 5 team made it into the final, with a hard fight; the group achieved third place. Hugo H and Jack H went in for the individual 50m open; both worked hard and kept a good stroke going but unfortunately didn't make it through to a medal position.

Two girls had their turn in the open individual: Charlotte J and Polly B. Both girls put up a great fight and worked hard, Polly B came third in her heat and Charlotte J coming first in the heat. Charlotte J made it into the final, narrowly missing out on a medal. Well done to all pupils who put themselves forward to be part of the team.

A special well done to Polly who moved up an age group when a Year 6 girl had to drop out. It was a great evening, well done. CK





U8 | GIRLS' CRICKET

Although the weather has not been great, the girls' cricket has been sizzling. I have been impressed with the progression shown across all the main facets: batting, fielding and bowling. The improvement in bowling has been outstanding. The girls have improved the accuracy through keeping their arms straight and, now that their strength has improved, they are a constant threat. When fielding, they support each other by encouraging and calling clearly to help the team restrict the opposition score; run outs are a real possibility now. We have moved on from swinging at every ball to producing timed and executed shots that keep the score board ticking over nicely. The girls should be extremely proud of their team both for performances and the support they provide each other. Well done, girls! IP

U8 Team: Olivia B, Eleanor C, Betty D, Isla E, Maddie E, Lilian L, Tilly M, Florence P, Jessica PT, Florence R, Annabelle S, Eden S, Lucy W, Chloe W, Annie W



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 has 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: Nancy A, Eden B, Isabella B, Tamar C, Alanah F, Amelia I, Anna H, Starlar H, Hermione H, Jemima H-S, Eleanor K, Iris M, Amara M, Alayna M, Chloe R, Beau R



U10 | GIRLS' CRICKET

What a season! We have some very strong girls in this squad, who have made the most of the additional lunchtime cricket training and have honed their skills beautifully; even taking part in a mixed hardball game against Dean Close Prep! I have been impressed with all the girls - they have certainly improved with their bowling action, delivering far fewer 'no balls' or 'wides'. The girls have shown great communication when batting and many wins were secured due to those sneaky runs! Indeed, for one team they can boast a 100% win rate! Some girls have begun to bat with intelligence, thinking about where they would like to place the ball. 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: Annabelle A, Rose B, Polly B, Isabella B, Lara C, Harriet CW, Rosie E, Amelia E, Melba F, Olivia M, Emily O, Megan P, Flo PT, Hannah P, Isla R, Allegra S, Remi T, Evie W, Yaz Y



U11 | GIRLS' CRICKET

Well done to the Year 6 team, you have had a great season. All bowling has been improved this term and that has been due to hard work and good listening; we have taken many wickets through our bowling this term. Our understanding of Kwik Cricket has greatly improved, and the girls tried hard to implement some tactics into their matches and their communication and teamwork has been fantastic. There have been some good catches in our matches with the girls moving more comfortably for the ball. Well done girls, good effort this year. I wish you continued success next year. CK

U11 Team: Harriet E, Eulalie G, Eva H, Kitty H, Ella H, Charlotte J, Estella L, Frankie M, Coco P, Ellie P, Betty R, Millie R, Mollie R and Olivia W
Colours: Eva H, Frankie M, Millie R, Charlotte J, Polly B, Melba F, Florence PT, Evie W, Allegra S
Outstanding: Charlotte J



U8 | BOYS' CRICKET

The Year 3 boys had a fun Summer Term's worth of cricket. We worked with the girls on practising the main skills of bowling, batting and fielding. The bowling was the most important skill to work on, but also the hardest skill to get right. We only had two matches this term, but we did well in them. We managed to finish the term with our house matches with the girls. We had some great close matches and it was lovely to see everyone's skill improve. All the boys played in the matches. TM

U8 Team: Ralph A, Ezra B, Rocco B, Jonah B, Ned D, Guy D, Leo D, Archer D, Jack O'K, Arturo P, Jacob P, Devan P, George R, Seb R, Arlo R, George R-S, Rupert S, Benjamin S, Ollie S, Felix T, Max T, Jack W



U9A&B | BOYS' CRICKET

Both squads were once again full of enthusiasm and ready to capitalise on a successful football season last term. Batting, bowling and fielding drills developed the boys' confidence early in the season and by the second week of the term we were ready to hit the ground running. We had a mixed fixture against Dean Close and four subsequent excellent wins. Our matches against Beaudesert and Ashley Manor were probably the best wins of the season for both sides. The Bs had an excellent win against RPS in their last match of the season but sadly the As unbeaten record slipped away losing an exciting encounter to RPS by 18 runs. All the boys took wickets and scored runs, the fielding improved steadily throughout the season with a number of superb catches and run outs taken. A big thank you to our parents for their support throughout the season despite the inclement weather and an even bigger thank you to all the boys for their unending enthusiasm for this game. Well done, boys! SM

U9A Team: Ted B, Arthur H, Jacob H, George H, Seth L, Max L G, George L, Ellis M, Dion W
U9B Team: Ioan C, Magnus D, Quinn H, Eddie H, Rowan J, Toby M, Milo R, Eddie S, Ollie S, Ethan S



U10/I1 | WINDBALL CRICKET

It has been a busy cricket season for the children playing in the windball games. They have all made fantastic progress and I have been pleased to see the skills we have been working on in training in action in some of the matches. Bowling has been superb this term, and the children have worked hard on their batting technique. There were some challenging matches this season, but the children have been resilient and worked together. There were some very close matches, but most matches were won with only a couple of losses. The final games of the season were excellent and for a couple of the teams, everything rested on the last over. Well done to all those who played in the windball team this season. DB

U10/I1 Team: Hughie B, Leo C, Angus C, Charlie F, Jack F, Jack F, Fergus G, Thomas G, Charles H, Hugo H, Miles H, Tharusha J, George J, Freddie L, Atlas M, Alastair M, Archie M, Luis M R, Henry P, Rishik R, Isaac R, Toby R, Tom R, Josiah R, Isaac SR, Ben W, Charlie W



U11A | CRICKET

The U11A team have enjoyed a very successful summer. They started with solid wins against Ashley Manor and Hatherop, and then came up against a very strong Cricklade side, who inflicted our only defeat of the season. This was a game from which we learned much.

The team worked very hard in lessons and lunchtime sessions to make great improvements to our game. We took this into our next match against Beaudesert and had a comprehensive victory. Next up was a victory against Richard Pate, which then led us to the Cheltenham Schools' Knockout trophy. We played some fine cricket in this tournament and went through unbeaten to claim the trophy in its centenary year.

This was a super season, which saw all of the children develop individual skills and work together to form a fine team. They have been an absolute delight to coach. Well done to all of our cricketers. P McC

U11 Team and colours awarded to: Olly B, Lucas dCV, George E, Jack H, Ella H, Wilf M, Zack P, Sid R, Ben R, Ben S, Jasper W
Outstanding: Jack H, Ella H, Wilf M



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



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

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

PRIZE WINNERS 2024

ENGLISH CUP Sid R
MATHEMATICS CUP Freddie L
SCIENCE CUP George J
COMPUTING CUP Tommy G
FRENCH CUP Ben R
SPANISH CUP Josiah R
HISTORY CUP Isaac R
GEOGRAPHY CUP Zack P
RS CUP Estella L
ART GOBLET Ellie P
CWB CUP Olivia W

CUPS FOR ALL-ROUNDER ACHIEVEMENT CUP Millie R & Coco P
CHORAL CUP Mollie R
WENDY BURROWS CUP FOR ALL-ROUND MUSICIANSHIP Freddie L
CUPS FOR INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE Ben R & Tom R
JAMES AGG JAZZ CUP Frankie M
CROKER CUP FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE Luis M-R
PROGRESS CUP IN MUSIC Jack F
PROGRESS CUP Charlotte J

BARTLETT ENDEAVOUR CUP Hattie E
HEADTEACHER'S CUPS Hugo H & Ben S
COURTESY CUP Betty R
ADVENTURE SHIELD Ben W
PLATINUM AWARD TROPHY Josiah R
BERKY AMBASSADOR CUP Eulalie G
PTA COMMUNITY CUP George J
ECO-WARRIOR CUP Jack F
PATRICIA SMITH CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP Eva H
WILLIAMS SPORTS CUP FOR GIRLS Ella H

PODMORE ATHLETICS CUP Alastair M
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER Eulalie G
SCOT SIMMONDS SPORTS CUP Wilf M
MOSS CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP George E
THE HOWARD CUP FOR CHESS Ben R
COLE CHESS CUP Tom R
THE GOVERNORS' CUP Kitty H
BERKY PRIZE Sid R

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

Hattie E
St Edward's School
George E
St Edward's School
Jack F
Beaunes Park School
Eulalie G
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports Scholarship
Tommy G
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Eva H
The Cotswold School
Kitty H
Balcarras School
Ella H
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports and Academic Scholarship
Denmark Road Grammar School

Hugo H
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Charlotte J
St Edward's School,
Sports Scholarship
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship
George J
Dene Magna School
Estella L
Balcarras School
Freddie L
Dean Close Prep School,
Music, Drama and Academic Scholarship
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Alastair M
Marling Grammar School
Dean Close Prep School,
Headmaster's Award
Luis M R
St Edward's School, Drama Scholarship

Frankie M
Ribston Hall Grammar School
King's School, Gloucester,
Academic Scholarship
Wilf M
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School
Zack P
The Crypt Grammar School
Coco P
Dean Close Prep School,
Headmaster's Award
Ellie P
Ribston Hall Grammar School
Millie R
King's School, Gloucester;
Sports and Academic Scholarship
Isaac R
The Crypt Grammar School
Sid R
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School

Josiah R
The Cotswold School
Betty R
St Edward's School
Tom R
Pate's Grammar School
Ben R
Pate's Grammar School
Mollie R
King's School, Gloucester;
Music and Drama Scholarship
Ben S
Dean Close Prep School
Olivia W
St Edward's School
Ben W
King's School, Gloucester
Marling Grammar School

