

BERKHAMSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE

SUMMER TERM  
2025

# BLAZER

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

SPORTS DAYS 2025

## A PROUD LEGACY!

MARKING 80 WONDERFUL YEARS



INSIDE: DAY NURSERY NEWS | SUMMER ART EXHIBITION | SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS





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

As we look back on the Summer Term, we are filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for all that has been achieved. It is with great pleasure that we share with you this term's Blazer magazine, capturing the spirit and highlights of this special time in our school calendar.

The Summer Term is always filled with excitement - from sports days and school trips to performances, projects and heartfelt goodbyes. Within these pages, you'll find a collection of reflections that showcase not only the talents of our pupils, but also the joy, creativity and curiosity that define our school.

This term, we said a fond farewell to some much-loved members of staff. Mrs Holland, Mr and Mrs Taylor, and Mr Titley left us at the end of term. Each of them contributed so much to our school community - through their dedication, kindness and the lasting impact they've had on so many young lives. They leave behind a legacy of learning and care, and they will be greatly missed by pupils, parents and colleagues alike. We thank them wholeheartedly and wish them all the very best in the next chapters of their journeys.

This magazine is a tribute to the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff and the support of our families. It celebrates all we have achieved together and offers a snapshot of the wonderful memories made as we prepare to turn the page into a new chapter.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine as a keepsake of the term just gone and a reminder of the warmth, energy and spirit of our school community.

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School



## PLATINUM AWARD

Congratulations to the following leavers who have been awarded their Platinum Award this year: Allegra S, Jack F, Charlie F

## ...SPOTLIGHT ON... SAMANTHA LEIGH

Mrs Leigh is one of our new Year 2 teachers. She taught English to Y5 and Y6 last academic year, covering Miss Evans' maternity leave; having previously worked in Year 2 on supply, she already knows the school well. She gained her BA (Hons) in Leicester and her Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Lancaster. She lives with her husband Steve, three children and her hilarious dog, Ruby.

### What did you do before Berky?

I have taught in four different Cheltenham schools over the last 27 years. Before that, I worked abroad for a year, then in a busy city library before completing my PGCE. My first job, when I was 14, was as a waitress which I was not very good at but enjoyed as I liked chatting to the customers!

### Did you always want to be a teacher?

My early ambition was to be a journalist, and I wrote for my college magazine and took a Media Studies course where we had fun making and editing videos (it was a long time ago!) It was when I worked on Summer playschemes organising children's activities as an A-level and University student, however, that I realised this was where my heart was and began to volunteer in a local primary school.

### What do you enjoy about teaching?

I have taught all the year groups from Reception to Year 6 and am always amazed at how much children grow and change both academically and socially in the first stage of their education - it really is a privilege to see and be part of. I began my teaching career in Year 5 which I still love, although Year 2 quickly became a firm favourite when I was given the opportunity to change. In teaching, every day is different and unpredictable - I especially love the funny things that children say.

### What do you love about working at Berky?

Berky is a truly unique school which the whole community is proud to be part of. I was struck by how well the staff know all the children and their families so well. This helps to create a caring, individualised setting for children to thrive and grow. I quickly felt at home, thanks to the friendly welcome from children, staff and parents, and am very excited to be teaching in Year 2 and becoming a permanent part of the Pre-Prep team.

### What is your favourite book?

To Kill A Mockingbird is a book I read at school and it has never left me. I have re-read it many times and love how it encourages kindness and compassion and is seen through the eyes of a small child.

### Who is your favourite children's author?

I have two - Julia Donaldson and Michael Morpurgo. I love how their stories inspire and ignite the imaginations of children as well as raise important real-life issues which can be explored further. 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'Why the Whales Came' are always wonderful to share.

### What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Walking our border terrier, Ruby and taxiing my children to different places takes up plenty of time but I love to read and bake whenever I can. I enjoy watching live music, visiting the cinema and catching up with family and friends.



## CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF BERKHAMPTSTEAD

To mark our 80th anniversary, we held a Head of School's Picnic - a special event that brought together pupils, parents and staff for an afternoon of fun, games and celebration.

Parents joined their children on the MUGA for some team games, - including Pass the Parcel, Pictionary and a Puzzle Treasure Hunt. After the games, families settled onto picnic blankets for a delicious PTA cream tea. Meanwhile, our catering department had made beautiful 80th anniversary cupcakes for the children. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate this significant milestone in the school's history.

Mrs Bareham brought the afternoon to a close by awarding the Kindness Cups, recognising pupils who have shown exceptional thoughtfulness and care for others throughout the half term.

Thank you to the PTA for providing such a lovely tea and helping to make the celebration so memorable.





# ...NEWS...

## FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



### FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Children across the school enjoyed tremendous success at May's Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. From captivating drama performances to impressive musical pieces and vibrant dance routines, our pupils shone on stage and represented the school with pride. We have enjoyed celebrating their achievements in assemblies, newsletters and across our social media platforms. Huge congratulations to everyone who took part - we are so proud of all our talented performers!

### SAVE THE RHINO

On the final day of term, Berkly was buzzing with excitement for Save the Rhino Day, supporting our School Council's chosen international charity. Children donated to wear their own clothes and personalise their look with fun extras like hair chalk, face paint and fake tattoos. A highlight of the day was the 'Rhino Dash' where parents donated generously to see Mrs Holland - dressed head-to-toe in a rhino costume - being enthusiastically chased around the Victoria Cricket Ground by the Prep children. A joyful end to term and a fantastic cause supported!

### PTA NEWS

As the school year draws to a close, we want to say a huge thank you to all who've supported the PTA this year. It was a busy and exciting Summer Term!

We were thrilled to meet so many new faces at the recent introduction evenings. It was lovely getting to know new families, and we're already looking forward to welcoming everyone.

A highlight of the Summer Term was our parent social at Dunkertons - a fantastic evening of drinks, conversation and community. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a relaxed and enjoyable night. We are already planning our more formal ball for June 2026.

Our Summer Festival was another great success, with music, games and plenty of sunshine! The hamper raffle was a big hit once again - a huge thank you to all who contributed and bought tickets. This year we raised over £3,500. Your support helps fund vital extras for the school, from classroom resources to enrichment activities.

The Autumn Term brings our Taste the Menu & Quiz Night, with our new quizmaster and cup! We are really looking forward to another year of PTA fun!

Lottie Noar & Charlotte Chapman  
(Co-Chairs)



### BERKY GETS GREENER

We are thrilled to announce that Berkhamstead has been awarded the **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction** - the highest recognition for sustainability in schools! This prestigious award reflects the incredible work of our Eco Committees, who have worked tirelessly to improve our school's environmental impact. Focusing on Litter, Transport and Energy, pupils have led regular litter picks, and Year 5 carried out detailed traffic surveys. These efforts - which will continue into next year - helped secure this outstanding result.

Spreading the word is at the heart of our Berkly Eco Pledge. Our committee members champion our recycling initiatives and encourage all pupils to take the message home. At Berkly, we recycle plastic, cardboard, paper, batteries, blister packs and coffee pods. We are proud that around twenty pupils have earned their Eco Warrior Badge this year - a sign of real commitment to living more sustainably.

Congratulations to everyone involved - what a wonderful achievement for our whole school community!



### CELEBRATING KINDNESS

As is customary, we were delighted to award our Kindness Cups to pupils who consistently demonstrate empathy, thoughtfulness and a caring spirit towards others. Peter S (2S) and Huxley R were honoured with the Sally Lee Kindness Cup, and in the Prep School, the Gill Agg Kindness Cup was awarded to Magnus D and Elizabeth C. Congratulations to all four worthy recipients.



## A GARDEN FULL OF WONDER: OUTDOOR LEARNING BLOOMS AT CHARLTON KINGS

The new Wise Bear garden at our Charlton Kings Day Nursery has been completed, and it's already proving to be a popular space. Thoughtfully designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and a love of the outdoors, the garden enriches the children's learning through exploration, imagination and hands-on play.

Manager, Katie Hawkes is delighted with the space: "The new garden provides a wonderful range of outdoor learning opportunities. We've planted a variety of flowers in wooden planters to create a beautiful sensory experience as soon as you step outside. We're also growing vegetables, giving the children the chance to experience the joy of producing their own food while learning how things grow."

A highlight is the bark kitchen - perfect for messy, creative fun. With mud, water, herbs and sand, children can invent potions or whip up pretend meals. Wooden log seats around a table encourage collaborative and imaginative role play.

At the top of the ramp, a cosy enclosed area with rugs and pillows invites quieter play. With access to books, drawing materials, puzzles and den-building resources, this space supports early literacy and mathematical thinking in a calm outdoor environment.

The mud-filled, uneven ground further into the garden is ideal for climbing, digging and balancing, supporting children's physical development. "This is such a rich space for exploration," says Katie. "The children love scooping mud, building with wood, and using ramps and vehicles. One of their favourite spots is the tree stump - a stage for singing, dancing and spotting passing buses, all sparking conversation and curiosity."

Tuff trays filled with miniature scenes and story prompts are dotted around the garden, offering hands-on opportunities for imaginative and narrative-based play.

A simple but empowering touch is the boot storage area. "Having boots ready and accessible encourages independence," says Katie. "Children can decide when they want to be outside - whatever the weather. We want them to grow up believing there's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing!"

With so many opportunities to explore, create and discover, the Wise Bear garden has already become a cherished part of daily life at Charlton Kings.



### CELEBRATING INCLUSION:

### DINGLEY'S PROMISE MARK OF ACHIEVEMENT

Both our Pittville Circus and Charlton Kings settings have been awarded the Dingley's Promise Mark of Achievement. This national recognition highlights early years environments that demonstrate exceptional commitment to inclusive practice for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The award reflects the dedication of our teams, who have completed specialist training to ensure every child is supported, included and able to thrive. This achievement shows that inclusion is not just part of our ethos - it's at the heart of our everyday practice.

Congratulations to the wonderful staff at both settings for this well-earned recognition!







# KINDERGARTEN ADVENTURES

## PICNICS, PLAY & PLENTY OF IMAGINATION!



We all enjoyed a fabulous Teddy Bears' Picnic to mark the fantastic achievement of filling our pom-pom jar! We ate a picnic lunch with our cuddly friends and had a wonderful time spending the day exploring bear-themed activities.

Forest School has continued to be a huge hit! We've enjoyed getting creative with nature rubbings - using leaves, bark and flowers to make beautiful artwork - and we've been on scavenger hunts, searching for natural treasures. Of course, no Forest School session would be complete without a visit to the mud kitchen! The children have 'cooked' some delicious creations. From mud pies to leafy lasagna, their imaginations have run wild.

As the weather warmed up, we took the opportunity to learn all about sun safety. Through stories, songs and activities, the children now understand why it's important to wear hats, apply sun cream, and find shade when playing outside. It's all part of helping them make healthy, safe choices while still having fun in the sun.

Our creative station has been a hive of activity. One of our favourite projects was making handprint giraffes. We also made our own sensory bottles. The children chose colourful glitter, buttons, beads and sequins to fill their bottles, and added water and oil to create calming, swirly effects. These bottles have been a great way to support mindfulness.

The children also loved creating treasure maps, complete with Xs to mark the spot of the hidden treasure. This activity sparked so much imaginative play; it's been wonderful to see their storytelling skills flourish. We finished our term with a wonderful celebration afternoon; the children performed a beautiful song, and we enjoyed some delicious cakes and drinks. GB



# ROARSOME LEARNING IN RECEPTION!

Throughout the Summer Term, the Reception children have been answering the enquiry question: Are there dinosaurs alive today? We have explored different prehistoric creatures, showcasing and extending their amazing knowledge, as well as studying the life and discoveries of palaeontologist Mary Anning. We loved learning about the differences between carnivores and herbivores and the fascinating extinction theories.

The Wilson Museum in Cheltenham lent us some brilliant artefact boxes, including beautiful fossils, ammonites and even some very, very old dinosaur poo! Yuck! We took inspiration from these fossils, creating our own imprints using

air-dry clay in our art lessons with Mrs Hartley. We also created a collaborative Jackson Pollock style canvas which became a backdrop for our charcoal dinosaurs. These look simply stunning! Our literacy this term has also been dinosaur-themed! We have focused heavily on non-fiction texts, learning about their features, but also looked at fiction, like 'Katie and the Dinosaurs' and 'Tyrannosaurus Drip'. The children's progress in writing this term has been phenomenal! We have been so impressed with the independence and fluency in writing.

In maths lessons, we have been looking at sharing and grouping, and what happens when we have something left over! We have been working hard on our problem-solving skills,

building some solid foundations in preparation for what the children will encounter in Year 1. Our CWB focus has been about keeping our bodies and minds healthy, as well as looking ahead to the transition to Year 1. From learning about vaccinations, allergies, medicines and hazardous household substances, the children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe at school and at home.

What a wonderfully exciting first academic year of school we have had together - we are so looking forward to what lies ahead for you all in Year 1! Z M-S





# MIGHTY OAKS

BY GILL AGG

The saying 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow' is so true of our school which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. When Mrs. Andrews first opened her little school in the front room of 'Berkhampstead' - her home in Cleeve View Road, now the Prep building - there were just 22 pupils; her vision for the school was one of children's happiness being of paramount importance - since happy children learn most effectively - and their teachers being dedicated, caring, inspiring and knowledgeable. This is still the vision of the much-expanded Berkhampstead 'empire' of today, which consists of a thriving school - with over 260 pupils housed in three different building complexes - and two excellent Day Nurseries which share the Berky ethos, one nearby in Pittville Circus Road and one slightly further away in Charlton Kings.

Rather appropriately, an 80th anniversary is known as the 'Oak' anniversary. Like Berky, oaks develop deep, sturdy roots. They symbolise strength, dependability, endurance and wisdom. Our crest, proudly displayed on various items of our smart uniform, shows a stylised tree growing in the sunshine and bearing fruit. Beneath this tree is Mrs. Andrews' oft-quoted motto - Perseverantia vincit (Perseverance wins through). It is also a key feature of the rather unusual and special short film on our website, created by an ex-Berky parent and her husband. The film begins with an animation of this same tree growing in the sunshine, giving parents of prospective pupils an accurate 'feel' for our nurturing school and the truly holistic education it offers.

To continue the analogy, in the same way that oak trees provide food and shelter for a wide variety of species, Berky's broad and varied curriculum caters for a broad and varied group of children. Whilst we strive for, and achieve, academic excellence as demonstrated by our consistently excellent results both in the 11+ exam and the Independent School entrance and scholarship exams - we also recognise that children have many different strengths and interests and we actively foster these; as well as having their own clubs, subjects such as music, drama, art and sport are included on the weekly timetable and any achievements in areas not catered for within school - such as horse-riding or synchronised swimming - are regularly recognised and celebrated within assemblies. Last term, our U11 girls' netball team won through to the final of the IAPS competition.

This term, Berky children won a remarkable number of cups, medals and certificates for Verse Speaking and Drama as well as for various musical performance classes at the Cheltenham Festival of the Performing Arts.

Music holds a special place at Berky. A musician herself, Mrs. Andrews recognised the immense value of music in education and her emphasis on music continues to this day, as demonstrated by the regular recitals for players of all levels, and the marvellous Spring

Concerts at the Town Hall in which all children from Year 2 to Year 6 performed; these showcase both the enormous variety of music ensembles on offer and the incredibly high standards achieved year after year. This year, two pupils even gained places in the National Children's Orchestra, while another pupil won a place in the National Children's Choir.

Although Mrs. Andrews' essential vision remains, it is obvious that the school has also developed, grown and adapted in order to deliver an appropriately modern, up-to-date education. There is a huge emphasis on mental health and wellbeing and Berky was one of the first schools in the area to achieve the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning award, which it has managed to retain to this day. We also hold the Mental Health Champions award. Perhaps the most obvious difference to

the education now is the inclusion of ICT; our provision has kept well ahead of the game, using technology to enhance and enrich the children's learning. Children can use the wealth of devices on offer to draw, paint, compose and play music, photograph, design, code, write, record and present. The ICT curriculum changes from year to year as new technology is developed so Mr. Jones, Head of ICT, has to keep his finger firmly on the pulse!

I am sure that Mrs Andrews would be delighted to see that her beloved school again has a female Head Teacher.

At a recent event, I met TV horticulturalist and ex-pupil Camilla Bassett-Smith who told me that her years at Berkhampstead had been some of the happiest and most formative of her life; I have frequently heard this sentiment expressed and the many ex-Berky pupils who choose Berky for their own children (and grandchildren) further attest to this. I so look forward to seeing the first 4th generation pupil joining us!

Thus, our much-loved school continues to go from strength to strength, constantly adapting through the years without ever losing its original core values; here's to another 80 years of learning, nurturing, growth and development here at Berkhampstead!



For those interested in Berky's history, here is a list of the past Heads:

**Mrs. Edna Andrews 1945-1964**  
**Mr. Peter Sparks 1964-1978**  
**Mr. Walter (Wally) Marsh 1978-1996**  
**Mr. Tim Owen 1996-2010**  
**Mr. Richard Cross 2010-2023**  
**Mrs. Michelle Bareham 2023-present day**







## MAKING WAVES

What an amazing term the children have had diving into their topic, 'Oceans.'

English has seen the children writing their own stories about oceans. We let the children use their imaginations and encouraged them to develop their own ideas. What a shoal of budding authors we have! They have also looked at the features of information text, and a highlight was writing Father's Day Acrostic poems. Meanwhile, in maths, the children have had a successful term learning about position and direction, fractions, time and money.

In art, the children have looked at a variety of mediums and it has been wonderful to see them creating some fabulous still life drawings, beautiful paintings, pointillism and charcoal sketches. Science has been fun as we have focussed on summer and the differences between seasons, plants and where our food comes from. For our DT Day this term, the children designed and crafted their own ocean-themed diorama. We were so impressed by their final pieces. Another highlight this term was a visit by local author Sian Hughes, who came to talk to us about her latest novel.

As always, this was a bittersweet term for Year 1 staff. We have loved teaching the children and have felt sad to lose such a super cohort. We wish them so much luck as they embark on their journey into Year 2 and being top of the Pre-Prep. C M-L



## GREAT FIRE SPARKS GREAT LEARNING

The Summer Term is always a bit of a funny one for our (not so) little Year 2 superstars. They are simultaneously reflecting on the many joyous, fond memories from the past few years in Pre-Prep, while excitedly looking forward to the next chapter in their journey - the move to the Prep School. Their teachers have been helping them get ready for the big move with various transition activities, while also keeping them busy with a smorgasbord of engaging events and deep learning! This term, Year 2 have been studying the hugely significant disaster that started in Pudding Lane in 1666 - the Great Fire of London, looking at its cause, how and why it spread so quickly, who were affected and how it was eventually quelled. Quite the journey for our budding historians! The pupils also welcomed Marvellous History, who took us through an historical journey of the events of the Great Fire, with dance, drama and craft activities. In English and art lessons, children have wowed us with their suspense-filled warning stories, their creative poetic efforts and their Expressionist interpretations of the Great Fire, as well as some beautiful paintings and wire sculptures of flowers. In maths lessons, they have become Time Lords (and Ladies), reading clock faces, as well as master statisticians, representing data with pictograms and block charts. We are so proud of the Year 2 children and we know they'll be utterly brilliant next year in Year 3 in September! KS



# ....OFF WE GO....

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



## MARY ARDEN'S FARM

The Year 4s went back in time to the Tudor period on their visit to Mary Arden's Farm. Dressed in Tudor clothes, the children experienced an immersive day with lots of practical activities. This included making wattle and daub, creating their own lavender bags, painting a Tudor wall hanging and dancing to Tudor music. We also explored the farm, looking at the animals, and had time to investigate the beautiful Tudor buildings. It was a wonderful day, which supported and enhanced the work we have been doing in school. P McC

## LOWER MOOR FARM

Year 3 visited Lower Moor Farm to support their topic about helping plants grow. We were joined by Jo, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust educationalist, who led us in a variety of games: matching the plant to its use, ordering a plant's lifecycle and pretending to be bees pollinating plants. We also discussed what minibeasts are, the variety of species and why they are important. We swept long grass to see what bugs lived there.

We also made a collage of seeds, grass and flowers and created a model minibeast out of clay. Everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously - well done! TM



## BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

The Year 5s enjoyed a wonderful day at the Black Country Living Museum. We followed the life of a Victorian child, gaining an insight into the hardships of the time. We had a trip down a mine, experienced a Victorian school lesson, visited back-to-back houses and also had time to pop into the local hardware store and a traditional sweet shop. It was wonderful to have hands-on history and the children gained much from it. P McC



## WARWICK CASTLE

Year 2 visited Warwick Castle on one of the hottest days of the year and had a blazing time! We were treated to an archery show from their expert archer, before we explored the Great Hall. We marvelled at the armour and weaponry on show, and the plush, soft furnishings that were displayed in the rooms. The Henry VIII waxwork was a hit with the pupils, who discussed his penchant for all things 'Catherine', as well as his bushy, resplendent beard.

The children were truly impressed by the falconry show, featuring a fierce Hawk Owl, a huge Andean Condor and an imperious Bald Eagle. All this action intertwined with leisurely ambles around the grounds, a picnic, chats about storming the ramparts and a visit to the picturesque Peacock Garden - a fabulously enjoyable day. KJ



## SLIMBRIDGE

To reinforce our biology topic about Habitats, the Year 4 pupils went to Slimbridge. When we arrived, we split into two groups. The first did pond dipping, looking for sticklebacks, snails and bloodworms to name a few. The other group explored the Toad Hall, observation area and fed the birds. The groups then swapped over activities. After lunch we investigated the rest of the site. We saw the great variety of wetland birds at the centre, we visited the arctic tundra explorers' hut that showed how explorers live whilst researching migrating birds, we saw the flamingos and others. We also visited the Mission Possible that shows how we can help animals that are close to extinction. It was a lovely day. TM



# THE GREAT FIRE!



The reviews are in and it's official - Year 2's performance of 'The Great Fire' was a resounding success! The audiences were blown away by the set design, the acting, the musicianship and the singing of our cast, and their teachers were so proud of them.

The show started with our brilliant narrators setting the scene - London, during the summer of 1666; the plague, sewage and sickness rife. Newspaper sellers and market traders peddling their wares. The audience was then taken on a journey, meeting the bakery owners, Thomas and Hanna Farrinor, and their customers (who delighted viewers with their bread-based puns), then being introduced to Sir Christopher Wren and Samuel Pepys; all key protagonists within our tale. Next up, Farrinor's maids, then some unlucky Londoners, caught up in the fire. Finally, Thomas Bludworth, the London Mayor, and King Charles arrived on the scene; the former dithering, the latter saving the day by freeing up resources to put out the fire. Cue rapturous applause from the watching parents; all credit to our wonderful actors within Year 2. What a performance! All cast members were called upon to say lines, play instruments and dance, and all did so with aplomb. Mrs Sallis, our incredible Pre-Prep music teacher, led the music with skill and patience, and the whole show was amusing, entertaining and downright enjoyable. Well done Year 2; you are all wonderful! KJ

## ...NEWS... FROM PREP



### BERKY'S GOT TALENT SHINES BRIGHT

On the final afternoon of term, excitement filled the air as the eagerly anticipated finals of Berky's Got Talent took to the stage. The showcase featured a dazzling array of acts - from comedy and gymnastics to dancing, karaoke and live music - all performed with remarkable flair and enthusiasm.

Pupils and staff from Years 2 to 6 were treated to a wonderful display of talent, energy and confidence. A huge well done to all our performers for entertaining us with such gusto and joy.

A special thank you to the PTA for providing much-needed ice lollies during the interval - a welcome treat on a warm afternoon!



### CHESS NEWS

Another busy year of chess has seen hundreds of matches, thousands of captures and dozens of checkmates. The Y5/Y6 champion was Rowan J who enjoyed a really successful season. The Y3/4 League 1 resulted in a four-way tie between Jonah B, Ollie S, Rupert S and Arlo R. Well played, all. The annual Berky Congress took place - Rowan and Ollie took home the main trophies. A keenly contested House Chess tournament saw St Patrick's emerge as winners. MC



### BERKY QUIZZERS

Quizzing has become a key part of life at Berky. Our Wildlife Quiz team (Ellie K, Nancy A, Eddie S, Magnus D) reached the semi-finals of the Cheltenham Championship. And our General Knowledge team (Angus C, Tamar C, Annabelle S, Thomas H) battled its way to the online final of the National Quiz Championships. Well quizzed, everyone! A new trophy - The Mackie Cup for General Knowledge - was awarded to Angus on Speech Day. MC

### MUSIC NEWS LEAVERS' RECITAL

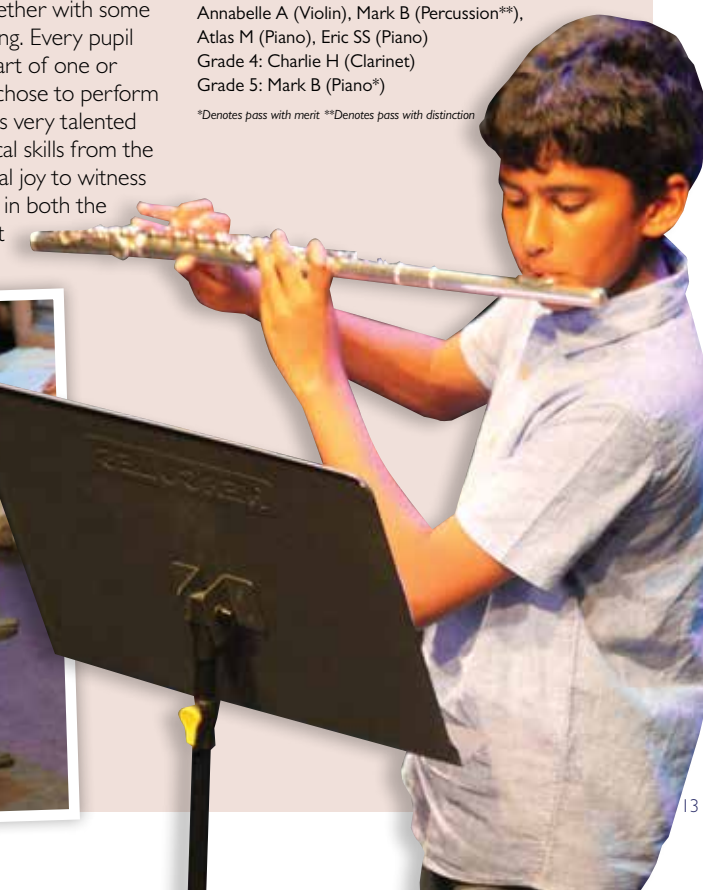
The Leavers' Recital at the Parabola Arts Centre was a wonderful opportunity to see all our talented Y6 children on stage for the last time at Berky. Ably presented by pupils announcing items, we saw Guitar Club, Chamber Ensemble, VoxBox, Samba and wind players performing together with some of the music teachers directing. Every pupil had the opportunity to be part of one or more ensembles, and many chose to perform solos as well. Having seen this very talented group developing their musical skills from the earliest days, it has been a real joy to witness their performances on stage in both the Production and the Recital at the end of this term. PM

### MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

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

Initial/Debut: Toby R (Guitar\*\*), Eleanor W (Percussion), Betty D (Violin\*), Olivia B (Drum Kit\*\*), Grade 1: Ned D (Cello\*), Jasper W (Piano), Izzy B (Piano\*), Ollie S (Drum Kit\*), Dion W (Drum Kit\*\*), Grade 2: Chloe R (Violin\*), Edith H (Piano\*), Angus C (Double Bass), Grade 3: Starlar H (Cello\*\*), Charlotte H (Clarinet), Annabelle A (Violin), Mark B (Percussion\*\*), Atlas M (Piano), Eric SS (Piano), Grade 4: Charlie H (Clarinet), Grade 5: Mark B (Piano\*)

\*Denotes pass with merit \*\*Denotes pass with distinction





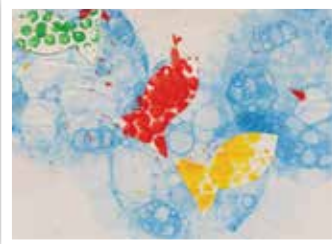
# A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY



Daffodil collage, Henry D, (2J)



Poppies, Joshua S, (IML)



Bubble wrap fish, Eva C, (KG)



Sea Life observational drawing , Eleanor Z, (1S)



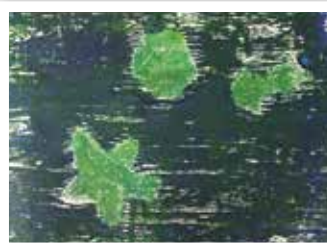
Digital Repeat Patterns inspired by Damien Hurst, Saha B, (3M)



Poppy canvas, in acrylics, Jack H, (6K)



Ceramic coin, Ralph A, (4T)



Monoprint, inspired by textures found in nature, Quinn H, (5B)



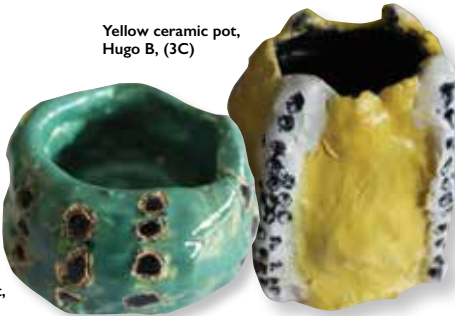
Favourite animal using the Sketches app, Florence R, (4T)



Winter Landscape, Autumn R, (KG)



Collaborative dinosaur study by Reception



Yellow ceramic pot, Hugo B, (3C)

Green ceramic pot, Douglas A, (3C)



Lowry-inspired art, Peter S, (2S)

Our annual Summer Art Exhibition was a resounding success, celebrating the remarkable creativity of every pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6. With over 400 outstanding pieces on display, the event delighted visitors and proudly showcased the breadth of artistic talent across the school.

This year's exhibition was curated for the second time by Head of Art, Natasha Hartley. Reflecting on the event, she said: "This event is so special - it brings together everyone's amazing creations and makes you really proud of all we've achieved. I love seeing the children's excitement as they share their work with their families. It's also been fantastic to have two Year 6 art scholars this year - such an inspiration to others!"

The exhibition featured an impressive array of work, including nature-inspired monoprints by Year 5, daffodil collages by Year 2 and eye-catching collaborative dinosaur scenes by our Reception artists. The ceramics on show were equally inspiring, with giant coins - both past and present - created by Year 4, ceramic pots inspired by Yoyoi Kusama from Year 3 and Reception self-portraits. Also featured were Year 6's stunning photographs taken during their Photography Workshop.

As always, the exhibition proved to be a highlight of the Summer Term, and we eagerly look forward to celebrating more of our pupils' fantastic efforts in the new academic year.



Ceramic face, Florrie-Esme G, (RMS)



Ceramic face, Cleo UdS, (RMS)

## YEAR 6 PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP BEHIND THE LENS WITH NOEL HIBBERT



Year 6 enjoyed a truly inspiring day with professional photographer - and Berky parent - Noel Hibbert.

Noel began the workshop by sharing his journey into photography, sparked by a gift of a camera from his own father. He introduced the pupils to a range of photographic styles, including film and medium format, and guided them through a fascinating look at iconic images from the past. Pupils also had the chance to handle old cameras.

In the Prep hall 'studio', the pupils rotated around three lighting setups, experimenting with different lenses to capture portraits of one another. Working in small groups, they took turns as photographers and models, carefully considering lighting and composition. Another highlight of the day was being photographed by Noel himself, and the children were delighted to see their brilliant work on show at the Art Exhibition.

Thanks again to Noel for sharing his expertise and inspiring our budding photographers.





# YEAR 6 PRESENT ROBIN & THE SHERWOOD HOODIES

Cue the music, light the lights, it was time to raise the curtain on the men in tights.

This year's leavers' play was the brilliant Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies - the tale of Robin Hood reimagined by Craig Hawes. A story of mistaken identity, kidnaps, rescues and of course lots of singing and dancing. The Year 6 came together to put on a fantastic performance.

The children worked hard in rehearsals demonstrating their talents and team work to ensure the show's resounding success. Singing loud, singing clear, the songs were wonderful with harmonies throughout. They threw themselves into the dancing and their fantastic portrayals of the wide variety of characters helped to bring the play alive.

It was a truly superb way to finish the year. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves and what they achieved in such a short space of time. As the final song said, if we all work together, your dreams will come true. In the end, the show went like a dream. Thank you and well done! BE







## INCOM

In groups, the children played a variety of board games, collaborating to achieve a common goal. They had to think strategically, sometimes even sacrificing their own piece for a better group outcome. One game, Forbidden Island, challenged players to become a team of fearless adventurers on a mission to retrieve sacred treasures from a sinking island. Each player had a specific role - diver, pilot, navigator, engineer or messenger - bringing unique skills to help the team. But the island was sinking fast. Would they succeed or be swallowed by the sea? Each game brought fresh challenges and encouraged collective, strategic thinking. MT



## YEAR 6 VINEY HILL

On arrival at Viney Hill, we enjoyed a quick lunch, and the children were ready to begin their first activities. Two groups were biking on the trails in the Forest, whilst the other two remained on-site to spend the afternoon on the tower, climbing wall and the drop! Although some of the cycling was rather challenging, everyone displayed typical Berky spirit and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. In the evening, we ventured out on a night walk, back into the forest, back along the trails! The following day of activities saw groups down on the lake, cycling through the forest and others climbing and jumping off the 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, reflecting on the day and finishing with a sing-off between the boys and girls! By lunchtime the following day, the children and staff were feeling a 'happy exhaustion' - it had been a fantastic residential. JH

# ...OFF WE GO...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



## COTSWOLD FARM PARK

The Kindergarten children began their adventure exploring the Rare Breeds Walkway, where they observed a variety of fascinating farm animals. Their excitement continued in the woodland activity areas, where they built dens and went on exciting bug hunts. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Discovery Barn, and they especially enjoyed the sandpit play area. It was a day full of exploration, fun and outdoor adventure! GB



## BRISTOL AQUARIUM

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

## ALL THINGS WILD

The Reception children had a roar-some day at All Things Wild! They stepped back in time and met some of the amazing dinosaurs they have been learning about. They followed in the footsteps of Mary Anning, finding real fossils and sharks' teeth in the Palaeontologist Experience. They ended their adventure with a well-earned ice cream and a round of mini-golf in the park. Z M-S



## EARLY YEARS

Our Kindergarten and Reception Sports Day was filled with sunshine, smiles and boundless energy as our youngest children took part in a fun-filled morning of races and games.

Excited cheers rang out as the children lined up at the start line, ready to run as fast as their little legs could carry them. From quilt balances to mini sprints, every event was met with laughter, determination and huge enthusiasm.

It was a delight to see such happy faces, with children supporting one another and celebrating each other's efforts. Whether crossing the finish line first or simply giving it their best try, every child showed courage, teamwork and joy in taking part.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with proud family cheering from the sidelines. A big thank you goes out to all the staff who helped with such a special morning.

Well done to all our amazing Early Years children - your energy, effort and happiness made the day truly special! CK



## PRE-PREP

Our annual Year 1 and 2 Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of energy, enthusiasm and team spirit! The sun shone as our youngest pupils took to the field, full of speed, determination and smiles.

From the first race, it was clear this would be a day to remember. Children sprinted, relayed and tackled obstacle courses, cheered on by friends, teachers and proud families. Whether racing to the finish or encouraging teammates, every child gave their best and showed superb sportsmanship.

There were smiles all round as each event brought excitement, laughter and plenty of encouragement. The atmosphere was full of celebration and support, with every effort recognised and applauded.

I am so proud of the children for their participation and resilience. A huge thank you to staff and families who made it such a success. Well done! CK





THE LOUDEST CHEERS WERE FOR THE BIGGEST EFFORTS - THAT'S THE SPIRIT OF BERKHAMPSTEAD

# OUR PREP PUPILS FLY HIGH!

Our Prep Sports Day was a brilliant showcase of energy, determination and team spirit. With the sun shining and excitement in the air, the children took part in a wide range of events including sprints, long-distance races, relays, long jump and throwing events.

From the very first race to the final relay, every child gave their best. There were lightning-fast sprints, powerful throws,

impressive jumps, and gritty performances in the longer races. The relays brought out fantastic teamwork and cheering from classmates on the sidelines made the atmosphere even more special.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and so much encouragement between teammates. Every child, whether winning or not, showed great effort, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day.

## FIELD RECORDS BROKEN

Francesca I Long Jump, Rupert S Long Jump, Hermione H Long Jump, Atharv I Cricket ball throw, Jasper W Shot Putt

## TRACK RECORDS BROKEN

Max T 75m sprint, Hermione H 100m sprint

Well done to all our young athletes - you made us proud with your hard work, positivity and passion for sport.

A big thank you to all the staff and families who helped make the day such a success!

**House relay winner: St Andrew's**

**Field event winner: St Andrew's**

**Overall winners: St Andrew's**



## SWIMMING GALA

Twelve pupils competed in the Cheltenham Schools Swimming Gala. There were a range of heats (individual and relay) and the children all put in maximum effort. Amazingly, we had finalists in three of the four competitions. The relay finals were first, and our Year 5 team - brilliantly anchored by Hermione - absolutely smashed it, winning comfortably and bringing home gold. However, she had to immediately swim her two-length individual open race, having qualified third fastest. Despite this, she finished a very creditable fourth. We also had a Year 5 representing the school in the boys' open final; Seth produced another fantastic performance to finish fourth. All our pupils were outstanding. IP



## ATHLETICS

Our athletes represented us with pride and passion at the County District Athletics event. Competing against strong teams from across the district, every member of our squad gave their all and demonstrated true dedication, resilience and sportsmanship.

There were some brilliant individual and team wins, with standout performances on the track and in the field, but just as importantly, there was excellent teamwork and support throughout the day. Whether celebrating a victory or learning from a tough race, our athletes showed maturity, respect and determination.

The atmosphere was buzzing with encouragement, and it was fantastic to see the children pushing themselves, cheering each other on, and enjoying the experience.

A huge well done to everyone who took part - your effort, attitude and team spirit made us all so proud. CK

**Sprint**  
Rupert S Gold, Jasper W Gold, Hermione H Gold

**Distance Race**  
Thomas H Bronze, Edith H Silver, Allegra Spicer Bronze, Olly Breach Silver

**Throw**  
Jack H Gold, Atharv I Silver, Polly B Silver

**Relays**  
Year 6 Boys Gold, Year 6 Girls Bronze, Year 5 Girls Bronze  
Jump Rowan J Gold





YEAR 3



YEAR 4



YEAR 5



YEAR 6



U8 | GIRLS' CRICKET

What a brilliant year of cricket! I have been impressed with the progression shown across all the main aspects: batting, fielding and bowling. I have loved watching the improvement in bowling with all the girls producing wicket-taking balls on occasions: lovely straight arms! When fielding, they are quick to move to the ball, searching for a run-out or to restrict the opposition. I have also been impressed with their encouragement and support of each other. As the season has progressed, the girls' batting has also moved on from hitting and hoping to controlled, purposeful shots. The girls should be extremely proud of their team, both for performances and the support they provide each other: Well done, girls, on a great cricket term! IP

**U8 Team:** Sasha B, Lizzie C, Nina C, Georgina C, Rosie D, Layla F, Fifi G, Sophie H, Frankie I, Maddie LG, Kitty L, Meriem T, Eleanor 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 regarding 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 many more wickets than had taken and scored many 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:** Olivia B, Eleanor C, Betty D, Maddy E, Lilian L, Tilly M, Jessica P-T, Florence P, Florence R, Annabelle S, Lada S, Astrid S, Eden S, Lucy W, Annie W, Chloe W

U10 | GIRLS' CRICKET

It has been a year of improvement and confidence-building in cricket for the U10 squad. 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 some wins were secured due to those sneaky runs! Some girls have begun to bat with intelligence, thinking about where they would like to place the ball. Sadly, we did not have as many matches as planned as some of our opponents cancelled due to a host of reasons. 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:** Nancy A, Eden B, Isabella B, Tamar C, Alanah F, Neve G, Anna H, Edith H, Starlar H, Hermione H, Jemima H-S, Amelia I, Eleanor K, Iris M, Amara M, Alayna M, Chloe R, Beau R

U11 | GIRLS' CRICKET

What a season it has been for our U11 girls' cricket team! From the first games session to the sun-soaked matches, this fantastic bunch has impressed everyone with their commitment, camaraderie and ever-improving skills.

Close matches showcased the girls' resilience. The girls were disciplined bowling in the games and have made great improvements. Even in matches that didn't go our way straight from the start, the team bounced back quickly, treating each setback as a learning moment rather than a defeat.

Whether they were cheering a teammate's boundary, sprinting to back up an overthrow, or consoling a bowler after a near miss, the girls' support for one another never wavered. That togetherness translated into cohesive on-field strategies and an infectious energy that, at times, lifted the whole squad.

Congratulations to every girl who played with heart and improved with every week that passed. I am sad to see you go but wish you all the best in your future schools. CK

**U11 Team:** Annabelle A, Polly B, Izzy B, Lara C, Rosie E, Melba F, Charlotte H, Olivia M, Emily O'K, Megan P, Hannah P, Florence PT, Isla R, Allegra S, Remi T, Evie W and Yaz Y  
**Outstanding:** Allegra S, Evie W and Polly B  
**Colours:** Allegra S, Evie W, Polly B, Melba F, Charlotte H, Florence PT



U8 | BOYS' CRICKET

The boys had a good term's worth of cricket. They all improved their bowling, batting and fielding skills throughout the term. Each skill is quite difficult to pick up. Bowling proved particularly tricky to learn but the boys worked well.

They played three great matches against The Richard Pate School, Hopelands and Ashley Manor. Each match showed a good progression in terms of teamwork and all-round match knowledge.

The boys have shown a keen enjoyment for the sport and next year will see even greater improvements. Well done! TM

**U8 Team:** Douglas A, Ben B, Hugo B, Gabriel C, Louie D, Heath G, Max G, Zac H, Thomas H, Tobias L, Elliott L-O, Harvey M, Rufus P, Franklin R, Finley S, Eliyas SR

U9 | BOYS' CRICKET

Initial training focused on the basics of bowling, and bat and ball handling, which then developed into more specific sessions, where the emphasis focused in on hitting low drives and on fluid fielding. Across all our fixtures, we had some excellent success and some big wins, including a triple victory for all three U9 teams against both Rendcomb and King's School. For the green team, a 25-run win against Rendcomb was probably the best result of the season; for the blue team, it was either the 19-run victory against King's or perhaps the 20-run defeat of Ashley Manor. For the red team, easily the most exciting match was away against King's School which resulted in a Berky win by a single run! Conversely, the 39-run win against Rendcomb was the most comprehensive of the campaign.

Across the season, it was brilliant to see the development of the boys' skills and technique, and everyone played their part in the successes on the field, with some superb catches, some run outs and some massive boundaries. Thank you to the parents for their support and a massive high five goes to every player for their enthusiasm, effort and teamwork. KJ

**U9 Team:** Ralph A, Ezra B, Rocco B, Jonah B, Ned D, Guy D, Leo D, Archie D, Jack O, Arturo P, Jacob P, Devan P, George R, Sebbie R, Arlo R, George R-S, Rupert S, Eric S, Ben S, Oliver S, Felix T, Max T, Jack W, Walker W



U10/11 | BOYS' CRICKET

It's been a fantastic season for the U10/11 Incrediball teams. The improvement in all areas - especially bowling - has been brilliant, with many players delivering accurate, wicket-taking balls. Batting has also come a long way, with more controlled pull and cut shots replacing hopeful swings. Fielding and decision-making have developed well, and we'll continue to build on that next season. Most impressively, the team spirit and support for one another have been outstanding. Well done to all on a great term of cricket! ZL

**U10/11 Team:** Mark B, loan C, Jonas D, Magnus D, Jacob H, Quinn H, Arthur H, Eddie H, Rowan J, Eddie S, Seth L, Max LG, George L, Toby M, Milo R, Dion W

Hughie B, Leo C, Angus C, Charlie F, Jack F, Charlie H, Miles H, Tharusha J, Atlas M, Archie M, Henry P, Rishik R, Charlie W

U11A | BOYS' CRICKET

The U11 team have had a successful season, playing an exciting brand of cricket. We had some fine wins against Ashley Manor, Cricklade, Heywood and Hatherop and ended the season with a wonderful performance in the Cheltenham Schools Knockout Trophy. Three victories led us to the final where we hit top form to defeat Ashley Manor by over 60 runs. I was delighted how the group have grown into a supportive and cohesive team, as they have developed their skills and had great fun playing together. Well done to all of the boys. P McC

**U11A Team & Colours awarded to:** Ted B, Olly B, Lucas da C V, Fergus G, Jack H, George H, Atharv I, Ellis M, Toby R, Jasper W  
**Outstanding:** Jack H, Artharv I



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 2025

**ENGLISH CUP** Charlie F  
**MATHEMATICS CUP** Lara C  
**SCIENCE CUP** Jasper W  
**COMPUTING CUP** Charlie H  
**FRENCH CUP** Atlas M  
**SPANISH CUP** Henry P  
**HISTORY CUP** Megan P  
**GEOGRAPHY CUP** Charlotte H  
**RS CUP** Rishik R  
**ART GOBLET** Yaz Y  
**CWB CUP** Hannah P  
**ALL-ROUND ACHIEVEMENT**  
Annabelle A & Allegra S

**WENDY BURROWS CHORAL CUP**  
Charlotte H  
**MUSIC CUP FOR ALL-ROUND**  
**MUSICIANSHIP** Charlie H  
**JAMES AGG JAZZ CUP** Atlas M  
**INSTRUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT**  
Remi T  
**CROKER CUP FOR OUTSTANDING**  
**PERFORMANCE** Izzy B  
**CREATIVE ARTS CUP** Rosie E  
**PROGRESS CUP** Miles H  
**BARTLETT ENDEAVOUR CUP**  
Melba F

**HEADTEACHER'S CUP**  
Toby R & Isla R  
**COURTESY CUP** Olivia M  
**ADVENTURE SHIELD** Tharusha J  
**PLATINUM AWARD TROPHY**  
Allegra S  
**BERKY AMBASSADOR CUP** Archie M  
**ECO-WARRIOR CUP** Jack F  
**PATRICIA SMITH CUP FOR**  
**SPORTSMANSHIP** Evie W  
**WILLIAMS SPORTS CUP**  
**FOR GIRLS** Florence P T  
**PODMORE ATHLETICS CUP** Olly B  
**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER**  
Emily O'K & Fergus G

**SCOT SIMMONDS SPORTS CUP**  
Jack H  
**MOSS CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP**  
Lucas DCV  
**THE HOWARD CUP FOR CHESS**  
Jasper W  
**COLE CHESS CUP** Hughie B  
**THE GOVERNORS' CUP** Leo C  
**BERKY PRIZE** Polly B  
**MACKIE CUP FOR GENERAL**  
**KNOWLEDGE** Angus C  
**OUTDOOR PURSUITS** Charlie W  
**ALL-ROUND ACADEMIC** Angus C

### LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

Annabelle A  
The High School Leckhampton  
Hughie B  
King's School, Gloucester  
Oliver B  
Cleeve School  
Polly B  
Dean Close Prep School  
Sports & Music Scholarship  
King's School, Gloucester, Sports Scholarship  
Isabella B  
Denmark Road Grammar School  
Lara C  
Cheltenham College Prep School  
Leo C  
The High School Leckhampton  
Angus C  
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School  
Lucas DCV  
The Cotswold School  
Rosie E  
Balcarras School  
Melba F  
Beaundesert Park School

Charlie F  
The High School Leckhampton  
Jack F  
The High School Leckhampton  
Fergus G  
Cleeve School  
Jack H  
King's School, Gloucester  
Sports Scholarship  
Dean Close Prep School, Sports Scholarship  
Charlie H  
Balcarras School  
Charlotte H  
Pate's Grammar School  
Miles H  
King's School, Gloucester  
Tharusha J  
Balcarras School  
Olivia M  
King's School, Gloucester  
Academic & Drama Scholarship  
Ribston Hall Grammar School  
Atlas M  
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School

Archie M  
Cleeve School  
Emily O-K  
Pittville School  
Henry P  
Marling Grammar School  
Megan P  
Balcarras School  
Florence PT  
Dean Close Prep School  
Headmaster's Award  
Wrekin College, Sports Scholarship  
Hannah P  
Balcarras School  
Rishik R  
Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School  
Toby R  
The High School Leckhampton  
Isla R  
Denmark Road Grammar School  
Allegra S  
RGS Worcester, Sport Scholarship  
The Crypt Grammar School

Remi T  
King's School Gloucester  
Academic, Music & Art Scholarship  
Dean Close Prep School, Academic,  
Music & Art Scholarship  
The Crypt Grammar School  
Charlie W  
King's School, Gloucester  
Evelyn W  
King's School Gloucester  
Sport & Academic Scholarship  
Denmark Road Grammar School  
Jasper W  
King's School, Gloucester  
Academic Scholarship  
Yaz Y  
The High School Leckhampton  
King's School, Gloucester, Art Scholarship



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