



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you have heard, Berkhampstead has become the Gloucestershire Independent School of the Year. I was thrilled to be at the awards ceremony on Wednesday evening and to receive the award on behalf of the superb Berky staff team, the amazing pupils and of course you too for all your support. In the day-to-day of school life there isn't always time to stop and reflect on what a wonderful school we have the privilege of being part of. This award ratifies what we all know; Gloucestershire has many excellent schools, but Berky is an exceptional school.

I so enjoyed the Berky Fete - what a fabulous event! It was certainly busy and the rainy weather held off and we saw lots of sunshine. I thoroughly enjoyed trying as many stalls as possible including the target bowling game, ping pong game and throwing the carrot into the rabbit's mouth! I decided not to get my hair braided, face painted and nails done but I could see many had taken advantage. The raffle hampers were brilliant this year and I was disappointed my ticket wasn't picked out. It was great to see some of our alumni back in school and 'The Berky Boys' band, made up of last year's Year 6 were great to listen to all afternoon. Thanks to Will, Will, Will and Ollie and to Mr Senior for arranging this. The Pimm's went down well too!

My enormous thanks to all in the PTA involved in the organisation and planning and in particular Joey Bowden - it certainly paid off and was a lovely community event.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the 'New To...' evenings this week. We have met the new parents to Kindergarten and Reception and there's plenty of excitement about what September has in store.

Today, I witnessed 'Stella the Starfish', the Year 2 play which was magnificent. So many amazing sea creatures all acting, singing and performing to an audience of parents. A huge thanks to Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Smith and Miss Middleton, as well Mrs Taylor for scenery and props and Mrs Sallis for all the tunes. And thank you to the Year 2 parents for some amazing costumes!

Yesterday I heard staff and pupils recounting the matches our U11 cricketers have played in the last two days against Richard Pate. Mr McCreanor is very proud of their performances - more of this below. Our teams have also played St Edward's and Dean Close this week and our U8 teams are playing Richard Pate and Rendcomb this afternoon. Well done to all the Prep children for their contributions to sport at Berky; they play so many games and enjoy the teamwork and competition this brings.

I also had the pleasure of taking 20 of our Chess Players to Churchdown Primary this week to take on a combined Gloucester Schools team made up of the top players from 5 primary schools. It was lovely to have face-to-face chess games again after a break of over 2 years. I know Mr Cole was pleased that our Year 6 players had the opportunity to play a match before they move on. We competed well in all the games and won the top two boards. The final score was 14 - 6 to the Gloucester Schools but all 20 of the Berky Chess Masters played well.

It is SUCH a pleasure, and a privilege, to witness - every day - the enjoyment of participation and learning at Berkhampstead. We will do our best to show you some of this through the Berky Blazer this term.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 1ST JULY SUMMER TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 4th July

Pre-School and Reception Dress Rehearsal

Y6 Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 5th July

9:15am Kindergarten Sports Day

10:00am Reception Sports Day

6:00pm Y6 Production

Wednesday 6th July

9:30am Y2 Sports Day

11:00am Y1 Sports Day

2:30pm U11 Girls' Cricket

v RPS (A)

2:55pm Kindergarten Ballet Show

3:45pm Reception Ballet Show

7:00pm PTA Meeting

Thursday 7th July

Y1 Beach Day

9:15am Pre-School and Reception

Concert - Kindergarten parents

Friday 8th July

Y5 Trip to Black Country Living Museum

9:15am Pre-School and

Reception Concert - Reception parents

6:00pm Y6 Production





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News from Early Years

KINDERGARTEN

On Thursday, Kindergarten had the opportunity to watch the Year 2 performance of Stella the Starfish. I know the Kindergarten children enjoyed the singing, dancing, and narration because I watched their faces throughout and they were completely mesmerised. It fills me with pride to watch the children and remember them from their days in Kindergarten.

This week we have been practising for our own concert and once again the children did not let me down. The children tell the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff who meet some princesses, gingerbread men, Red Riding Hood and a couple of trolls on their journey across the green, green grass. During their music lessons the children have been learning different actions, practising the songs, and singing with great enthusiasm. They are looking forward to presenting the concert to their parents and will look amazing on the day thanks to the great costumes provided.



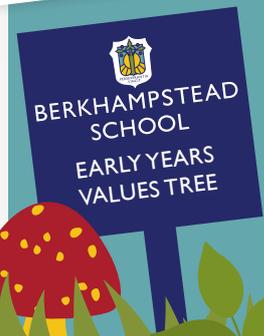
Concert for Kindergarten parents
Thursday 7 July 9.15am

Concert for Reception parents
Friday 8 July 9.15am

We have also had lots of fun practising for Sports Day, and some of our children are taking the competition very seriously. The children will run a series of both flat running races and novelty races. I love how there is great concentration during the egg and spoon race and a huge smile when they cross the winning line.

Kindergarten Sports Day
Tuesday 5 July 9.15am

It will be amazing to enjoy and celebrate the end of another great year together with our children and parents. MM



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten: Archie M, Flora R, Oliver N, Huxley R, Lucy P, Shanaya J

Edna Bear: Immie R and Adelaide R





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

RECEPTION

Thank you for all who attended Reception Introductory Meeting on Thursday - it is always a privilege to share the learning and exciting activities we cover in the Early Years Department. It was lovely meeting the new parents as well as known parents.

Reception children have been eagerly following Berky Bear on his travels around the world. Last week he visited Australia and the children found out very interesting facts about Australian animals and explored indigenous Australian artwork.

After enjoying his tour of Australia, Berky Bear set off to Brazil to explore the largest country in South America where it is home to many other fascinating animals, and for its cheerful and vibrant atmosphere during Carnival time.

The children had great fun with finding out about Brazil, the famous landmarks, climate and not forgetting the Amazon Rainforest. Berky Bear couldn't visit Brazil without experiencing a carnival; he loved the colourful costumes, samba music and dance, grand parades, and food festivals. The children decided to write Carnival invitations and discussed what they might wear to the carnival.

The highlight of the week was learning all about Brazil's national dance, the samba. They loved exploring samba dance moves and music and held their very own carnival! The children paraded performing their samba music and showcased their fantastic dance moves.

'30 Days Wild' continues and the children have experience many activities one of their favourite have been tree hugging and sensory bingo which provided rich sensory experiences for children and staff!



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Reception: Louie D,
Francesca I, Eleanor W,
Finley S





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Stella the Starfish





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news

Thank you to everyone who grew plants for Mrs Agg's Plant Stall at the Summer Fete, and especially our eco-committee and the Year 2 gardening club. Thanks, too, to the volunteers who helped man the stall on the day - Amelia J, (5K) Seth L, (2GS) Mr and Mrs Taylor and Mrs Rees - the stall made £211.



News from around The school

Congratulations to this fabulous Year 2 pupil who challenged herself to skip every day in June to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This impressive youngster has made a brilliant £215. Well done from everyone at Berky!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

macron
GLOUCESTER/STORE

New sport kit

The Berkhampstead School Club shop
is now open at Macron Gloucester
and can be reached at
macronstoregloucester.com

Cricket reports...

GIRLS

U10 v St Edward's - Match 1

This was our final match of the season and the girls did not disappoint! We won the toss and chose to field first. Our bowling has certainly improved; all the girls were bowling with increased accuracy and pace. We limited their run count to 48 runs, with some excellent fielding and quick thinking, gaining a few wickets along the way. During our batting innings, the girls took mainly calculated risks to gain those sneaky runs. St Edward's began to pile on the pressure, with some excellent catches. However, Berky stuck to their game plan and managed to secure a healthy victory, gaining 77 runs. Well done, ladies! You have come a long way this season!

U10B v St Edward's

It was my absolute pleasure to take the U10Bs to St Edward's School on Wednesday this week as it was so lovely to see them in a match – the last time was over a year ago when they were little Y4s! We fielded first and started strongly; a wicket was taken on the first ball of the second over (with a fantastic catch from Nina); we bowled really well, managed to keep their score low and we took 3 further wickets (with Amelia J and Erin R on fire with accuracy). St Ed's scored 278 off 15 overs.

For our innings, the girls batted beautifully with lots of good hits (lots of 4s from Alina and Chloe M) and cheeky runs, leading us to a 288 total – a win by just 10 runs and only 2 wickets lost! It had been a very well-balanced match, but a deserved win for these girls! Well done, all!

U11B v St Edward's

What a close and exciting game this was! Berky started off batting and we steadily scored runs with the loss of only 2 wickets. There was excellent communication and running between the wickets and Berky ended up with a score of 291. St Edward's responded with some fine batting but they lost 4 wickets which made all the difference. The champagne moment was a fantastic catch by Zoe B in the last over. The ball was whacked to her and the ball stuck securely in her hands which gave Berky a 3 run win. We won 291 to 288 Well done!

BOYS AND GIRLS

U11/10 v The Richard Pate

On Wednesday afternoon, the U11/10 cricket team played a match against RPS. The match was at the Victoria Ground and the team chose to field first. The team bowled and fielded well, keeping the field tight and preventing any balls from escaping into the boundary. There were 8 wickets taken from RPS, 3 of these by Seb, and they finished with 313-8. When we came to bat, it was a challenge because RPS had some good bowlers. The team tried their best but the boys from RPS fielded well which made it difficult for us to score runs. We finished on 273-9 so a loss for us but a close score.

This was such a close match, and it could've gone either way; well done to all the boys and girls who played on Wednesday.

Berky 273-9 RPS 313-8

BOYS

U8 Bisons v The Richard Pate

The Bison boys played a lovely game of cricket. Since our last match we have worked hard on our bowling and this was in evidence. RPS was put into bat. They had 6 pairs each batting for 2 overs. In 6 of those overs we were able to take a wicket meaning that their score was decreased by 30 runs. We also gave away a lot less wides and no balls.

When we went into bat we had 4 pairs each batting for 3 overs. There were plenty of 4s and a few 6s scored throughout our innings. We only lost 2 wickets. I was very pleased with all of the boys: Oliver, Lucas, Charlie W, Miles, Leo, Atlas, Rishik and Jack F. The game ended with a win: 318 – 275. Well played, boys!

U8 Buffaloes v The Richard Pate

On Friday afternoon the U8 boys played a cricket match against Richard Pate. The match was at the Victoria Ground, and we won the toss so chose to field first. The boys bowled and fielded well with few wides and no balls, and they took 3 wickets from RPS. Their tight fielding made it difficult for RPS to score runs and RPS finished on 215-3. The boys went into bat knowing they did not need many runs to win, and they played some excellent cricket. Jack and Hughie hit some 6s and lots of 4s, scoring an amazing 34 runs for their overs. The boys finished on 275-2 so a good win.

Thanks to the parents and friends that came along to support the boys.
Berky 275 - 2 Richard Pate 215 - 3

U9A v Dean Close

Berky U9As went into the last game of the season at Dean Close, with an unbeaten record so the pressure was on to finish the season with a clean sweep of wins. Wilf won the toss and decided to put Dean Close into bat. Once again, we showed just how much our bowling and fielding has improved. Dean Close struggled to find runs despite a hard, fast out field. We took six wickets to keep Dean Close's score down to 53 with some excellent bowling figures from all the boys. We began our batting with an encouraging opening partnership score of 29 from Ted and George with Ted hitting three sixes. Tom, Ben, Zack and Dylan faced, without doubt, some of the quickest bowling this season and despite us losing four wickets they weathered the storm and managed to add 18 runs. 14 more runs from Sid and Ben S meant that our last pair of Wilf and Alistair were able to relax and hit freely and add 20 to a finishing score of 81 for 7 and a comfortable win by a margin of 28. This was a superb end to the season with all the boys playing at the top of their game and fully deserving of an unbeaten season.

U11A v The Richard Pate

The final hard ball game of the season was an absolute stunner to finish the season. Richard Pate's batted first and got off to a fast start. They had some fine batters and we were under pressure in the early part of the match. They scored 88 off the first 10 overs and were on for a big total. However Isla R and Barnaby bowled their openers and Ben bowled a very good number 3 batsman and this changed the complexion of the match. Wickets by Jacob D-T and two from Otto had them under pressure and then a wonder over from Felix, where he produced a triple wicket maiden almost completed their innings. They finished on 110 all out.

A steady opening partnership from Sam and Otto gave us a solid platform. Although our run rate was a little slow at the beginning, we began to pick up the pace, nudged quick singles and dispatched the bad balls for boundaries. Manas was the glue that held the innings together alongside an excellent innings from Isla (9) which saw us over the line with seven balls to spare. Manas finished on 54 not out and we finished on 113 for 4, winning by 6 wickets.

It was a tense affair and some quality cricket was on show. Well done, to all of the team for a fantastic performance.

U11 Knockout Cricket trophy

Yesterday the U11 team played in the Knockout Trophy, a competition which has been played since 1929.

We took on Charlton Kings in the quarter final. Bowling first, we were accurate with line and length and gave away little in the field. We took 8 wickets, restricting them to 191. We batted sensibly, and cantered to a 94 run victory.

The semi-final was against Warden Hill, who had knocked out St Edwards in the previous round. Once again our bowling was excellent and included a hat trick from Manas. We took 13 wickets in all, with them finishing on 169. All of the boys contributed with the bat, to finish on a total of 285 and a win by 101 runs.

This took us to the final against Richard Pates, who we had beaten in a hard ball game, the day before. They batted first and reached a total of 271, with some fine batting. Our batting was solid but against a very good bowling attack, we couldn't quite manage to get the boundaries we needed and as a result lost by 26 runs. It was a valiant effort but it was not to be on this occasion.

It was a very successful tournament and the boys played some wonderful cricket. I was very proud of them for the quality of their cricket, their cohesiveness as a team and excellent sporting attitude.

Well done to all of the boys!