



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a lovely social event this year's family fireworks proved to be - children and parents alike enjoyed delicious food and drink, plenty of sparkling, flashing plastic things and good company! The fireworks were super - my thanks to Graham and his firework team, as well as all the PTA and helpers for organising and executing such a great evening. Next up in this busy term for the PTA is the Christmas Fayre and I'm pleased to be able to announce that Father Christmas has once again agreed to attend. Those boys and girls who have been good ... and would like to see him ... please pick up a booking form in the office!

This week saw a Berky first with a competitive fixture on our fabulous new playing surface - the MUGA. It was lovely to see our U8 and U9 girls playing hockey and making full use of this facility. There were hiccups with supporters' parking which affected collection at the end of school; we are working on a new plan for this - possibly using the Day Nursery car park at this time - we will let you know when arrangements are finalised. May I remind you to not use the School drive and area in front of Pre-Prep at all in a vehicle between 8am and 5pm. This is a busy time with pupils arriving and departing from school and after-school clubs, as well as minibuses returning from the morning transport run and away fixtures and the safety of those walking is a priority.

The Y1 and Y2 Scottish Assembly on Wednesday was a lovely event, with a variety of dancing, singing and informative speakers. The children did very well. It was good to see so many parents and friends there - there were rumours that the Loch Ness monster appeared at some point too - but I seemed to miss that!

Unfortunately Mme Cussen is unwell again having come back to work not fully fit. She has been signed off for some time so we have employed Mrs McCreanor as a cover replacement for her to be Form teacher for 3CC and to teach the French to Pre-Prep and Prep in her absence. The children in 3CC have got to know Mrs McCreanor very well in recent weeks and she is following our Languages curriculum to ensure that the continuity of this is maintained. We wish Mme Cussen a speedy recovery but want to ensure she has plenty of time to convalesce.

Today is Remembrance Day and, as is customary, the school came together for a minute's silence at 11am to remember and to listen to the Last Post. On Monday I spoke in assembly about the history of this piece and how it has evolved to take on the symbolism it now has. I was delighted that after the assembly, Jasper A agreed to join me on the trumpet to play this challenging and very exposed piece. He played it very well and the school stood together to remember those who died or suffered in order that we may live the lives we do today.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7th Nov

Tue 15th Nov 4.15pm – 5.15pm
Year 3–6 Autumn Music Recital

Wed 16th Nov 8.30pm

Prep Assembly by Dean Close
'Oliver, Victorian England'

2.30pm – Hockey U11A, U11B,
U10A, U10B v The Croft (A)

U9 Rugby Festival at Wycliffe
2.30pm – Rugby U11A, U11B v
KSW

2.30pm – Rugby U10A v KSW &
RGS Worcs Springfield (A)

Fri 18th Nov

2.00pm – U8 Rugby Tag Festival
at Hatherop

3.30pm – Hockey U9A, U9B, U8
v Dean Close (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Polite Reminder

As the weather has turned colder, please can all children wear Winter Uniform.

Pre-Prep children should wear either a blazer or duffle coat, they do not need to bring in both.

News from around the school...

KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATE DIWALI

It's the time of year when around the world Diwali is celebrated. The children watched 'The Story of Diwali' which opened their eyes to the difference in culture; looking at their dress, the food they eat, and the decorations they use. They were informed about the importance of light in the celebrations. We even had a little dance to some traditional Indian music.

The children went on to create some gorgeous diva lamps in the creative area. They looked at henna patterns in the mark making area, and created their own on hand cut outs which can now be seen in our interactive display. At the entrance of kindergarten the children used giant chalk to colour in a rangoli pattern, a lovely welcome for all our guests to see.



YEARS 1 AND 2 TO BRISTOL AQUARIUM

On Thursday, Years 1 and 2 set out for Bristol Aquarium. The first excitement was the arrival of the double decker. The children were shown around the aquarium by excellent guides. They learnt many interesting facts: Did you know that fish have no eyelids, so can't blink? Or that male seahorses have babies? The children returned to school still talking about what they had seen!

CHESS NEWS

Berky won their second league match of the season on Thursday afternoon, recording a 6-0 victory at Bishops Cleeve. Congratulations to Toby, Jack, James, Ollie, Eliot and Noah for extending the team's unbeaten run. A young 'B' team comprising only Y3 pupils defeated Bishops Cleeve 'B' by the close margin of 3.5-2.5. Griff, Harry, Phoebe, Darcy, Jonathan and Rupert showed that there are plenty of strong players for the future in the lower school.



Don't forget...

To order your new crest from the John Lewis website to sew onto your existing blazer - only £6 so why not fly the flag for Berky!

www.johnlewis.com/berkhampstead-school-blazer-badge-multi/p2717133





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Polite Reminder

Please could all parents read the ICT Agreement in their children's Homework Diaries with their children and sign to say that they have understood it.

News from around the school...



RECEPTION

Reception celebrated Diwali this week. It was a great opportunity for us all to look at how another faith celebrates a significant celebration in their calendar.

The children watched a DVD which showed how Hindus and Sikhs celebrate

Diwali and the special clothes and food they eat. The children learnt about Mendi patterns that are drawn on their hands and had a go at creating their own. Mrs Dubb also came to visit us and told us the story of Rama and Sita and the Festival of Light.

Reception children have been measuring in Maths this week, they compared weight, length and capacity through a variety of activities. On Thursday the staff and children made jelly, carefully measuring the amount of water needed to make the jelly and trying to pour equal amounts into each cup. Everyone enjoyed eating the jelly as part of Golden Time on Friday.



BOARD GAME CHAMPIONS

Kayley and Daisy in Year 6 have been working hard as part of their Business Enterprise carousel lesson have designed a new board game. They entered it into the 'BrainBox Games' competition and have received an email saying they have been shortlisted for 'Young Games Inventor 2016!' Well done!

Please help Kayley and Daisy by voting:
www.brainbox.co.uk/home/ygivote-2016
Competition ends 30th November.

The winner will receive their height in The Green Board Game Co products; and have a sample of their game made up by their production team. Fingers crossed!



PTA FIREWORKS EVENING

A big 'thank you' to all who worked so hard to make the Family Fireworks Evening such a success last Friday. There are too many to mention by name but you know who you are! Whether you were part of the team that planned and prepared for the event, or one of those who helped on the day itself (or indeed one of the very small group who gave up their Saturday morning to tidy up afterwards), 'Thank You!'

It was a great evening.

Steve Ackland, Chair, 'The Friends of Berkhampstead'





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

RUGBY

U8 Tag Rugby v St Edward's Buffaloes Draw 6-6

The boys played another great game coming away with a well earned 6 - 6 draw. Everyone tried to get involved as much as they could. There was some great tagging by Sebastien and Jack, great support work by Griff and Harry and great runs by Alex and Will.

There is a definite improvement in the team with each game that we play. Well done boys.

U-10 A v St Edward's Won 40-25

This was Berky's best match by far. We played St Edwards in a friendly at the start of the season in a training match and they were definitely the better team. 8 weeks on and Berky had really improved. St Edward's had some very fine and skilful runners who were able to change direction and pace with ease. At the beginning of the game they ran in 3 great tries using the width of the field and great pace. However, with each try scored, Berky replied with an equally impressive score. Adam burst through to score the first try. James Shaw scored an equally impressive second try with Adam adding the third. In the meantime there had been some very strong tackles by George and Benji who made a great try and saving tackles. Their work rate was second to none. George also made a great run drawing the St Edward's players towards him and then offloaded the ball in the tackle and Adam was able to easily score once again with an open field in front of him. The rucking had also improved with Charlie, Benji and Archie proving very effective.

In the second half we conceded a try to bring the scores level once more but then Adam replied with another try and James Shaw crossed over the line shortly afterwards. Berky were now on top. Jack, Benji, James and George proved fearless in their tackling. St Edward's were harried by Rumhann and James E storming forward to stop the opposition moving

forward. St Edward's were often in possession but found themselves often going backwards due to the tight defence. Benji scored before St Edward's scored again.

Charlton, Rumhann, Rhys and Eliot made some great runs forward drawing the opposition in before releasing the wide runners. In the last minute Adam brilliantly intercepted the ball and scored Berky's final try. A great game with lots of improvement; the boys definitely deserved the win with a fantastic team effort.

U11 A v Beaudesert Beaudesert 5 Berkhamstead 55

Last week the U11s had an excellent match against Beaudesert. The first half was a little frustrating, with our opponents gaining lots of possession, mainly due to us giving away lots of penalties at the breakdown. However we still managed to go into half time with a 2-1 lead. In the second half we produced a superb performance. We were disciplined at the ruck and created lots of attacking opportunities with excellent passing and support play. Our try scorers were Bertie (4), Ollie A (3), Harry, Sam, Rex and Ollie R. A fantastic second half! Well done boys!

U8 v St Edward's St Edwards 10 Berky Bisons 30

Last Friday the Berky Bisons took on St Edward's in what was to be a super match for our boys. The first half was closely contested and was 2 tries each at half time. However in the second half we dominated with some blistering runs and wonderful support play, which resulted in 4 second half tries. In defence we were well organised and worked brilliantly together to deny St Edward's any scoring opportunities.

There was superb running from all of the boys. Max, Otto, Jonathan, Johnny and Ollie had some superb attacks.

Rupert was fantastic in defence, making several important tackles. Alex linked well with team mates both in passing and in the defensive line. Our tries were scored by Max (3) Otto (2) and Ollie. A great performance. Well done to all the boys.

U11 A v St Edward's St Edward's 10 Berkhamstead 20

On Wednesday the U11A team had a very competitive game against St Edward's. In the first half, our opponents were out-rucking us and scored two tries as a result. However we worked hard and put together some excellent attacking moves and were rewarded with a score of our own before half time.

The second half was a different story. We dominated the breakdown and used our possession superbly. Our handling and movement was outstanding and we scored three stunning tries. When St Edward's were in possession we were brilliantly organised in defence and put in some huge hits. Ollie, Rex and Sam were outstanding in this area. Our tries were scored by Ollie A, who had a fine game (2), Harry and Bertie. I was delighted with how hard the team worked for each other. Hugo, Jasper, Ethan and Nic, once again were excellent in defence and made great hits in the ruck.

To come from two tries down against a strong side to win showed tremendous character and the quality of the rugby played by our boys was fantastic.

Well done to all the team!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

HOCKEY

Under 9A and B v Richard Pate Both matches 0-0

It is some time since I have seen the under 9s play and what a treat it was! They were the most exciting 0-0 draw I have seen, with both teams attacking well and defending strongly. Sophie in goal and Lorien and Simran playing the two backs were fantastic, and thwarted the Richard Pate girls every time with sensible clearances from the goal area. Frankie held the centre forward position well and there was excellent team work from Georgie at CH and Emily and Lizzie on the wings. Phoebe swapped in with Emily on the wing for part of the game. Well done! As one would expect, the A team match was played at a faster pace with some excellent play from both teams. Berky had their chances and so did the opposition, and it was super to see how much the girls have improved. Hattie in goal for Berky was exceptional and was complimented on her brilliant play by the Richard Pate's staff. Well done to all the under 9's for 2 super matches.

U10B v Richard Pate - Away Lost 5 - 1

The girls knew this was going to be a tough match and it was! RPS started quickly, not really giving our girls a chance to get into the match. Soon we were one goal down. But the Berky girls were not disheartened - they fought back. Kyla was fierce at the front and her determination paid off when she managed to score an equaliser. Eleanor and Hannah worked hard in defence and Darcy made some great saves. Rosannah (our captain) ran up and down the wing tirelessly, swapping from defence to attack. Unfortunately the RPS girls were good at shooting at goal as soon as they reached the D, and this attacking style soon led to a flurry of goals over the next twenty minutes. The score doesn't reflect how hard our girls worked, and they should be proud of their determination and perseverance. Well done girls, your skills really are improving.

U10A v Richard Pate - Away Draw 0 - 0

After watching the B's match, the girls were fired up. Ella made a welcome return to the squad, and was on cheerleader duty on the side lines! The squad of 9 players are learning to rotate on and off, playing in different positions. After the first few minutes we could all see this was going to be a close match. There were missed opportunities on both sides and many a groan from supporting parents as the ball missed the goal by cms! The entire squad played really well - clear passes were linked together and there was more communication between players (although I would like even more, girls!). Defence were fantastic and after an initial 5 minutes of attack by RPS, Alice and Molly protected Leslie beautifully. Emily (our captain) looked up more to direct the ball to either of the wings making a run. It was a fantastic match girls, you played well as a squad and are improving with every match. Well done to you all.

