



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

Yesterday afternoon, the Prep Carol Service took place in the beautiful and packed All Saints' Church. Every Prep pupil took part, performing a harmonious mix of traditional and contemporary carols, with the congregation joining in to raise their voices. Some of our pupils accompanied the hymns on their instruments, adding an extra layer of festive music. A particular highlight was hearing Year 5 perform 'The Christmas Star', a beautiful carol composed by one of our governors, Mrs Gill Agg. Gill and her son, James, accompanied the piece - she on the glockenspiel and James on the cello - creating a wonderfully atmospheric moment.

Year 6 led the service with poise, beginning in the hushed glow of the church and setting the perfect tone for the Nativity narration. They processed with candles, singing 'Past Three O'Clock', while pupils - again from Year 6 - shared heartfelt readings that captured the wonder, joy and spiritual message of Christmas. My thanks go to the peripatetic music staff involved in preparing the children's performances, and to all the many members of staff involved behind the scenes, whose hard work and support helped make the service such a smooth, uplifting and memorable celebration. Special thanks also to Head of Music, Mrs Mitchell, for orchestrating a truly wonderful service.

On Wednesday, I was delighted to accompany Early Years and Pre-Prep to the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury. It was wonderful to see the children (and accompanying staff) so engaged and enjoying the Christmas magic so wholeheartedly. The festive fun continued on Thursday for Pre-Prep and Early Years with a visit from Gizmo, the fabulous children's entertainer. Many thanks to the PTA for so generously funding this end of term treat.



FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

DIARY DATES



Tuesday 6th January
Spring Term begins

Friday 9th January
9.30am Berky Experience Open
Morning for prospective parents
2.30pm U8 Rugby v The Richard
Pate School (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Meanwhile, as well as rehearsing and performing in their Carol Service, the excitement of Christmas has been building for the Prep children with their annual Christmas Classroom Decorating Competition. Classrooms from Years 3 to 6 were judged by Mr Cross – with the help of Mrs de Burgh-Thomas (our Marketing Manager) - who were both hugely impressed by the children's creativity, artistic flair and sense of fun. Needless to say, the judging proved incredibly challenging, and after much deliberation this year's results were: 1st place – 5H, and joint second place, 3O and 6L! Congratulations to all the classes for transforming their rooms – and in some cases – themselves as well, so brilliantly!

I was delighted to present the Kindness Cups at this morning's end-of-term assemblies. Congratulations to Thea G, who was awarded the Pre-Prep Sally Lee Kindness Cup, and to George RS, the very worthy recipient of the Gill Agg Kindness Cup - the Prep School equivalent.

Today, the whole school enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch, complete with turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas crackers, and chocolate yule log for pudding - all while donning our Christmas jumpers. My thanks go to Chef Manager Rob and his team for ending the term with such a delicious feast.

I would like to wish Miss Osmond all the very best as she leaves us after a short time as one of our Year 3 form teachers. She has also taught Year 3 and Year 5 maths, as well as girls' games across the Prep. She leaves with our warmest thanks and every good wish for her next chapter.

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to reflect on how privileged I am to be Head of School at Berkhamstead. This is such a special school, and I am constantly reminded of the warmth, kindness and brilliant teaching that make our community so unique. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Michelle Boreham

Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

What a busy and exciting end to the term we have had in Pre-Prep!

Using vocabulary from our wonderful 'Hey Ewe!' nativity play, Y1 have written the Christmas story using full sentences, capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In CWB, we have looked at a range of emotions and shared times we have had these feelings. We thought about how we display what we are feeling through our body language as well as on our faces.

In computing, we have talked about internet safety and important rules to help keep us safe online. In art, we used oil pastels to create a Christmas tree scene focusing on light and shading.

Y2 have been busy wrapping up our history topic with an inspiring trip to the Holst Museum where we enjoyed learning about life in Victorian times. As well as finding out about Holst himself, we enjoyed making mincemeat which we brought back to school and baked in delicious mince pies! In art, the children enjoyed listening to 'The Planets Suite' while drawing how the music makes us feel as well as creating fabulous collage Christmas cards – we hope you like them!

We all thoroughly enjoyed our panto trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk and had great fun joining in with the songs, dances and booing at the baddie – oh no we didn't, oh yes we did! Many thanks to all the parent helpers who came along on both trips – we really appreciate it.

More excitement followed on Thursday when Gizmo the magician wowed us with his performance before we rounded off our final week perfectly with a delicious Christmas lunch wearing our festive jumpers! Phew!

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we would like to thank the children for working so hard this term and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026. We hope that you have a wonderful time over the holidays and thank you for your continued support.

Happy Christmas! SL



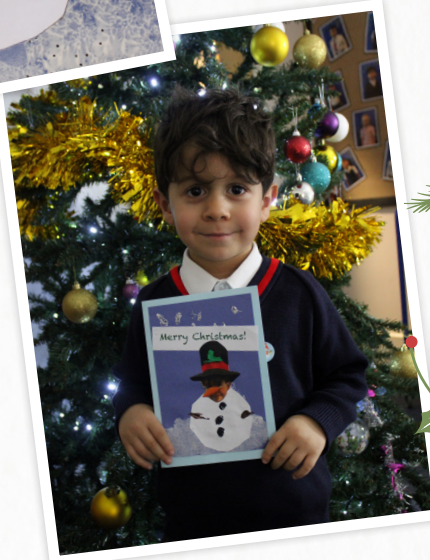


BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS NOTICES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Reception homemade Christmas Cards were brilliantly produced by the children. I am sure you will enjoy yours. In year 1 the children have been creating some lovely bauble artwork. And below is this year's Christmas card to the staff, created by our incredibly gifted Deputy Estates Manager, Heath Thorn.



PARENTS' SURVEY

We recently carried out a pupil questionnaire, and we look forward to sharing the results with you soon. We will shortly be sending out a parents' questionnaire, and we kindly ask you to take a moment to complete it. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us continue to improve our school community.

