



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

In Monday's assembly, I spoke about Anti-Bullying Week 2025, which began with Odd Socks Day - a fun and colourful way for pupils and staff to celebrate individuality, with everyone sporting odd socks or jazzy tights. This year's theme, 'Power for Good', encouraged pupils to reflect on how we can all use our voices to stand up for kindness. We discussed the importance of speaking out when we witness unkind behaviour, rather than staying silent or joining in. Throughout the week, pupils took part in activities during their CWB (Citizenship and Wellbeing) and form times, exploring how to make positive choices and support one another. I also reminded everyone that they can always talk to any trusted adult in school if something is worrying them, and we revisited the acronyms STOP - Several Times On Purpose - and Start Telling Other People. At Berkhamstead, the happiness and wellbeing of our pupils are at the heart of everything we do, and we remain committed to providing exceptional pastoral care. We are also proud to continue holding the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Award, an achievement we have maintained since 2017.

On Monday at 11am, the Prep School gathered to honour those who have given their lives in conflict, observing a two-minute silence in remembrance. Early Years and Pre-Prep children also took part, sitting silently as they watched 'Poppies' which is the two-minute CBeebies animation. In the lead up to Remembrance Day, assemblies and activities across the school helped deepen the children's understanding of this important occasion. Remembrance Day holds a special place in our hearts here at Berky. In 1914, three young men - Douglas Burgoyne Burgoyne-Wallace, Harold Charles Edward Barrett, and John Roland Barrett - lived in Beechmount and Fernbank, now our Pre-Prep building, and sadly lost their lives as a consequence of WWI.

We celebrated Positive Noticing Day on Wednesday. In assemblies, form and circle times, children and staff reflected on the uplifting impact of recognising the good in one another, thus helping build self-esteem and fostering positive feelings within our school community. It was heart-warming to read the children's thoughtful comments about their peers, and a pleasure to write my own messages.

I was pleased to see members of our Prep Eco Committee litter picking around the school grounds recently - a great example of pupils taking pride in their environment. Berkhamstead proudly holds the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, recognising our ongoing commitment to sustainability. We are also pleased to be working with a new cleaning materials supplier who share our values and bring with them a host of impressive eco credentials, further supporting our efforts to make Berkhamstead a greener school.

Have a super weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 17th November

Year 1 Superhero Parents invited in to school this week to talk about their superhero jobs

Tuesday 18th November

Year 4 trip to Chepstow Castle

Wednesday 19th November

2:00pm U10 Boys Rugby Festival at Dean Close (away)

2:15pm U8 Boys Rugby v Cheltenham College Prep (away)

2:30pm U11 Boys Rugby v Hatherop (away)

Thursday 20th November

4:15pm Prep Autumn Recital

Friday 21st November

9:00am U11 County Hockey Tournament

2:30pm U8 and U9 Boys Rugby v Rendcomb (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

It was wonderful to see and welcome so many parents to our classrooms this week and talk about your child's progress. They have continued to wow us with their hard work!

We will remember them. We are extremely proud of Year 1 and Year 2 for the respect they displayed in our Remembrance assembly this week. The children listened carefully to the reasons why we wear poppies and what they represent. We have all had a fun and busy week finding out all about this important day.

Look at us! Year 1 have been introduced to the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' in CWB this week, encouraging us to 'Take Notice'. This led nicely to the school's Positive Noticing Day on Wednesday where the children wowed us with positive comments about their classmates. We hope that your child felt proud to celebrate the lovely things their friends said about them on their luggage labels.

Hot Seating! In English, Year 1 has further explored the symbolism of the poppy as well as thinking of adjectives to describe a soldier. In history we studied photographs from World War II and enjoyed using our historical enquiry skills to make observations and ask questions. We really enjoyed hot seating as a soldier too, making sure that we wrote our questions using a question mark. The children then produced some super sentences about life in the trenches complete with capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and plenty of adjectives.

Our wall displays are currently sporting beautiful pop-up poppies containing our words. Year 1 decided that the soldiers were definitely real-life superheroes!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP *continued*

Count to 10! In maths, the Year 1 children have looked at addition and subtraction within 10. Please could parents help us to practise our number bonds to 10 at home so that we can be super mathematicians too!

In addition! Year 2 have also been recapping our speedy recall of bonds to 10 and working on applying these to our bonds to 20. Sound knowledge of number bonds really are the key to success in maths.

Wonderful Words. In English, we enjoyed listening to the beautifully illustrated story, 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' and using our creative ideas to write poems based on the theme of remembrance. The children amazed us with their use of similes, alliteration and powerful adjectives describing war time and peace time. We have enjoyed performing these along with our bonfire poems with enthusiasm!

Too cool for School! In Art, Year 2 enjoyed representing our poppies in the style of Banksy. After finding out about this street artist, we had fun creating our own interpretation of the true meaning behind the poppy. You will be relieved to know that we drew the line at spraying on the walls, sticking instead to pastels and paper!

History around us. The children have continued to enjoy looking closely at the buildings we are lucky enough to learn in every day as we compare life now and then. We used our imaginations to think what each room might have looked like as a house.

Keep active! We have had great fun in science this week finding out about the effects of exercise on the body. We certainly built up a sweat finding out which activities are best at increasing our heart rates!

Finally... Year 2 enjoyed their well-deserved movie treat for filling up their smiley face jars. A big thank you to Rob Fisher and the team for providing our lovely cookies and hot chocolate – what a perfect end to a busy week! SL





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

BERKY CHANGEMAKERS FESTIVE APPEAL

Following on from last year's phenomenal response to the Berky Changemakers Festive appeal, we are preparing to launch this year's project very soon.

For 2025, we are supporting The Family Haven, a local Gloucester-based charity that lends a vital helping hand to families facing difficult times.

We hope to be able to donate items to The Family Haven for their annual Christmas lunches they host in early December for the families who use their services.

More specific details on the items needed and donation process will be shared soon, but in the meantime if you would like to find out more about this brilliant local charity, please check out www.thefamilyhaven.com

Thank you!
Berky Changemakers

LAMDA EXAM RESULTS

The LAMDA results have just come back, and I am delighted to be able to let you all know that every child who took an exam scored a Distinction grade. There was an average score of 86% and a top mark of 93%, with everyone really reaching their potential in terms of attitude and attainment.
Miss Vines



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

A reminder that dates for our Christmas Holiday Club are now available on Magic Booking. Aimed at 3 – 8-year-olds, activities will include:

TUESDAY 16th to TUESDAY 23rd DECEMBER

- Paper plate Christmas trees
- Festive scented playdough
- Hot chocolate sensory tray
- Pinecone Christmas trees
- Christmas baking
- Christmas card making
- Christmas wrapping station

... and much more!

In addition, our **Christmas Berky Experience Clubs** for our Prep children (Years 3-6) are also available:

Mon 15th Dec Christmas Mystery Club: The Case of the Missing List with Mrs Hext

Tues 16th Dec Multi-sports with Mr Lovell

Wed 17th Dec Christmas Baking with Miss Wootton

Thurs 18th Dec Christmas Crafting with Mrs Campling

Fri 19th Dec Chess and board games with Mr Jones

To book any of the above, please visit: <https://berkhampstead.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

Wraparound care will be added by the end of this week. As always, should you have any questions, please email Miss Wootton at holidayclub@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

JOIN THE ADVENTURE AT 10TH CHELTENHAM ALL SAINTS SCOUTS

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to become Beaver and Cub section leaders at one of Cheltenham's oldest and most cherished scout groups. Based in beautiful Pittville Park, our newly refurbished hut is the perfect setting for fun, learning and outdoor adventure. Whether you're a seasoned Scout or new to volunteering, you'll be fully supported by two fantastic group lead volunteers. It's a brilliant opportunity to make a difference, build skills and be part of a vibrant community.

For more information, contact chair@allsaintsscouts.org.uk

BERKHAMPSTEAD PTA

JOIN US FOR

FESTIVE FRIDAY

28 NOVEMBER

PRE-PREP LAWN
3:30-5:30PM

FESTIVE FUN FOR EVERYONE!

FABULOUS CHRISTMAS CRACKER RAFFLE!

FREE HOT CHOCs, MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

GAMES AND CRAFTS

AND MUCH MORE!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS

It's been another busy week for the PTA. The PTA met on Wednesday and discussed PTA donations to school as well as exciting plans for Festive Friday on 28th November and other events in the PTA 2026 calendar!

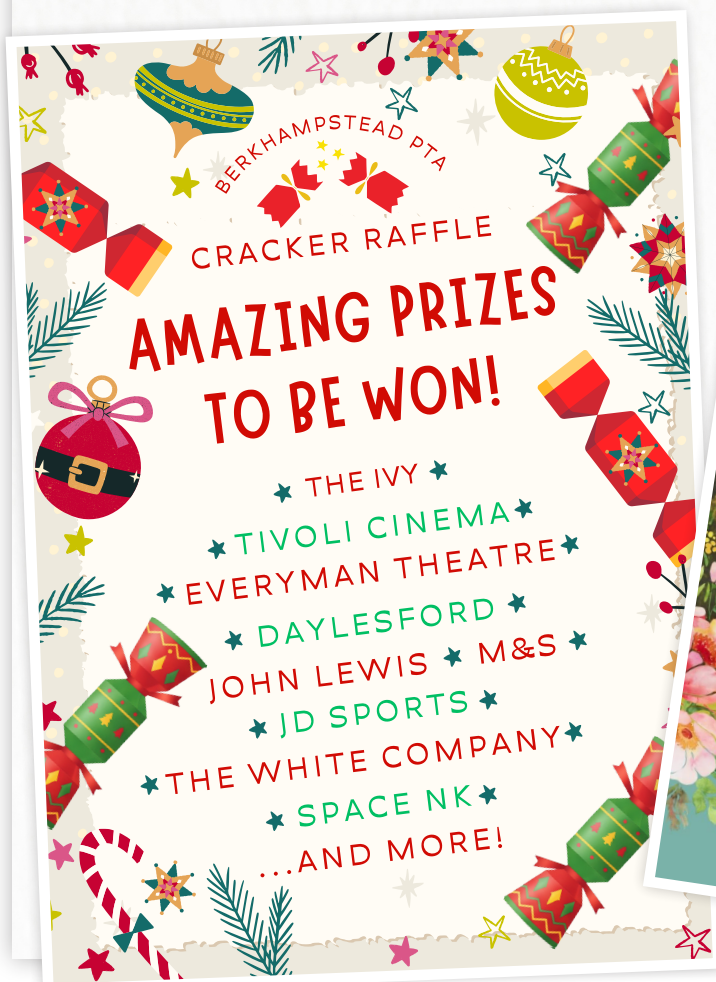
FESTIVE FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER

We launched the 'Christmas Cracker' Raffle this week with lots of fantastic gift vouchers to be won! A big thank you to parents and the Year Group reps for coordinating donations from each year; we hope to update you on the prize pot next week. We have a limited number of raffle tickets available so please do try to order yours via Magic Booking ([E-Shop - Berkhamstead School](#)) if possible and we will also be out after school next Tuesday 18th November selling tickets (card or cash). The draw will take place at Festive Friday at around 5pm.

SUMMER BALL 20th JUNE 2026

We have had a tremendous response to the Summer Ball with over 80% of tickets now sold. We have reopened the booking form until 30th November for those who would still like to join us, including any new parents, for what will be a mid-summer's evening of fun and entertainment at the beautiful Pump Room, please book [HERE](#): Tickets are £85pp and the cost will be added to your January invoices and we'll be contacting you in the new year to arrange seating and dietary requirements.

The PTA Team





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

U11A vs Cricklade Manor

The U11s started off slowly, but after a few minutes the girls got into the flow of the game. It was a short pitch, and we discussed using the space effectively. There was some great defending by the team and lovely passes out wide to our wings. The Cricklade girls were quick from the start and drove into our half with determination. We fought hard but Cricklade managed to get some past us. We kept pushing and scored a few goals, forcing the ball into the D and past the goalie. During the second half, Cricklade were strong in defence and at times, didn't allow our girls an inch of movement. We had a few chances but struggled to get the ball past one or two of Cricklade's defence players. We persevered and achieved a few more goals, passing to the wide and to the corners. We were busy in defence, with all the girls playing their part against a good Cricklade side. Well done girls. 4 – 4 Draw. CK

U10A vs Cricklade Manor

U10 girls started well, working as a team and passing the ball around the space, maybe at times passing too much! We passed the ball well, attacking every ball and making great interceptions. The ball went out on the wing with our girls running the ball out wide. Defence was strong but we were slow at times clearing the ball wide, giving Cricklade more time to push against us. Some nice passes and good teamwork. 5 – 4 loss. CK

U10B & I1B v Cricklade Manor

The U10 and U11B teams suffered a mixed bag when visiting Cricklade. The effort and determination by everyone was superb, but the U10Bs came up against a better team on the day and the U11Bs produced an outstanding performance to come home with the win. Across both games the girls played with respect and demonstrated an excellent range of skills. Both teams showed a better understanding of their positions and worked hard on using the space around them.

The U10B girls had tough competition with the Cricklade girls pushing through and getting the ball past our defence and goalie on a few occasions. We tried hard to tackle, but their players had good ball control and got around us with ease. When we managed to pass the ball out to the wings we made some good moves towards the attacking end. U10B Loss

The U11B girls had an easier game, dominating the opposition. Our defence had a slow game with our attack finishing off a lot of their passes, resulting in Berky getting a few goals before half time. We keep the pressure on from the start of the second half, moving a few players around - allowing the girls to play in different positions. Some good team work and great communication. Well done to all the girls. U11B Win. CK





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U8 Bisons vs The Richard Pate School

The boys played two matches against the two RPS teams. The first was a little tougher than the second. During both matches our tagging was fantastic. All of the boys got stuck in very well and made it as hard as possible for RPS to score tries.

During training we have been working on when to pass and who to pass to. During the first match we seemed to forget what we had been practising and a few of our passes were made too early and not necessarily to the hands we wanted them to go to. In the second match we focused more on running with the ball, then passing once tagged.

In our next sessions we will work on decision making and not being panicked when we have the ball. Any practice of passing a ball at home or in the park helps greatly on the pitch.

We scored many tries in the two matches with a variety of boys getting on to the score sheet. Well done all of you. TM



U10A v The Richard Pate School

The U10A team faced a well-drilled and physical Richard Pate side in what proved to be one of the most exciting games of the season so far. Berky started the match on the front foot, using determination and individual moments of brilliance to build a 4-2 lead by half-time. The boys showed real persistence in contact and worked hard to keep the pressure on their opponents.

The second half saw a strong response from RPS, who began to move the ball confidently across the pitch. Their improved handling and support play allowed them to claw back to 4-4 before pushing ahead to 5-4. At this stage, Berky recognised the need to tighten up their structure, particularly by improving their passing and reducing the number of players committing unnecessarily to the breakdown. As soon as we made these adjustments, the momentum began to shift.

Despite falling behind 7-5, the boys showed fantastic resilience, pulling the score back to 7-6.

In a dramatic final play, Walker spotted space out wide, backed his pace, and dived into the corner to secure a well-earned 7-7 draw. It was a thrilling end to a fiercely competitive match, and both teams can be proud of the rugby they played.

There was plenty to learn from the performance, and next week in training we'll be focusing on creating space, running onto the ball with confidence, and continuing to develop our decision-making at the breakdown.

Man of the Match: Guy D – Guy delivered an excellent display in showing sharp game awareness, rapid reactions to breakdowns, and scoring a superb try to cap off a top-class performance.

A fantastic effort from the whole team, and we look forward to a rematch with RPS in the coming weeks. ZL