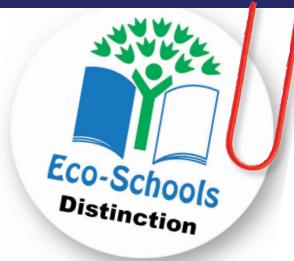




BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

I am delighted that the newly resurfaced Prep playground is now complete and already being enjoyed by the children. It was officially opened on Monday by Mr Martin Kirby, former PTA Chair, who not only cut the ribbon, but also scored the very first goal in the football net! This was followed by a special visit from two basketball players from the Stroud Sharks, including Charlie Hannett, Mrs Hannett's son, who treated pupils to an exciting basketball demonstration during mid-morning break. The event was also attended by some members of the PTA, whose generous contribution – along with Mr Kirby's – helped make this project possible.



Our commitment to environmental awareness continues to grow across the school, with the Prep School Eco-Committee taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch from 23rd- 25th January. To launch this, Mrs Hannett delivered an engaging assembly on Wednesday, encouraging pupils to also get their families involved in the Big Garden Birdwatch. This super initiative involves spending an hour spotting and recording birds, helping contribute valuable data to national conservation efforts. A fun quiz helped pupils learn how to identify common British birds, sparking real enthusiasm. Further information can be found at www.rspb.org.uk; please send photographs of your bird-spotting children to Mrs de Burgh-Thomas at prmarketing@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

This enthusiasm for eco issues is reflected in the increasing number of pupils taking part in the Berkyp Eco Pledge. Details can be found on our website, where there is a dedicated Eco Pledge for the Prep School and a simplified version for the Pre-Prep. Led by our Prep and Pre-Prep Eco-Committees, pupils are encouraged to make sustainable choices and to "Spread the Word!" about greener living. We are delighted to congratulate Alba G (Y3) and Arturo P, Ollie S, Jack W, Devan P, Jonah B, Eden S, Annabelle S and Arlo R, (all Y5) who have recently completed the pledge, and have been proudly awarded their Eco-Warrior badges.



DIARY DATES

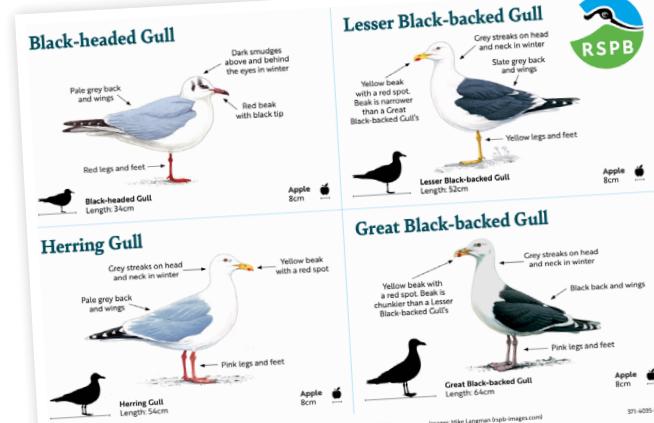
THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 21 January

2.15pm U11 & U10 Girls' Netball
v Rendcomb (away)
2.15pm U11 & U10 Boys' Football
v Rendcomb (away)

Friday 23 January

2.15pm U8 & U9 Boys' Football
v King's Gloucester (home)
2.15pm U9 & U8 Girls' v King's Gloucester (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Last Friday morning's Berky Experience Open Morning was a wonderful success! We were pleased to welcome many new families to explore life at Berkhamstead, and a huge thank you goes to all the staff who made the event run so smoothly. Our next whole-school Open Morning will take place on Saturday 7th March, offering another opportunity for families to see all that Berky has to offer.

Have a super weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

What a cold start to the term, wrapping up warm the children have braved the cold weather and really enjoyed spending time playing with their friends.

Year 1 are all very happy to be back and are incredibly excited about their new topic 'The Poles'. Over the last few days, they have focussed on packing a bag for an Arctic trip, as well as designing their own Polar outfit. They have been encouraged to use their creativity and carefully consider their use of colour, and these are now proudly on display in their classrooms. In English they have participated in a carousel of activities in order to learn facts and write sentences about animals from the Arctic and Antarctic. Art this week has incorporated choosing cold colours to create a collaged background ready for their silhouettes next week. They have compared the temperature at both Poles to a much warmer Cheltenham. In Maths the children are working with and understanding numbers within 20, they have utterly smashed this, and their confidence and accuracy has really impressed us. Forest School has been great fun and dens have been carefully constructed for playdoh polar bears.

Year 2 have quickly settled into the term and are enjoying learning about India. So far they have researched the weather and found out what wildlife lives there. Starting the week in English with an instruction carousel was enormous fun, the children carried out a range of different activities such as directing the Blu-bots to specific locations and telling a partner how to build a LEGO tower whilst hidden behind a screen.

This led on to writing instructions, telling the very hungry Tiger from the story 'The Tiger who came to Tea' how to wash his paws and how to make a delicious jam sandwich. Inevitably, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed using bossy verbs and adding time conjunctions. In Maths they are currently working with money, already confident with this they have immersed themselves in practical role play adding and making amounts using coins and notes.



Art is always a highlight, and they have enjoyed experimenting with different brushes to make thick and thin lines. They used their choices and delved into colour mixing and explored making different shades of green ready for their Henri Rousseau masterpieces! C M-L





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PREP

Over the past few weeks, the Prep School has been awash with enthusiasm and excited children, with some seriously brilliant learning going on. On the top floor of the building, Mrs Hartley has been exploring the avian world within her art lessons, including guiding our talented Year 4s in completing precise line drawings of our feathered friends, using their attention to detail and a steady hand. Going down one floor, Mrs Hannett has been facilitating the exploration of the water cycle, drip-feeding information and tapping into their interests. She has been helping our Year 3s to understand the various process of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection, after which the children identified and labelled diagrams. Within my Year 6 Computing lessons, pupils have explored a variety of apps that include Augmented Reality features, transporting themselves to the surface of Mars as well as bringing sharks, lions and elephants into the classroom. Children assessed each app's features and functionality and considered the benefits and drawbacks of such technology. Next step: producing their own short films that utilise AR!



On the ground floor, Madame McCreanor's classroom has been exuding a certain *joie de vivre* as pupils from Year 5 have started looking at French vocabulary and phrases that describe their pets and family - *j'adore les petits animaux!* Over the next few weeks, pupils will become little language detectives and will need to hunt for meanings by looking for clues within the French words - our own little Hercule Poirots! All in all, a fantastic start to what promises to be a rather fantastic term. KJ





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

PREP PUPILS BECOME BETA READERS

Mrs Hext, one of our brilliant teaching assistants and a talented children's author, is inviting Prep children to take part in an exciting literary project. Following her first book, 'The Storyteller', she is now working on her second book and is seeking young beta readers to help with the process.

Selected children will read sections of the book and provide constructive feedback, gaining a unique insight into how a book is written and published. In return, they will receive a copy of the finished book - and even a mention at the start!

Mrs Hext is also welcoming applications from children at other schools, and will select 15 participants in total based on their application forms. To apply, please scan the QR code.



CALLING READERS AGED 7-12 YEARS OLD!

Every term you'll get to read chapters from the book I'm writing right now and have the chance to help me make it even better!

You'll get to:

- Tell me which parts you loved and what didn't work
- Spot plot holes and tricky bits
- Be part of an author's creative team!

Join the Beta Reader Book Club today!

SCAN ME!



AUTUMN TERM BLAZER

Everyone should have received their Autumn Term issue of the Blazer. It's a fantastic snapshot of a productive and fun term, showcasing the achievements, activities and memorable moments across the school.

If any parent would like another copy then do please get in touch.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U11A v King's Gloucester

The U11A team opened their season with a comprehensive victory against King's. Arthur opened the scoring with a stunning strike to take an early lead. There was lots of endeavour in the first half but we couldn't quite execute in front of goal. The second half saw the team playing with increased tempo and they put some excellent passing sequences together. This resulted in 3 more goals, two from Seth and one from Arthur. A 4-0 win made a fine start to the season. Well done, boys. P McC

U10A v King's Gloucester

The U10A team put in a superb all-round performance against King's School, securing a hard-fought and thoroughly deserved 1-0 victory after an end-to-end match. From the first whistle, the boys showed determination, discipline and fantastic teamwork across the pitch. Our defensive effort was outstanding. The players worked tirelessly to track back, support one another and close down space, which proved crucial as we resisted several strong attacking moves from King's. This collective commitment to defence ultimately won us the game. Some fantastic saves also kept us in the game.

In attack, the boys also created plenty of excellent opportunities, moving the ball well and taking multiple shots at goal. Their persistence paid off when Archie showed great determination in front of goal, following up repeated attempts before finally slotting home the decisive winning strike.



Man of the Match:
Archie earns this week's award not only for scoring the winner, but for his exceptional work rate on the wing. His constant tracking back, ball-winning tackles, and mature decision-making - knowing when to pass and when to take players on - were key to the team's success.

Overall, it was a brilliant display of effort, resilience and teamwork from the entire squad. Well done, U10As - an excellent performance and a well-earned win! ZL

