



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

My assemblies this week were inspired by Ellie Goldstein, a contestant on the current series of Strictly Come Dancing and the first person with Down Syndrome to compete in the show. We explored the theme of disabilities and differences, discussing how some disabilities can be hidden, and we learnt more about conditions such as cerebral palsy and autism. Together, we reflected on how we are all different, all special, and how kindness and respect towards one another are so important — qualities that will be celebrated at the end of the week when I present the Kindness Cups.

This week was an exciting one for our Early Years children, who were visited by Little City Gloucestershire for a morning full of imaginative role-play activities. The children explored a variety of real-world scenarios, including a mini supermarket, post office, hairdressers and a garage. They took on roles as hairdressers, firefighters, builders and café owners, using their imaginations to bring each setting to life. A big thank you to the PTA for funding this fantastic workshop for the second year!

All of our Prep pupils have been making the most of the Cheltenham Literature Festival this week. Year 3 were inspired by the brilliant Cressida Cowell, author and illustrator of 'How to Train Your Dragon', Year 4 were treated to Maz Evans' lively presentation, 'The Last Bard', and Years 5 and 6 enjoyed children's laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce's engaging talk, 'The Blockbusters!'. We are certainly fortunate to have such a noteworthy literary festival here in Cheltenham.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 3rd November

Year 1 Diwali Day

Tuesday 4th November

Year 1 Quest for Guy Fawkes workshop

6:00pm 5J Parents' Evening

Wednesday 5th November

2.15pm U10 A&B Rugby v Cricklade Manor (home)

2.15pm U11 A Rugby v Cricklade Manor (home)

2.15pm U10 A&B Hockey v Cricklade Manor (away)

3pm U11 A&B Hockey v Cricklade Manor (away)

3.30pm U8 Hockey v Dean Close (away)

Thursday 6th November

6:00pm 5H Parents' Evening

Friday 7th November

LAMDA Exams in Prep Hall

2.30pm U8 Rugby v The Richard Pate School (away)





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NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

We were thrilled to welcome a significant number of visitors to our Open Morning on Saturday. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with special praise going to our Year 6 tour guides, who impressed everyone with their enthusiasm for the school. They did a fantastic job, and we are grateful to their families for allowing them to support the event. A big thank you to our talented catering team for providing a delicious array of homemade treats, which were a real hit! I also appreciate the efforts of our teaching staff, whose creative displays of the children's work – and what we do so well here at Berky – added so much to the event, and to all the staff who kindly gave up their Saturday morning to be in school. Thank you for making the morning such a success.

I am looking forward to the final event for this half term – the Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church this afternoon. The Prep children have been preparing their readings, and it's been a joy to hear them rehearsing 'My Lighthouse' and 'Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer' and the Early Years and Pre-Prep children practising 'The Enormous Turnip'. A particularly special moment will be the awarding of the Kindness Cups, the Sally Lee Kindness Cup to a Pre-Prep child, and the Gill Agg Kindness Cup to a Prep School pupil. It promises to be a wonderful event; all donations will go towards supporting Cheltenham Foodbank.

All that there is left for me to say is that I wish you a very happy and restful half term break, and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Last week, Year 1 had a fabulous Superhero Day showing off their superpowers. They came in dressed up in a whole range of superhero costumes and had a fantastic day full of scavenger hunts and obstacle courses. They even designed and created their own amazing superhero capes. This week, they have continued the 'Super' theme and have found out about Nelson Mandela and the ways he helped many people. 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson has become a firm favourite and the children have been performing the story using excellent actions and expression. What 'super' work you have all been doing!

Year 2 have also been using their performance skills, performing the story 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. The budding authors have been writing their own London adventure stories, making sure they use interesting adjectives. In science, the children have been busy sorting animals into their different animal groups, thinking about what their similarities and differences are. They travelled back in time and explored the question 'Has Cheltenham always been the same?' Did you know that in 1716 a flock of pigeons helped to discover the famous Cheltenham spa waters? They found out that Cheltenham has grown from a small Saxon village 1200 years ago to a thriving town as it is today! MW





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

PTA NEWS

The PTA held its annual Quiz Night last Friday and we had a great turn out of parents and staff from across school and nursery. Stephen Bareham made a terrific debut as quizmaster, dazzling us all with his gold sequin jacket and brilliant quiz questions. The winning team 'Nine Lives' took home the shiny new Marc Titley Quiz cup! Many thanks to all parents and staff who came and supported us and who volunteered to make this night a such a success, raising nearly £1,000 for the PTA!

Just a reminder that the booking link is now open for school and nursery parents to join us at the PTA Summer Ball on 20th June 2026. We are delighted to have secured the beautiful Pittville Pump Room for this event and we have lots of fun and entertainment planned on what promises to be another very special PTA event. Please RSVP via the booking link by Friday 7th November.

Our next PTA meeting will take place at 6:30pm in the Pre-Prep hall on 12th November. All parents are very welcome to attend PTA meetings to get involved or find out more about what we do.

Charlotte Chapman, PTA Chair



Gloucestershire Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu immunisations for Reception to Year 6, Tuesday 11th November

Parents, please remember to consent or decline the flu vaccination. Follow the link and then enter our unique school code:

<https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Berkhamstead School Unique Code: GCI15800





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BAGS TO SCHOOL

Many thanks for your donations for Bags2School. All proceeds will be added to PTA funds.

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA

Huge congratulations to Mark B, Year 6, who has been awarded a percussion place in the National Children's Orchestra! He will take part in the Orchestral Weekends in the Midlands next year – an amazing achievement. Well done, Mark!

ST BENEDICT'S SINGERS

We're so proud of Edith H (Year 6) and Thomas H (Year 4), who are valued members of the newly formed St Benedict's Singers - an auditioned choir for children in Years 4 – 9 at Gloucester Cathedral. The choir sings a weekly service and has already performed at several Cathedral events. Edith and Thomas have shown wonderful dedication, musicianship and enthusiasm and are a real credit to Berky – well done!



CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

We're thrilled to share that ex-Berky pupil and local author Anna February, daughter of one of our governors, Mrs Agg, will be appearing at the Cheltenham Literature Festival this Saturday at 3.00pm in The Huddle.

This free event is a wonderful opportunity to hear Anna discuss her young adult novel, *The Hive*, which was published last April. The second book in the series is due to be released in April 2026.

Don't miss this chance to support a former pupil and celebrate exciting local talent!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

UII v Dean Close Festival

B Team: The B team had three games and dominated throughout them all. However, we struggled to finish off the play and end with a goal. The team worked well throughout all three games, pushing the ball up high, but we had no one by the goal to finish of any shots on goal. There were some great runs back to defend within the group. We need to use the width of the pitch a little more during all the games and remember our position to allow that space to be utilised. We drew the games. Well done girls.

A Team: What a great game we started with! We saw some fantastic strong passes coming through the middle in the first half. We were stopped a few times by some fast and skilled Dean Close girls. Berky didn't give up and kept pushing forward. The second match, against Ashley Manor, was a slower game; it gave us time to complete some strikes on goal. Both games finished in a win. We knew the Richard Pate A team were going to be strong, but the girls fought hard and kept the pressure on. We struggled to get back and defend the fast balls that RPS pressed up with it. The match ended with a 2 - 1 loss. Well done girls. CK

UII IAPS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The girls started slowly in our first game against Bristol Grammar. We crowded the ball and didn't use the strong passes I knew they could do. After five minutes we started to settle into the flow a little more but we were 1 - 0 down by then. Hermione received a lovely ball hit out by Iris in defence; she pushed through into the D and sent the ball into the goal. We left the defence short and struggling as Bristol forced their way through and our defence found themselves in a 4 v 2 situation. We fought hard and Tamar made some fantastic saves, but lost the match 2 - 1.

The second game of the group stage was against RPS, and we knew they were strong as we had played them twice this year already. But the girls were positive and really started energetically, keeping the pressure tight from the first. As we tired - and RPS did not - they managed to outrun us and force the ball into the goal. 2 - 0 loss.

Game three was against Clifton College, a school we knew are normally well drilled. We

started well with a few balls sneaking past their defence; we couldn't finish the first two attempts, but we managed to find the back of the goal and went 1 - 0 up. Clifton switched and made some lovely passes across pitch to open up the game. This gave them space to drive up into our defence, scoring a goal. Two more goals from Clifton soon followed, and the game ended 3 - 1.

RGS Worcester were our final opponents, and this was a game that was going to be evenly matched. The girls had benefitted from a rest, and I was hopeful they were full of energy! We worked as a team much better during this game; using wider and faster balls and taking players on rather than backing away. It was a hard fight but we just couldn't win. Final score 2 - 1 loss.

We got through to the bowl playoffs.

We won the semi-finals against Abbey School 2 - 0. There was some lovely play by the girls; the game was at a slightly slower pace than the pools games and it gave the girls a chance to make the passes that they normally do without as much pressure. We saw some lovely teamwork from Iris, Hermione and Edith coming from the back right through to the front. Annie made some great tackles during this game and didn't back off the Abbey girls.

The bowl final was against Dean Close; we were evenly matched, and the ball was going from one end to the other quickly and often. We managed to go one goal ahead; Dean Close kept pushing and forcing their way through, but we fought in defence with some great goals by Tamar. The game ended in a 2 - 1 win. The girls won the bowl.

Well done to all girls. It is a tough tournament with some fantastic fast hockey being played and the girls worked hard and well as a team. I was proud of you girls. CK





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS



RUGBY

U8 v King's School, Gloucester

Last Friday, the U8 boys visited King's School in Gloucester for some short, small-sided touch rugby matches. Despite some truly horrific conditions, with the wind howling and the rain lashing, our lads really got stuck in and played with enthusiasm and vigour. Each team played three 10-minute games and experienced a lot of success, including some hard-fought wins. There was strong running, some developing handwork and some deliciously spectacular dives when try scoring - any excuse to slide in the mud! A real team effort, with some super tries from many Berkly boys. Our players showed some real resilience and positivity with both their teammates and their opponents, especially given that the weather really wasn't much fun at all! Well done Year 3, we're proud of your efforts! KJ and PMcC



U9 Rugby Festival at Dean Close

The U9 boys enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of rugby at Dean Close on Wednesday. We played four games against The Downs, Dean Close, Beaudesert and Cheltenham College. We were very competitive in all of the matches. We were determined and dogged in defence and created lots of attacking opportunities, scoring some very fine tries and giving great entertainment to our supporters. I was also impressed with the way the boys supported and encouraged each other. Well done to all of the team. P McC

U11A Rugby v Cheltenham College

Our U11 boys had an outstanding match at Cheltenham College on Wednesday. They put into practice various elements which we have worked on in training and played some wonderful attacking rugby. We ran hard, kept the ball alive and constantly had the opposition on the back foot. There was great passing

by Max and George and strong running from Teddy and Dion. Arthur was a constant menace to our opponents. We scored an amazing 12 tries to two. Our try scorers were Arthur (5), Jacob (3), Max, Seth, Atharv and George.

Defence is often where teams show their character and the Berkly boys have it in abundance. George H and Rowan made great contributions in this area. The boys were organised and aggressive and gave Cheltenham College little opportunity to get a foothold in the match. A fantastic performance, boys. Well done! P McC

U11B v Cheltenham College

The U11B team put in a spirited and determined performance against Cheltenham College, showing great teamwork and commitment across the field.

From the first whistle, we displayed impressive defensive organisation, with Quinn, Mark, and Magnus leading the way through some outstanding tackling that kept Cheltenham's attack under constant pressure. Their resilience in defence ... and Quinn's great tackle ... set the tone for the rest of the team and prevented several promising opposition moves.

In attack, the teamwork and support play shone through. Eddie S, Ellis, and Milo all produced excellent tries, finishing confidently after well-worked build-up play. Each score was the result of unselfish passing and sharp decision-making that highlighted the team's growing rugby awareness. Meanwhile, Eddie H and loan made great contributions and were tackling boys nearly twice their size.

Overall, it was a fantastic team effort full of energy, skill, and enthusiasm. Every player contributed to an enjoyable and competitive game of rugby. I was very proud of them. RC

FOOTBALL

U11 IAPS Football Tournament

On Wednesday of last week, we took nine boys to represent Berkly at the IAPs under 11 football tournament at Fairfield School, Loughborough. We knew the tournament format was going to be tough with just 8-minute games. However, the boys were looking forward to the challenge. The boys played well throughout the day but unfortunately struggled to find the back of the net. In every game we were competitive, pressing to score the vital winning goal but never quite succeeding. Over the course of our seven games, we only conceded three goals but it wasn't enough to help us progress to the cup instead competing for the plate. We lost our semifinal on penalties before winning the 3rd/4th playoff with a comprehensive performance. We were extremely proud of the boys' determination and commitment to the games as well as their sportsmanship and the support they gave to each other. They were all a credit to the school and should be proud of themselves. IP

U11 Girls' Football Tournament

The U11 girls had a tough start to the afternoon, coming up against a very strong St Mark's team. However, we learned much from the defeat and made great progress in our second game. We held on to possession for longer and scored two excellent goals from Anna and Olivia, to win 2-1. Although we lost our final two games, the effort that the girls put in was outstanding. They battled hard and were very competitive and I was really impressed with their attitude and team spirit. Well done to all of the team, you were a credit to Berkly throughout the whole tournament. P McC

