



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

It was wonderful to welcome families into Kindergarten and Reception for our Early Years 'Stay and Play' afternoon on Wednesday. The children loved showing their parents around their classrooms, brimming with pride as they talked about their work and the activities they enjoy each day. These sessions are invaluable – not only do they give parents a real insight into school life, but they also help children take ownership of their surroundings and show how well they have settled. We look forward to inviting parents back for further Stay and Play afternoons in the Spring and Summer Terms. Thank you to everyone who attended our first Early Years parent event of the school year – it was a super afternoon.

All our extra-curricular clubs are now in full swing. Clubs are such an important part of a Berky education, and it has been a joy to see so many children across the school taking part. There really is something for everyone – including hockey, yoga, violin, Imagination Club and Nature Rangers in Pre-Prep, through to Prep activities including music ensembles, chess, drama, gardening, knitting and a full programme of sports. Our busy schedule of inter-school fixtures is also underway: last week our U11 girls' hockey team played the Richard Pate School, and this week our U11 girls' hockey team played Beaudesert and our U10 boys' rugby team enjoyed a match against King's, Gloucester. Please do keep an eye on the diary dates for details of upcoming fixtures.

This week I have been in Brighton for the IAPS Annual Head's Conference. The programme included thought-provoking talks on pupil wellbeing, AI, inspection and safeguarding – all hugely relevant topics.

I am pleased that the summer edition of the Blazer has now gone home with the children. It's a wonderful opportunity to look back on another happy and successful term. Extra copies are available in the Pre-Prep foyer should you like to take one for family or friends. You can also stay connected with school life by following us on Instagram: @berkhamstead_school.

Have a super weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 24th September

Year 2 Topic Wow Day

14:00 U11. U10, U9 Rugby v Beaudesert (away)

14:15 U10 Hockey v Cheltenham College Prep (away)

15:00 U11 Hockey v Cheltenham College Prep (away)

Friday 26th September

08:00 Bags2School Collection PTA

14:15 U8 Hockey v King's Gloucester (away)

14:15 U9 Hockey v King's Gloucester (away)

14:30 U9 Rugby v King's Gloucester (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

We are all thrilled with how well Year 1 and Year 2 children have settled into their new classes. It is lovely to see how engaged they are with their topics; SUPERHEROES in Year 1 and the UK in Year 2.

Year 1 had a surprise visit from Batman last week to kick start their topic. We were really shocked when he burst into our classrooms with a mission for us! The children have been tasked with investigating superheroes: What is a superhero? Who is a superhero? A superhero hunt in the playground sparked a lot of discussion about our very own Berky Superheroes!

Thinking a little closer to home, the Year 1 children made a list of adjectives to describe their own superhero. They then used these adjectives to write sentences complete with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops!

'Seth is my superhero because he does the best tricks. He is a Lego maker.' – Robyn

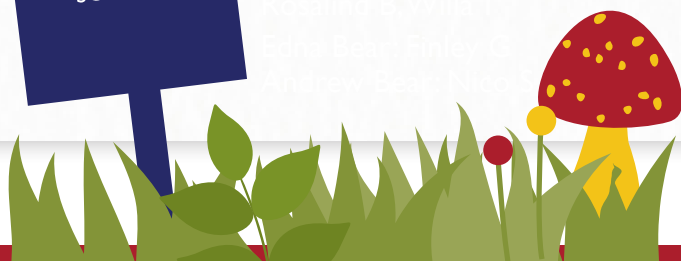
'My Grandad is my superhero because he is clever and kind. He was in the army.' – Hugo

In Art, Year 1 have loved their first few visits to the art room where they have used oil pastels, blending and collage skills to create wonderful superhero scenes!

Year 2 have created their own wonderful self-portraits using watercolours and they are now beginning to explore the work of L. S. Lowry.

Thank you to everyone that has sent Year 2 a postcard this summer. The children have loved locating your holiday destinations in the UK and beyond. Continents and Oceans have been revisited – although I'm sure the children have been keen to sing the continents song at home too! The children have been studying 'A Walk in London' and are about to write their own fact files about London. We look forward to reading them!

AS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

Last term, one of our talented pupils (then in Year 5) took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge alongside 300,000 children nationwide, qualifying for the Junior Olympiad as one of the top 1,000 scorers. In June, he achieved an outstanding result in the Olympiad — a silver medal and book prize for finishing in the top 100 nationally, against children up to three years older. Congratulations on this exceptional achievement; we are so proud of you!



BAGS2SCHOOL

Our next Bags2School collection will take place on Friday 26 September. Accepted items include clothes, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, clean socks and belts. Please ensure all donations are placed in a sealed bag and dropped off on the morning of the 26th in the trolley outside the Pre-Prep building.

Profits from the collection will go directly to the PTA, helping to support projects and activities for our children.

PARKING CONSIDERATELY AND SAFELY

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park with care when dropping off and collecting children. Our neighbours have reported concerns about inconsiderate parking outside school. Please help us to keep everyone safe by avoiding blocking driveways, double parking or stopping on yellow lines.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



SMARTPHONE FREE AT KS1, 2 & 3 CHELTENHAM

We are working with local schools and parents to encourage the delayed use of smartphones. Together, we have created Smartphone Free at KS1, 2 and 3 to help us achieve our goal.

Understanding the impacts of smartphones on Cheltenham's children

FREE EVENT open to all interested parents/carers and educators
Tuesday 23rd September, 7.00pm, Cheltenham Bournside School

- Welcome and creating change in Cheltenham - Steve Jefferies
- The link between smartphones and mental health - Dr Susie Davies
- Smartphone Free Childhood - Joe Ryrie
- Member of Parliament for Cheltenham - Max Wilkinson MP
- Research into young people's smartphone use - Dr Paul Redford and Dr Ben Knight
- Q&A session



Steve Jefferies is headteacher at Cheltenham Bournside School. With 15 years of experience in Senior Leadership, Bournside is his second headship. As a parent and educator, he is passionate about ensuring childhood is full of enriching, character building real world experiences.



Dr Susie Davies is a Bristol-based GP with a special interest in adolescent mental health. She is the founder and CEO of PAPAYA and is passionate about improving mental health outcomes for today's adolescents. She is the author of *The Healthy Selfie*, a book for teenagers to help them thrive in the digital age.



Joe Ryrie is Co-founder of Smartphone Free Childhood. Joe leads the team, driving their strategy, campaigning and organising.



Max Wilkinson MP is campaigning for a safer internet and has recently created a survey 'Raising Kids in the Digital Age: Have Your Say'. The Liberal Democrats want to hear from you—what challenges do you face, and what changes would you support?



Dr Paul Redford is an Associate Professor, Chartered Psychologist (BPS), and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). He specialises in the enablers of positive learning, with a focus on engagement, creativity, confidence, and well-being.



Dr Ben Knight is a researcher and educator at UWE. A Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Dr Knight also consults on complexity in education, leadership mindsets, and teacher professional judgement.



CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL

Book your free ticket:





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR

An opportunity to join one of the fabulous choirs based at Gloucester Cathedral is being offered with rehearsals starting this term. Please see the attached information and contact them directly if you are interested. This extraordinary tradition of training children for excellence in musicianship and singing is renowned worldwide and we are so fortunate to have the opportunity to take part locally.

UNIFORM SHOP REMINDER

Please note that the Uniform Shop only accepts card payments. Thank you for your cooperation.

BERKY FOOD AND NUTRITION

Our wonderful Catering Manager, Rob, and the catering team have been working hard in providing us with fabulous meals again this term. You may be aware that the Department for Education have reinforced the importance of a healthy balanced diet in schools and from September 2025, new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidance ensures that all early years settings provide healthier food and drink for children. The aim is to give every child the best start with their eating habits. Meals and snacks will be balanced, age-appropriate and varied, with clear guidance on portion sizes and weaning for younger children.

At school we already limit foods high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, such as sweetened yoghurts and sugary drinks are not served. Our children are offered fresh, nutritious options with water and milk as the only drinks provided. There is also stronger focus on allergy management, food safety and creating a positive mealtime environment where children can explore a range of healthy foods. These changes are designed to help children build healthy eating habits for life.

Please be reassured that whilst this was a useful opportunity to review our menus, not just for Early Years, we already think really carefully about the food on offer to the children. In addition our 'family dining' creates a really positive mealtime environment. A big thank you to our now in-house catering team who take such care over our daily nutrition.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

**A PLACE for
MUSIC**

**Are you a keen
singer or musician?**

In School Years 4-9?

**If so, then Gloucester Cathedral wants
to hear from you!**





THE BERKY *holiday club*



THE BERKY *experience club*



Spaces are
limited so
please
book early!

FUN AT BERKY!



BERKY HOLIDAY CLUB

(AGED 3-8) 8.15am-5.15pm

Our October half term dates are live and available to book via Magic Booking.

Our Holiday Club – for 3-8 years olds - will be offering a variety of fun activities such as Halloween biscuit making and decorating, pumpkin decorating, autumn scavenger hunt, leaf printing and firework printing.



The cost is £53.60, and includes a healthy mid-morning snack, a nutritious hot lunch and a light tea.

Please email Miss Wootton with any enquiries:
holidayclub@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

BERKY EXPERIENCE CLUB

(YEAR 3-6)

We are also offering a variety of Berky Experience Clubs for our Prep children (Y3-6):

Football with Mr Lovell:

Tues 21st Oct (Y5&6) (£45) (9-3pm)

Chess and Board games with Mr Jones:

Thurs 23rd Oct (Y3-Y6) (£53.60) (9-4pm)

Halloween Baking with Miss Wootton:

Tues 28th Oct (Y3-6) (£53.60) (9-4pm)

Mystery at the Manor! A Cluedo Club with Mrs Hext:

Weds 29th Oct (Y3-6) (£53.60) (9-4pm)

Pumpkin decorating with Miss Wootton:

Thurs 30th Oct (Y3-6) (£53.60) (9-4pm)

Please visit: berkhampstead.magicbooking.co.uk
to book any of these clubs.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U11A v King's Gloucester

The U11A opened their season with an impressive win against King's. The boys improved their rucking during the course of the game and moved the ball well in attack to score 10 tries from Arthur (5), Jacob (3), George L and Teddy. The team were cohesive and committed in defence and gave the opposition little in terms of territory and possession.

It was a great start to the season and a very enjoyable game to watch. Well done, boys!
P McC

U11B v King's Gloucester

Berky Under 11Bs were greeted at the Oxstalls campus with drizzle, wind and some keen looking opponents in the shape of King's School, Gloucester. Despite it being their first game, Berky were assured and confident, attacking in waves with some superb teamwork on show. The first try, scored by Jonas after a mazy run and cheeky pass by Atharv, was pure poetry in motion. This was followed up by yet more fantastic attacking, with Magnus, Ioan and Toby all playing their part. Eddie S's weaving, pacey runs resulted in him finishing the game with a magnificent hat trick of tries. Marshalling the defence was Mark, Ellis and Eddie H; all involved heavily with some brave tackles and interceptions. Despite a spirited fightback from King's, Berky finished the game on top; a first win of the season after a great show of bravery and resilience. A top effort, gents - well done!
KJ

U10A v King's Gloucester

The U10A team kicked off their season with a hard-fought contest against King's, finishing with a 3-3 draw. This was an encouraging performance, especially given that a couple of training sessions were missed at the start of term due to the residential.

From the outset, Berkhamstead showed real determination and laid down some strong foundations to build on for the rest of the season. The tackling was a standout feature of the game; despite being under pressure at times due to penalties, the team consistently won the ball back through excellent defensive commitment. The players also showed great persistence in attack, regularly driving through tackles and keeping play alive.

Looking ahead, the focus for the next few training sessions will be on rucking and retaining possession, as well as developing the confidence to pass into space to make the most of attacking opportunities.

Overall, this was a very solid start to the season and a performance full of promise.
ZL

U10B v King's Gloucester

It was the first match of the season and, while the weather was dull and dreary, the rugby was anything but! Despite only having one Games session due to their Viney Hill residential trip, the U10Bs really shone versus some strong opposition in the shape of King's Gloucester.

A keen, high octane start featured tries from Devan, and a brace from both Guy and Eric; the latter scoring his first just 5 seconds after coming on as a sub. Supporting the attack was Ollie, Arturo, Rocco and captain for the day, George, who showcased their powerful driving through the opposition. While Berky attacked well, their defence was just as assured; Ezra, Arlo, Jacob, Felix and Sebbie all playing their part with strong tackles and blocks. After half time and some personnel changes from King's, the tide turned and they were more successful with their attacks, with the match ending with an incredible draw.

Credit to both teams, a cracking start to what will, I'm sure, be an exciting season!
KJ

U11 Hockey v Beaudesert

The U11 hockey team travelled to Beaudesert for their second match of the term. In wet and horrible conditions both teams demonstrated a great improvement on their first fixture. They held their width better and utilised the space - meaning they could move the ball quickly. All the girls battled hard and we ended up winning one and losing the other. I was particularly impressed with the girls' hard work and the support they gave one another. Well done, girls!
IP



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL


**BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL**
PITTVILLE CIRCUS
CHELTENHAM

*Berkhampstead School
Open Morning*

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER
CONTACT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT