



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We have had another very successful week at Berky and slowly we are able to do more. Some more of the clubs have started and we received further guidance that has allowed the Chamber Ensemble in Prep to start again.

Mrs Agg had the pleasure of accompanying the Reception children on a trip out of school. She wrote:

'Yesterday was a beautiful, sunny day in between two rather wetter, windier days; it was perfect weather for the first Reception outing of the year – a walk around the local area. The children had previously created their own maps of the walk using Google and various landmarks had been picked out for spotting along the way. There was great excitement when the church of St. Michael loomed into view, swiftly followed by the shops! All the children were able to have a go at photographing the various sights using an iPad. There were one or two slightly wistful looks at the playground in the recreation field as we passed through but a good time was had by all before we completed the loop by walking past the Day Nursery and returning to school for a welcome snack of cheese and biscuits.'

The Year 3 classes are busy preparing the show 'Rats!' during their weekly Carousel hour; songs and words are being learned with great enthusiasm so that this twist on the Pied Piper story can be shared with the rest of the school community. They are hoping it will be ready for recording by the end of term – a treat for everyone to watch just before Christmas, maybe...

I had the privilege of observing a Year 1 Computing lesson this week in which the children were creating algorithms to navigate a 'Blue-bot' computer robot. I was impressed that they could define what an algorithm was and was also impressed with their perseverance – they certainly had excellent 'trial and error' skills for programming the Blue-bot.

I also enjoyed teaching my Year 3 classes this week. They have learnt how to put together a 'comic' style poster about a famous person. This they enjoyed - and they submitted their work through our Remote Learning Platform, Teams. Today I am sending you our Remote Learning provision booklet which I hope provides you with more information about what will be offered if your child has to self-isolate; fingers crossed, though, that we will only have to use it for homework in future!

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 5th October

08:30 - 12:00

Individual School Photographs

15:40 - 16:40

Year 1 and Year 2 Andy Tucker Football

16:00 - 17:30

Year 1 and Year 2 On-line Parents' Evening

Tuesday 6th October

15:00 - 15:40

Kindergarten SupaStrikers Football Club

15:45 - 16:25

Reception SupaStrikers Football

15:45 - 16:45

Prep Mandarin Club

Thursday 8th October

18:00 - 20:00

Year 1 and Year 2 On-line Parents' Evening

Friday 9th October

09:00 - 11:00

Year 6 PC Fiona Online Safety Workshop in School

15:45 - 16:40

Year 2 Hockey Club

15:45 - 16:45

Year 6 Fencing Club

Saturday 10th October

09:00 - 11:30

Open Morning - Early Years and Pre-Prep



Please note...
Individual Photographs Monday 5th Oct
Year 4 - Wear PE Kit and bring in Uniform
Yrs 5 and 6 - Wear Uniform and bring in games kit
Yr 1 and 2 - Wear Uniform (If your child does Andy Tucker please bring in PE Kit)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

Talking of Computing, we continue to get queries regarding the School's Computer Systems, and I thought I would try and clarify what we are using for what.



<p>You can access this via the App on a phone or iPad or via the Portal website.</p> <p>https://berkhampsteadschool.parents.isams.cloud/</p> <p>It provides you with information you may need, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Calendar • Term dates • Curriculum Plans • Menus • Newsletters • Letters from school • School Policies • Parents' Handbook <p>It also provides you with your child's Assessments and School Reports.</p>	<p>This can be accessed on a website or via the App on a phone, tablet or laptop.</p> <p>https://teams.microsoft.com/</p> <p>This is our Remote Learning platform and each child has a login via their personal email address (provided).</p> <p>This platform provides the academic information for children to engage in, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Assignments • Topic information • Video assemblies • Video Stories
---	--

In addition to this, we have introduced the Parents' Evening System for booking times for online video meetings with your children's teachers. You can log in to this using your iSAMS Parent Portal login details.



Otherwise, we will contact you via our email and text messaging system - ClarionCall. This is used for immediate reminders or changes.

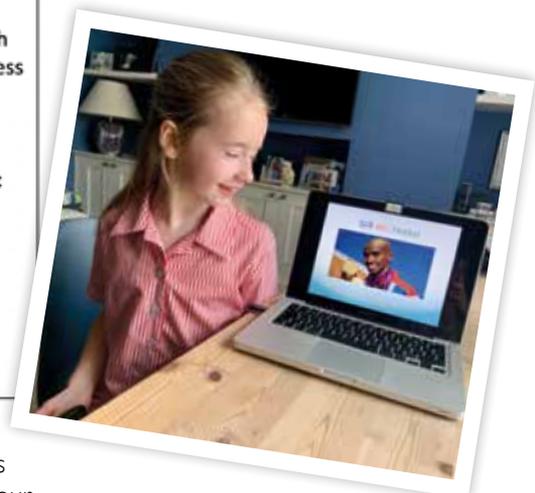
I hope this helps and please do get in touch if you are finding it difficult to access the information you need.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Stop Press...
Huge congratulations to Mollie Dodds - Manager of the Day Nursery - who gave birth to a baby boy (8lb) on Tuesday. Mother and baby are both doing well.



Good news...
Our Berky Gets Greener eco committee is delighted that plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers have now been banned in England! For further information, do click on the link below:
<https://news.sky.com/story/plastic-straws-cotton-buds-and-stirrers-banned-in-england-from-today-12086176>



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

NEW HOMEPAGE!

We have been working on a new homepage for our website. It features links to Instagram, Twitter, newsletters and the Blazer, and there is an 'Upcoming Events' section too. Do have a browse! (Some users may find that they need to clear their History or Cache in order to view it successfully. If you don't know how to do this, please search Google)

<https://www.berkhampsteadschool.co.uk/#>

MUSIC NEWS

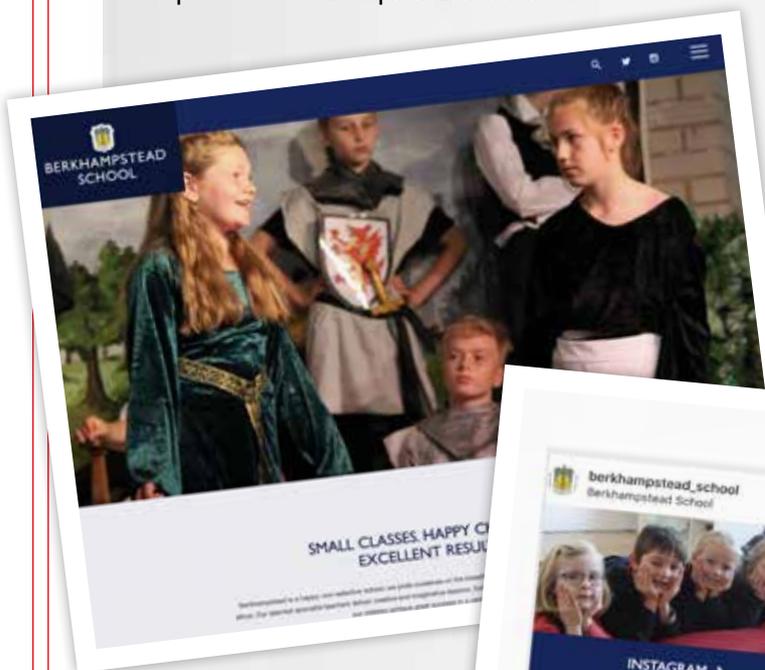
Very excitingly, this week saw one of our music groups rehearsing together for the first time since March! The new Chamber Ensemble met with Mr Trim for a great time in the Hall and practised 'Danserye' - even sending a recording to me at the end of the rehearsal! We hope that Berky Bows will start next week, followed by more of the ensembles.

Music exam results

Very few music exams were taken nationally last summer, but both William S and Will C were able to gain the following results - congratulations to both boys.

Will S: Guitar Grade 5 (Merit), Cornet Grade 3 (Merit)

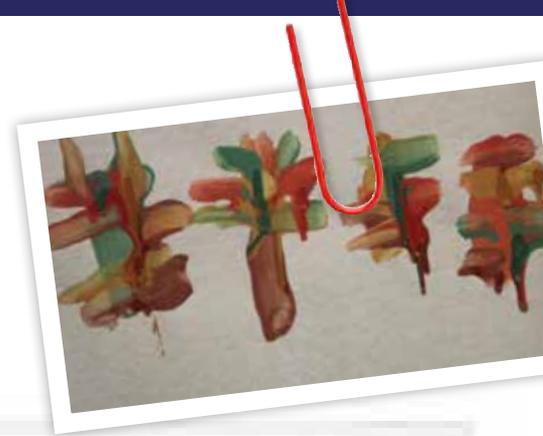
Will C: Guitar Grade 5 (Distinction)



Please follow us...
Take a look at our Instagram and Twitter feeds for daily insights into Berky life. Follow us at [berkhampstead_school](#) (Instagram) and [@BerkyCheltenham](#) (Twitter). Head of Pastoral Care, Mrs Bareham also hosts a Twitter feed: [@Berkypastoral](#)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years

Kindergarten's outdoor learning sessions are going so well in the nature garden, and the children understand and recall the Forest School rules of 'no pick, no lick and be careful with a stick' without any prompting from an adult. This week we had a series of photographs taken of the nature garden and we needed to investigate and match the photograph to the correct area; this was a bit tricky at times, but we had so much fun exploring. The planning for outdoor learning is done retrospectively as it is led by the children's interests and we have collected so many leaves that next week we are ready to make autumn crowns.

In Kindergarten the children have worked so hard during focussed activities and created some fantastic artwork which is displayed around the Kindergarten. Please look at Microsoft Teams to view our displays and other photos as I try and post something every day. MM

This week in 'Understanding the World' the Reception children took a 'virtual' walk around the local area in order to see where they would be walking on Thursday's trip out. They used Google Earth to view the route and highlight the things they would see. Following on from this they used the Kubos to build a route for the robot to travel around. The children chose a start point and placed the arrows down for the robot to follow.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on repeating patterns. This has included making sound patterns with instruments and making colour patterns with resources in the classroom and with paint! The children have really enjoyed watching and joining in with the song 'Banana Banana Meatball' and have thought of their own action patterns.

On Thursday Reception went on a walk around the local area. They remembered which way to go as they had already created a map of the route. The children looked out for the church, the shop and the football stadium and they made sure they were very sensible. AH



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten
Harvey M, Henry D, Kitty L,
Tobias L

Reception
Jonah B, Tilly M, Felix T,
Arlo R, Arturo P, Isla E,
George R, Leo D

