



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

One of the highlights of the Berky year is the Spring Concerts at Cheltenham Town Hall. On Wednesday, Years 2 to 6 came together for an afternoon and evening of remarkable performances spanning the musical spectrum. The quality of the singing and playing, along with the children's behaviour and stage presence, was a joy to behold – congratulations to all involved! My enormous thanks go to our dedicated and extraordinarily talented peripatetic music team, who inspire the children to great heights with their composing, conducting and expert tuition. Thank you to the rest of my superb team – coordinating and organising the children, instruments, transport and equipment is no small feat! A special thanks to our dynamic and brilliant Head of

Music, Mrs Mitchell for leading the event so wonderfully for the very last time, and to the superb Head of Pre-Prep Music, Mrs Sallis for teaching and directing the younger children as well as the samba band.



DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday 21st March

Malvern St James' Art Exhibition

Monday 23rd March

4.00pm Kindergarten Parents' Evening

Tuesday 24th March

9.00am Pre-Prep Easter Experience

3.30pm Book Fair in the Andrews Gym - all parents welcome

Wednesday 25th March

2.30pm Prep Cross Country - weather dependent, parents invited

4.00pm Reception Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th March

4.00pm Wildlife Quiz Round 1 heat

4.15pm Prep Spring Recital - Prep Parents invited

Friday 27th March

Cake at Break - please bring £1.00

2.45pm Easter Service at All Saints' Church - Early Years and Pre-Prep

Term Ends

3.15pm Early Years and Pre-Prep collection from the church

3.45pm Prep collection from school (No after school or tea-time provision)

Monday 20th April

Summer Term begins

Every year, we proudly take part in the Annual Junior Schools' Art Exhibition at Malvern St James Girls' School. Pupils from across the West Midlands, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire are invited to showcase some of their finest artwork, which will be viewed by over 200 guests. Congratulations to the following pupils whose work will be on display tomorrow: Theo C (RG), Eddie D (RMS), Posey L (RG), Billie O (RMS), Lola M (IML), Evelyn F-B (IML), Robyn D (IS), Blake R (IS), Florence D (2L), Rory P (2L), Alex B (2W), Eleanor Z, (2W) Summer H (3M), Oliver N (3M), Alba H (3O), Max S (3O), Kitty L (4P), Gabriel C (4P), Health G (4J), Rosie D (4J), Rocco B (5H), Astrid S (5H), Ezra B (5J), Lucy W (5J), Eddie H (6L), Edith H (6L), Arthur H (6K) and Chloe R (6K). We are so proud of their creativity and talent.



SCHOOL UNIFORM PLEA

Please could all parents check their child's uniform at home in case any items belonging to another pupil were taken home by mistake. Thank you.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Two more exciting days took place at school this week. On Tuesday, our Pre-Prep and Early Years children were invited to Break the School Rules for the day - arriving with hair chalk, painted nails, home clothes, fancy dress and even bringing along a favourite teddy. Yesterday it was the turn of the Prep pupils, who came to school dressed to the theme of 'What Makes Me... Me', celebrating their interests, personalities and individuality. Both days were organised by the School Council as a fundraising initiative in support of Headspace, the mental health charity for young people that we are supporting this year. Thank you to the charity for visiting the school yesterday and delivering such an engaging and informative assembly.

I would like to let you know about a couple of staffing updates. Mrs Main will be leaving us at Easter to take up an exciting leadership role in a school nursery. In addition, Mrs Shoukry, who is currently on sabbatical, will now be remaining in America as her husband's military contract has been extended for a further two years. While we will be very sorry to see them go, we are delighted for them that they have these opportunities, and thank them for the care and support they have given our children. We wish both members of staff every success and happiness in their next chapters. I am delighted that Mrs Moore will be extending her time with the Year 1 children and Mrs Jones and Mrs Butcher will remain as Head of Learning Support in Pre-Prep and Prep respectively.

Thank you to the Early Years parents who attended our open classroom event yesterday afternoon, and to the Prep parents who joined us for our Visiting Heads assembly this morning. We were delighted to welcome Mr Dyer from The Crypt Grammar School. Also this morning, Year 1 performed their assembly, taking us on a brilliant adventure to the North and South Poles. The children gave wonderfully confident and enthusiastic performances.

Have a super weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham, Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

It has been a joyful and memorable week in Pre-Prep, filled with creativity, confidence, and plenty of smiles.

Year 1 delighted us all with their fantastic 'A Polar Adventure' assembly based on the book 'The Great Explorer' by Chris Judge. The children confidently shared their learning about life in the Arctic and Antarctic, introducing us to remarkable animals such as polar bears, penguins and arctic foxes. Through expressive storytelling, singing and actions, they brought their topic vividly to life; there was even a walrus rap! It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence as they performed so brilliantly in front of an audience.

Adding to the excitement, Tuesday brought a burst of colour and laughter as Pre-Prep enjoyed a fun-filled "Break the Rules" day. Children arrived in an array of colourful outfits and creative hairstyles, from bright patterns to wonderfully wacky hair designs. The day was full of joy as everyone embraced the chance to do things a little differently, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere throughout the school.

Year 2 also reached an exciting milestone this week as they took to the stage for the first time at the Spring Concert. Alongside Years 3 and 4, their sea shanties were performed with great energy, rhythm, and enjoyment, quickly becoming a highlight of the event. The violin performances from the Violin Club and Year 2 classes were amazing! The children have worked incredibly hard in rehearsals, and it was lovely to see their confidence shine through as they supported one another and embraced the experience of performing together.

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, creativity, and willingness to take part in these special moments. Thank you to our staff for their hard work in making these experiences so enjoyable, and to families for your continued support.

MW





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PARKING REMINDER - TEME ROAD

A polite reminder to parents that Teme Road, opposite the school, is a private road. We kindly ask that you do not park there at any time, as this causes upset to the residents.

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

PERFORMING SUCCESS

We are delighted to share some wonderful achievements from some of our talented pupils.

Last Saturday, one of our Year 4 musicians took part in the Piano EPTA Regional Final at the Bristol Music Club, where she was awarded Outstanding. This is a tremendous accomplishment at such a high level - many congratulations!



Meanwhile, two sisters have made us incredibly proud with their performances at the Worcestershire Creative Arts Festival.

Our Year 1 pupil achieved a Gold award in the SetVerse category, competing in the Year 4 & Under section, and a Bronze for Verse - exceptional achievements for such a young performer.

Her Year 5 sister also excelled, earning Gold in the Y6 & Under Solo Acting category.

These are truly impressive accomplishments, and we are so proud of all the girls. Very well done!





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SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U11A v Holy Apostles

Monday 16th March brought about a match for the Under 11A team, away against Holy Apostles, the final fixture in an exciting and successful season. The first half was incredibly even, with both teams attacking and defending well. Ellis and Dion showed combativeness and guile in defence, while George L, up front, came close with both an attempted flying backheel and a spectacular bicycle kick; a contender for the Puskas award if it had nestled in the net! Seth bossed the midfield but the ball didn't quite break the half ended 0-0. The second half started as the first ended, with both teams pushing; our opponents eventually making the breakthrough despite some heroics from Atharv in goal. This geed up the Berky team; Max and Jacob battling hard in midfield, alongside George, while Seth pushed up front. Rowan shielded the defence brilliantly, and man of the match Jonas stepped in and dominated defensively; our very own John Terry. Despite a late surge, Berky didn't manage to find the elusive goal, so the match finished with a 1-0 loss; however, credit to the boys for their superb efforts. Thanks to the fabulous parents, both on the day and across the season, for their unwavering support. KJ



U11/10 v Holy Apostles

The U10 and U11 mixed team delivered a spirited performance, showing great determination and teamwork throughout the match. From the first whistle, they pressed energetically, supported each other well, and created several promising chances. Their passing improved as the game went on, and their defensive effort was especially commendable, with players tracking back tirelessly. Despite their hard work, a few unlucky moments and missed opportunities meant the result didn't go their way. Although they finished on the losing side, the effort, attitude, and resilience they displayed were outstanding. There are plenty of positives to take forward, and this performance will build confidence for future matches ahead. IP