



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

**FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, we explored the theme of concentration. We discussed what it means to be focused - giving our full attention to an activity or goal - and why this matters. With three weeks of term remaining, I encouraged everyone to continue to concentrate in lessons, as well as to always focus on being kind.

The message of focus tied in particularly well with this week's activities, as our Prep pupils took part in an inter-school 'Times Table Rock Stars' competition over three days. The children tackled multiplication and division challenges, earning points for their class and for the school. The children's enthusiasm was impressive, and it was wonderful to see everyone so engaged in building their mathematical fluency and confidence. My thanks to Mr Lovell for organising the event.

It has been an exciting week across the school. Year 4 enjoyed a brilliant trip to Chepstow Castle on Tuesday, exploring its history, defences and magnificent architecture. Meanwhile, Year 1 were delighted to welcome their very own 'superhero' parents into school to talk about their jobs. The children were inspired by a wonderful range of professions - including doctors, a midwife, a pharmacist, an occupational therapist and even a LEGO specialist! A huge thank you to all our visiting parents; their insights truly enriched the children's learning.

We enjoyed a delightful showcase of musical talent at Thursday's after-school recital. The performances included both budding musicians beginning their journey and our more experienced players, each bringing their own brilliance to the stage. Special thanks to Mrs Mitchell for coordinating the event, accompanying many of the children, and to our dedicated peripatetic music staff for their hard work in preparing the children for this wonderful performance.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 26 November
2:15pm U10 A & B Rugby v Rendcomb (away)
2:30pm U9 Rugby v Dean Close (away)
2:30pm U11 Rugby v Dean Close (away)
2:30pm U10/11 Hockey v Rendcomb (away)
Thursday 27 November
Year 5 We the Curious trip
Friday 28 November
Cake at Break
Christmas Jumper Day
10:00am National Quiz
Championship Heats
2:15pm U8 & U9 Hockey v Rendcomb and Hopelands (away)
3:30pm - 5:00pm PTA Festive Friday





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

I am excited to share our plans for the Prep playground. Work is scheduled to begin in mid-December so that everything is ready for the children's return in the Spring Term. The smaller playground will be resurfaced with the same 'Play-Grass' artificial grass used so successfully in Pre-Prep, with the main area in green for football and a smaller blue section designed for basketball - complete with goals and smart post protectors. This upgrade will make a huge difference to the appearance of the Prep playgrounds and greatly enhance the children's enjoyment at breaktime. None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our PTA, who have part-funded the project, along with a kind contribution from Mr Martin Kirby, former Chair of Governors. We are very grateful for their support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten we have been concentrating on all things Gruffalo! We have enjoyed re-reading this much-loved story, with a particular focus on the habitats of each of the characters. Whilst learning about how and why animals hibernate, the children created some wonderful log pile houses for the snake and underground homes for the fox. We have had a messy time making and mixing Gruffalo crumble, too.

Our maths focus has been finding new and exciting ways to show the numbers 1-5. The children have become experts at using their fingers to quickly represent different numbers. We eagerly embarked on a Gruffalo hunt where we had to count the Gruffalo's footsteps to find him sleeping in his cave!

Meanwhile, the pinecones that have fallen from the trees in the 'deep dark wood' have been used to make our Christmas decorations which the children are very excited to bring home when the time comes. We are so excited to start creating our Christmas cards next week, and we have begun to practise in earnest for our Christmas Nativity performance which isn't far away now!

LS



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: George W, Jack H,
Cecilia BW and Penny S.

Berky Bear: Hunter C,
Bea C and Jack L.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

We've had a wonderfully busy week in Reception filled with learning, creativity and - dare we say - a little festive excitement creeping in from time to time!

This week we introduced the children to four new consonant digraphs in phonics. They have been working hard to spot them in words, practise blending in their reading and use them independently in their writing. We are so proud of how confident they are becoming with their phonics skills!

In our literacy sessions, the children have been reading and writing about the story Farmer Duck. They enjoyed exploring the characters - from the lazy, greedy farmer to the hardworking duck and his amazing team of animal companions. They've written some brilliant sentences, their progress in pencil control and handwriting is so evident over the last few weeks - we couldn't be prouder of the children.

In maths, we have been learning different ways to represent the numbers 4 and 5. The children explored these numbers using counters, Numicon, tens frames and even through stories and songs. They are developing a strong understanding of how numbers can be made and shown in many ways and their subitising skills are super speedy!

In our Understanding of the World lessons, we have begun learning about how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. The children loved discovering new traditions, foods and customs from around the world and enjoyed Miss Kang-Martinez sharing her own experiences of Christmas. This has sparked lots of curiosity and wonderful conversations! The children have been very excited to start creating their family calendars using digital art on the iPads. They experimented with colours, shapes and simple design tools to make something special to take home for Christmas. We can't wait for you to see their creations!

Mrs Sallis has been working her magic in music lessons, as we've been practising our Christmas songs ready for our performance in a few weeks. The children have shown great enthusiasm and can't wait to share their singing with you soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another fantastic week of learning!

Z M-S



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Ayaan A, Willa T,
Maren W, Theo Cr
Berky Bear: Billie O'H,
Orson D





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PARKING

We kindly ask all parents to drive safely and with extra care around the school. As well as ensuring you park legally, we would be grateful if everyone could park considerably - making full use of the spaces available by parking tidily and up to the lines. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe.

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS STAMP COMPETITION

A reminder that all Christmas stamp designs should be submitted by drop-off on Monday 24th November. We look forward to seeing the children's festive creations - these were last year's winners!



BERKY CHANGEMAKERS

- As mentioned in last week's newsletter, this year the Berkly Changemakers are supporting The Family Haven in Gloucester by donating items needed for their Christmas lunches.
- We know that the children love getting involved in a very hands-on way, so we are asking for them to Pick a Product to donate, and then shop for it and bring it back into school ready for donation.
- All the products that are available to be picked are items specifically requested by The Family Haven, as products they need to prepare and host Christmas lunches in early December for the families they support.
- This Friday, the class tutors will be distributing the shopping cards to the children, so please keep your eyes peeled for them in case they are left in school bags or blazer pockets!
- Our Prep pupils will be designated items that are needed for the lunches, whilst our younger pupils in Pre-Prep and Kindergarten will be asked to donate a selection box, which are handed as gifts to the attending children at the end of the lunch.
- Please could all items be brought back into school the week commencing 24th November with the final day for donations being Festive Friday, 28th November.
- There will be a box left in the school reception for you to leave your donations in. Please note that the images used on these shopping cards are for illustration only, any brand will be gladly received.
- We know that many of you may wish to support this vital charity further, and if you did want to do so, there is a QR code on the card which enables you to donate to a fundraising page for The Family Haven. If you would prefer to donate cash, this can be left with reception (please mark the envelope The Family Haven.)
- Thank you once again for your support of our Changemakers helping a local grassroots charity with their festive plans. It makes such a difference and we really appreciate any donations you can give.
- The Changemakers
- www.thefamilyhaven.com

gofundme



Scan to donate to Kerry's fundraiser
"Berkhamstead Changemakers supporting
The Family Haven"

PTA NEWS

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The holiday season at Berkhamstead officially begins on 28th November with Christmas Jumper day and Cake@Break (Y2 & Y6 are bakers), followed by a super Festive Friday celebration from 3:30pm on the Pre-prep lawn. Look out for more communications on what to expect next week.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who has supported this year's PTA Christmas Raffle by buying tickets and donating towards the prizes, with your support we have some absolutely amazing voucher prizes to be won (see flyer)! The draw will take place at around 5pm next Friday and there's still time to order your raffle tickets online from magic booking (E-Shop - Berkhamstead School). Please order by next Wednesday 26th November and we'll let you know when your tickets are available for collection from the office. The PTA raffles are our main fundraisers, and all profits are donated back to the school for workshops and equipment and allow us to host events like Festive Friday for the school community.



SUMMER BALL

Finally, we'll be closing out the booking sheet for the Summer Ball soon, so if you haven't yet reserved your tickets but would like to join us, please book by 30th November. This is going to be a lovely evening of food and entertainment so please do join us if you can.

Booking [LINK](#).





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U8 Bisons and Buffalos v Cheltenham College

The U8 boys travelled to Cheltenham College on Wednesday for a series of games against the three Cheltenham College teams. Both teams, Bisons and Buffalos have strong runners and good defensive 'taggers'. From the start they set up strong defensive and attacking lines, made excellent runs with the ball, and demonstrated impressive tagging skills throughout.

What made us most proud was their teamwork — they worked hard to involve everyone, supported the runners with the ball and many tries were scored across both teams. The boys also impressed by sticking to the rules they've been taught. Even when the opposing team dropped tags on the ground, the U8 boys remembered to hand them back respectfully.

Whilst many of the boys will remember how many tries they scored or tags they grabbed the scores were close in each game and the winner was rugby! This was, of course, followed by sausage, chips and beans for match tea - and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Very well played,
boys! TM & RC

UIIA v The Richard Pate School

The UII have played two matches over the last two Wednesdays. Last week we had a great game against RPS. We were dominant in the first half, winning the collisions and having the majority of possession. Our opponents came back strongly, in the second half but our dogged defence kept them at bay. A 4 tries to 1 victory was just reward for a strong performance. Our tries were scored by Arthur (3) and Max.

UIIA v Hatherop

This week we travelled to Hatherop on a very cold afternoon. Our boys soon got into their stride and played high paced rugby. The lines of running and support play were excellent and our opposition struggled to live with the high tempo of the Berky boys. We scored an amazing 14 tries to gain a superb win. Our scorers were Arthur (8), Teddy (2), George H (2), Jacob and Dion.

Well done to all of the boys and many thanks to our loyal supporters. P McC



UII Rugby
Squad