



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Nikki Schreiber to our Pre-Prep assembly. Nikki represented Lucart, the company that supplies our eco-friendly cleaning products and lavatory paper. She shared some eye-opening facts with the children - including that around 200 million trees are cut down every day, with one tree felled every 2.5 seconds. Nikki also explained that while Tetra Pak cartons are widely used, usually only the plastic lid is recycled. Lucart, however, recycles the entire Tetra Pak, transforming it into lavatory paper and preventing it from ending up in landfill or being incinerated. To celebrate Berkhamsted's commitment to sustainability, Nikki was delighted to present every child with a certificate. Thanks to our use of Lucart products so far, we have saved 24 trees and prevented 53,038 Tetra Pak cartons from going into landfill.

Our Prep department is thrilled to be taking part in the National Year of Reading 2026, a nationwide initiative designed to inspire confident, curious and enthusiastic readers. Head of English and Drama, Miss Evans, and her team - including teaching assistant and book enthusiast Mrs Davies - have introduced a range of exciting initiatives for our pupils. These include Year 6 'Reading and Library Heroes', a group of volunteers who listen to younger readers and offer advice on choosing books during reading time.



**FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY
SPRING TERM**

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 26 January

3.45pm Prep Book Look - Prep Parents Invited

Tuesday 27 January

9.30am Year 5 & 6 Maths Challenge

Wednesday 28 January

2.15pm U11 & U10 Netball v King's Gloucester (away)
2.30pm U11 & U10 Boys' Football v Hatherop (away)
3.00pm Early Years Open Classroom - Early Years Parents invited

6.30pm PTA Meeting - all welcome

Friday 30 January

9.00am Year 3 Reeve & McIntyre online Author event

2.15pm U8 & U9 Netball v Rendcomb (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Each classroom door now features a “What I Am Reading” display, where form teachers share their personal book choices, and our Prep library has been revitalised, creating an even more inviting space to browse and read. Pupils are also being encouraged to write book reviews, which are displayed alongside the relevant books. We have joined the Rebel Reading Society, who generously provide free books each month, and celebrate ‘Authors of the Month’ - one for Year 3 and 4 and another for Years 5 and 6. Pupils will take part in online author events, and we are especially excited to welcome author Nat Harrison - one of Waterstones’ Best Children’s Fiction Books of 2025 - to the school next month.

Nurturing a love of reading is at the heart of a Berky education. One of my favourite events of the week is sharing stories with the children, whether in assemblies or during special story times, and witnessing the children’s excitement as they explore new books is a true joy. We encourage everyone to keep reading!

I am delighted to congratulate our new Year 6 House Captains: George H (St Andrew’s), Ellis M (St David’s), Jacob H (St George’s) and Seth L (St Patrick’s), who were voted into their roles and formally appointed on Friday of last week. The role of House Captain is both a privilege and a responsibility, recognising pupils who consistently demonstrate leadership, kindness and a positive attitude. As always, the selection process was exceptionally challenging due to the high calibre of candidates in Year 6. We are thrilled with the final appointments and confident that these pupils will be outstanding role models for younger children across the school. These new House Captains will work alongside the four pupils elected earlier in the academic year.

Finally, we are shocked and saddened to hear the news that Rendcomb will be closing at the end of this academic year. We have valued many years of playing fixtures against them and have always enjoyed the spirit of competition and camaraderie. Our thoughts are with the entire Rendcomb community at this difficult time.

Have a lovely weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten, the children have continued their learning through our Polar Explorers theme. Through imaginative play and discussion, the children packed a suitcase for a journey to the North Pole, thinking carefully about what they would need to stay safe and warm. This activity supported their communication and language skills, as well as their understanding of the world. The children even shared their ideas about how we could travel to the North Pole, suggesting different forms of transport including vans, army cars, and trains.

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome a special visitor. Mrs Wilson, one of our Kindergarten grandparents, spoke to the children about her trip to Antarctica. She shared photographs of penguins and seals, which captured the children's interest and encouraged curiosity and thoughtful questioning, supporting their understanding of the world.

The children developed their fine motor skills by practising cutting to create paper snowflakes. In Maths, we were busy sorting gloves into matching pairs. On Wednesday morning, the children were excited to discover 'penguin eggs' made from ice. They observed closely as the ice melted throughout the morning and the eggs 'hatched', encouraging curiosity and observation.

The children also worked collaboratively to create a snowy mountain using papier mâché and enjoyed exploring colour and texture through ice painting in the outdoor tuff tray. As part of our personal, social and emotional development (PSED), we have been focusing on our Kindergarten rules, encouraging the children to use kind hands, kind feet, and kind words as they play and learn together. LS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

It has been a wonderfully busy week in Reception and despite the rather wet and windy weather, we have had lots of fun!

In phonics, the children have continued to develop their early reading and writing skills and have enjoyed learning new digraphs and trigraphs. We only have a few more to go and then we will spend the rest of the term consolidating the long list of sounds we have already learnt. The children are becoming increasingly confident at recognising their sounds and using them when reading their books and in their early independent and guided writing.

In our literacy lessons this week, we have loved exploring the story *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown* by Cressida Cowell. The children have thoroughly enjoyed discussing the characters, strong-willed Emily and the formidable Queen Gloriana! We laughed when Stanley, the bunny, ended up in the washing machine and lots of us could relate this to our own experiences!

Our junk modelling session on Wednesday was a real highlight of the week, with the children designing and creating their own toy. From robots, cars and buses, animals, binoculars and telescopes, we were so impressed by the care and thought they put into their models - what a creative bunch!

In CWB circle time on Thursday, we talked about internet safety, focusing on simple, age-appropriate messages about staying safe online and knowing that trusted adults are always there to help.

In mathematics, the children have been exploring and comparing mass and capacity through practical, hands-on activities, using vocabulary such as full, empty, heavy and light. They have been investigating these concepts through play and discussion, particularly enjoying getting to grips with the balance scales.

We have also loved our specialist lessons, as always. The children have had great fun in dance with Miss Keegan and music with Mrs Sallis, where they have been singing, listening and experimenting with sound. Our Forest School sessions continue to be a firm favourite - with lots of outdoor exploration and very muddy adventures!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support with the children's wonderful early learning journey! Z M-S



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS
Leaves: Theo W, Willa T,
Estella T, Jack G
Berky Bear: Dario N,
Toby M



PREP TEAM SHEETS

Once issued, these will now be available to view in the Parent Portal under Documents.

If your child is part of a team, you will also continue to receive a copy by email for your convenience.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

A gentle reminder: if you wish to contact a member of staff, please do so via the school office. (office@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk) You are also welcome to speak to staff at the beginning or end of the school day. However, if the matter is particularly pressing, please email one of the following:

Head of School Mrs Bareham

head@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Bursar Mr Denmead

bursar@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of Early Years Mrs Meredith-Smyth

z.meredith-smyth@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of Pre-Prep & DSL Mrs Stephenson

a.stephenson@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of Teaching & Learning Mr Jones

academic@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of Pastoral Care Mr Jennings

pastoral@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of School Transition Mrs Hannett

schooltransition@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Head of Assessment & Reporting Mrs Gargan

assessment@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Kindergarten Lead Mrs Stoat

kindergarten@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Learning Support Prep Mrs Butcher

learningsupport@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk

Learning Support Pre-Prep Mrs Jones

preprelearningsupport@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk



MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Mark B (6L), who has been awarded a distinction in his Grade 5 Music Theory exam – a truly remarkable achievement.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUB

February half term dates for our Holiday Club (3-8 years old) are now live on Magic Booking. We are offering a variety of activities, including celebrating Pancake Day, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. For our younger children, Valentine's baking will take place on Monday 16th Feb and pancake making on Tuesday 17th Feb. Make sure to book these dates if you would like your child to take part.

We also have two Berky Experience Clubs for our Prep children (Y3-6):

Monday 16th Feb: Computing Club with Mr Jones

Wednesday 18th Feb: Valentine's Baking with Miss Wootton

To book any of the above clubs, please visit: <https://berkhamstead.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

If you have questions, please email Miss Wootton:
holidayclub@berkhamsteadschool.co.uk



PARENTS' SUPPORT



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL

PARENTS' SUPPORT

*keeping parents
in the loop*

YEAR 3-6

'Book look'

Parents and guardians of pupils from Year 3-6 are warmly invited to visit their child's form room, accompanied by their child, to look at their work. Although form teachers will be present, this is not an additional Parents' Evening.

Monday 26th January between 3.45pm - 5.00pm
Venue: Child's form room



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U10 v Rendcomb College

On a very wet and windy Wednesday afternoon, all the U10 girls travelled to Rendcomb for a very competitive match despite having to change the complete team at the end of every section. All the girls quickly got into their stride passing and moving with consistently good footwork. We did on occasions miss our passes due to not stepping into them; however, the girls shooting was extremely good executing the majority of them. I was particularly impressed with the support they provided to each other, cheering politely to acknowledge all the good play. An excellent start to the new netball term. Well done girls! Loss - 10-8 to Rendcomb. IP





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U11/10 v Rendcomb College

We took two mixed Year 5/6 teams to Rendcomb on a very wet Wednesday, with challenging conditions setting the scene for an exciting afternoon of football.

The A team showed some quality and resilience, producing some excellent passages of play despite the rain. Goals from Seth (2) and Archie put us into a deserved 3–1 lead. Rendcomb managed to pull one back late on, but strong, determined defending and a superb save from George L ensured we held on for a well-earned victory.

The B team were involved in a tightly contested first half, going into the break level at 1–1. However, outstanding teamwork and energy after half-time saw the boys take control of the match. They dominated the second half, scoring four unanswered goals to secure an impressive 5–1 win. The goals came from George H (3), Jack W and Arturo.

Well done to all of the boys for their efforts, and a huge thank you to our supporters who braved the wet conditions.

PMc

