



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school.

I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to our newest pupils: Tori T who has joined Year 4, and Eli M – also Year 4 – who joined us before half term. I am equally pleased to welcome Louis T to our Kindergarten. I hope they have all settled in well and are already enjoying being part of the Berkhampstead community

Before half term, we enjoyed one of the highlights of the school calendar – the much-anticipated House Pancake Races. I was away at a conference and, unfortunately missed the event, but I have heard that it was its usual thrilling display of pancake-flipping fun. Well done to St Patrick's and St Andrew's, who were the joint overall winners, and thank you to the PTA for providing refreshments after the event.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 11th March
6pm Future Schools Evening for Y4 & 5 Parents

Wednesday 12th March
2.15pm U10 & U11 Netball v Ashley Manor (away)
2.15pm U9 Netball v Dean Close Prep (away)
2.15pm U11 & U10 Football v Ashley Manor (away)
3.30pm U8 Netball v Dean Close Prep (away)
5pm Y6 Parents' Evening - Online

Thursday 13th March
World Book Day - all children welcome to dress up as a character or word
9.30am Y4 trip to 'In the Net'
4.15pm Move More Cross-Country Girls at Ashley Manor (away)

Friday 14th March
8.30am Visiting Head Assembly - Mr Morgan, Cotswold School, Prep Parents invited
2.15pm U8 & U9 Football v Rendcomb (away)
2.15pm U8 & U9 Netball v Rendcomb (away)
4.15pm Move More Cross-Country Boys at Ashley Manor (away)

Saturday 7th March
Open Morning





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Congratulations to Lucas D'A (15), who was awarded the Sally Lee Kindness Cup, and to Olivia B (5H), who received the Gill Agg Kindness Cup before half term. These awards recognise pupils who consistently demonstrate empathy, thoughtfulness and a genuine commitment to supporting others within our school community. We are very proud of both Lucas and Olivia for the kindness they show each day, setting a wonderful example to their peers.

Years 4 and 6 enjoyed excellent trips to SkillZONE in Gloucester this week, an interactive life skills village. As part of their Citizenship and Wellbeing (CWB) education, the children took part in immersive, age-appropriate scenarios that developed their understanding of personal safety at home and in the community. From exploring the justice system in a mock courtroom to considering safe choices in unfamiliar situations and learning about road safety, the visit was both engaging and thought-provoking, equipping them with valuable skills for the future.

Thank you to all the Prep parents who joined us for our first Visiting Heads event of the school year this morning. We welcomed Mrs Sandford Squires from St Edward's School, and we all enjoyed her assembly, which was followed by the opportunity to chat together over coffee.

Have a super weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Our highlight in Kindergarten this week has been celebrating Chinese New Year! The children immersed themselves in a range of exciting activities, including messy play with noodles, painting Chinese characters, and creating a vibrant Chinese dragon. We even held our very own outdoor parade, where the children played loud instruments as the dragon moved along in time with the music. It was wonderful to see such fantastic teamwork and collaboration on display. We also explored some of the similarities and differences between life in England and China, discovering how celebrations around the world can be alike in some ways and different in others.

Working in small groups, the children enjoyed sharing their half-term news. We heard about trips to the park, baking cakes at home, birthday parties and even a very special visit to Disneyland!

Our focus book this week has been *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas, which is always a favourite in Kindergarten. The story has supported our discussions about feelings and emotions. By linking colours to different emotions, the book helps children to recognise, understand, and talk about how they are feeling.

In Forest School on Tuesday, we were delighted to enjoy our first sunny session of the year. The children loved exploring the nature garden, getting wonderfully muddy in the mud pits, and searching for signs of spring in the sunshine.

We now look ahead with excitement to the second half of the Spring term as we begin our new topic, 'I Wonder How Things Grow?' Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring the changes that happen during springtime. Our activities will include planting beans, carrying out simple science experiments with potatoes, and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. LS



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Shelby R, Aidan K, Hana BT, William M
Berky Bear: Persephone W, Sienna M, Zachary B, Alfie B





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM RECEPTION

How wonderful it has been to see the sun shine this week! We have certainly been embracing the outdoors as much as possible - and the mud! In Forest School, the children have loved digging, building and cooking up a storm in our mud kitchen. There has been some fantastic teamwork and imaginative role play, along with some very muddy wellies and waterproofs! We have also been planting dahlia bulbs, talking about what plants need to grow well and spotting signs of new life on the trees and in the pond (we spotted two very sweet little frogs!).

Inspired by spring, the children have created beautiful observational pastel pictures of spring flowers. We looked carefully at the shapes, colours and fine details in the petals and stems. The finished pictures are simply stunning!

In our Literacy sessions, we have been reading the beautiful story *The Extraordinary Gardener* by Sam Boughton. The story has inspired us to imagine a world bursting with

amazing colour and magical plants. The children have loved sharing their ideas, describing the wonderful gardens they would create and thinking about how small changes can make a big difference.

In maths this week, we have been exploring the numbers 9 and 10, thinking carefully about how they are made and how we can represent them in different ways. We have also been learning about odd and even numbers, using practical resources to help us spot patterns and group objects. The children are becoming increasingly confident mathematicians when explaining their thinking.

In phonics, we continue to consolidate our sounds, particularly focusing on the trickier digraphs and trigraphs. The children are practising recognising, saying and writing the sound, as well as using it when reading and spelling words. Thank you for your continued support with practising sounds at home — little and often really does make a big difference.
Z M-S



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Ralph H, Theo Cr, Eva C and Posey H-L
Berky Bear: Otto D-H





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

We are always here to help and support our families. If you would also like to explore the range of parenting support available locally, please scan the QR code to view a map of parental support groups and parenting courses.

WORLD BOOK DAY

A reminder that next Thursday is World Book Day! Pupils are warmly invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character – or even as a word. We look forward to a wonderfully creative celebration of reading!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete the recent parents' questionnaire - your feedback is invaluable. We will share further information in next week's newsletter.

BERKY GETS GREENER

Well done to one of our brilliant Reception pupils for helping keep our community tidy by spending time litter picking – such a fantastic example of care and responsibility!

New! Interactive Map for Parents, Carers & Practitioners

Easily find parent courses,
workshops and drop-in groups
across Gloucestershire

SEND



Dads

co-parenting



0-11yrs

11+yrs

Pre-birth, Birth &
Early Years



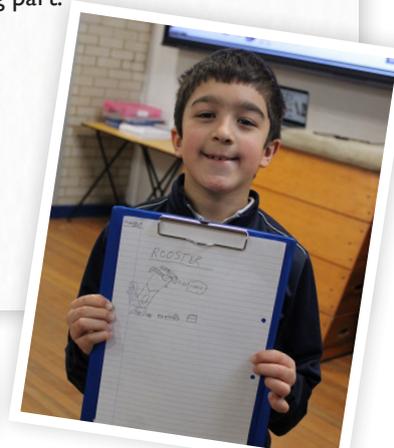
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AUTHOR EVENT

Year 4 enjoyed a brilliant interactive online author event this week with Eric Huang, Year 4's Author of the Month. He introduced pupils to his exciting 'Guardians of the New Moon' series, sharing inspiration behind the stories. The session also included a fun and creative "draw along", where the children designed their own lunar animals, complete with imaginative accessories. It was a fantastic event, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U10A v Wycliffe

The U10A netball team delivered an outstanding performance in their latest match, showing excellent teamwork and determination from start to finish. Their shooting was brilliant, with accurate goals scored under pressure and with great confidence in the shooting circle. The shooters demonstrated fantastic focus and composure, converting many opportunities into valuable points for the team. Passing across the court was sharp and precise, allowing the ball to move smoothly from defence to attack. Players worked tirelessly to create space, and their movement off the ball was particularly impressive. They constantly repositioned themselves to support teammates and maintain possession. Communication was high throughout the game, with clear calling, encouragement, and quick instructions helping the team stay organised and motivated. Every player contributed to the success of the match, showing sportsmanship and positive attitudes. Overall, it was a brilliant display of skill, teamwork, and enthusiasm that made everyone proud.

WON 12 – 1 IP

U10/11 v Wycliffe

The performance from all was fantastic. The team worked hard to improve their ability to find space. However, we need to stop standing behind the taller players. Betty's communication was brilliant and we had some excellent attempts on goal particularly by Eden. I was impressed with the work rate of all the girls and this helped to make the game

very competitive. With a little more accuracy and sharpness around the passing we would have won the game. Well done all on a fantastic performance.

DRAW 2 – 2 IP

