

*Please give generously*

The Gloucester Quays Toy Appeal is looking for new gifts - for newborn babies to age 16 children - for families who couldn't otherwise afford presents for their children. The School Council will place boxes in the playground for donations on **Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December**.  
Thank you for your kind generosity.



## BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

### NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and exciting week with the children embracing the 'charity' message and building up to the Christmas events. I was thrilled to hear about the kindness of Elodie O last weekend in collecting so much food for the Cheltenham Foodbank. Off her own back, she decided to include a plea for donations in a newsletter to her neighbours, and they gave generously - as you can see. Well done Elodie. I am also delighted to see pupils all over the School making the most beautiful eco Christmas decorations, which will be on display next week.

The older pupils have had some competitive matches this week, in the termly house matches. I was thrilled to be asked to referee the U8 boys and saw some great running and passing from them. They were all close games with lots of tries scored.

Following this, I returned to my office to find that Year 2 had turned it into a grotto for Father Christmas. It felt very warm, and I was amazed to see a small named Christmas stocking hanging up for each Year 2 child. It was very exciting and reminded me that Christmas is not far away.

We keep adding to our Christmas events and I am thrilled that Mrs Mitchell is taking a group of Year 5 pupils to Bay Tree Court to sing to the residents. The children will remain outside to sing but the residents will be able to see and hear them through the windows. I know they are delighted.

Unfortunately, we have had our first positive case of COVID in school. We have worked with the Department for Education and Public Health England to manage this and 18 children and some staff are isolating. We wish them all well and are glad they can return before the end of term. I will keep you updated on this as usual. In the meantime, they will have lots of work to do on Teams!

I hope you will join me this evening for the PTA Family Quiz. I am looking forward to it and hope the Internet holds up for all those joining us.

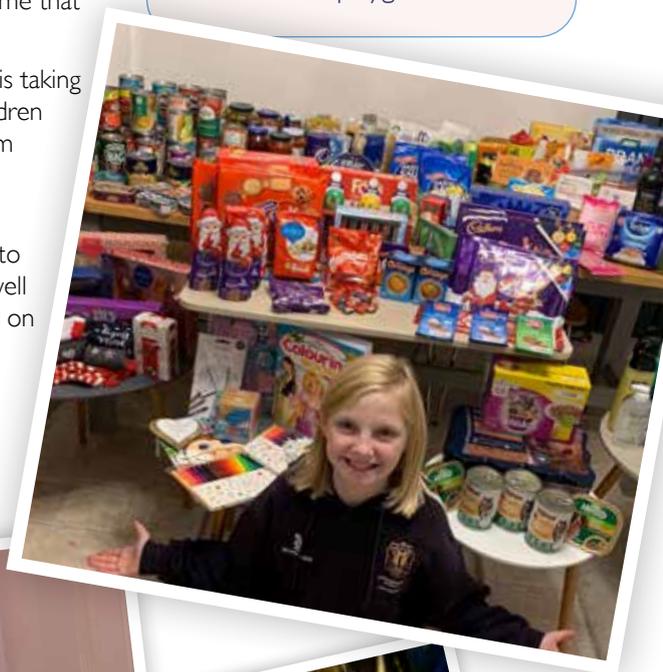
*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster

### Diary dates...

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

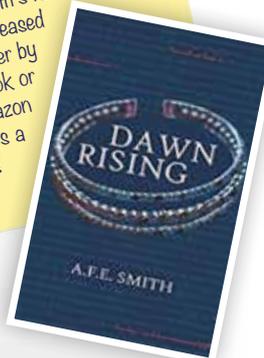
- Tue 1st Dec  
Eco Warriors Green Day
- Thu 3rd Dec  
Year 6 History trip to the Steam Museum  
Gloucester Quays Toy Appeal - collection in playground
- Fri 4rd Dec  
Gloucester Quays Toy Appeal - collection in playground





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

**Dawn Rising**  
For all lovers of science fantasy aged 13 to 113, alumna AFE Smith's new book 'Dawn Rising' was released this week. Support her by buying either an ebook or hard copy from Amazon or Waterstones - it's a really good read!



## News from around the school...



Year 1 Eco Christmas decorations



### ECO WARRIORS' TOP TIP OF THE WEEK

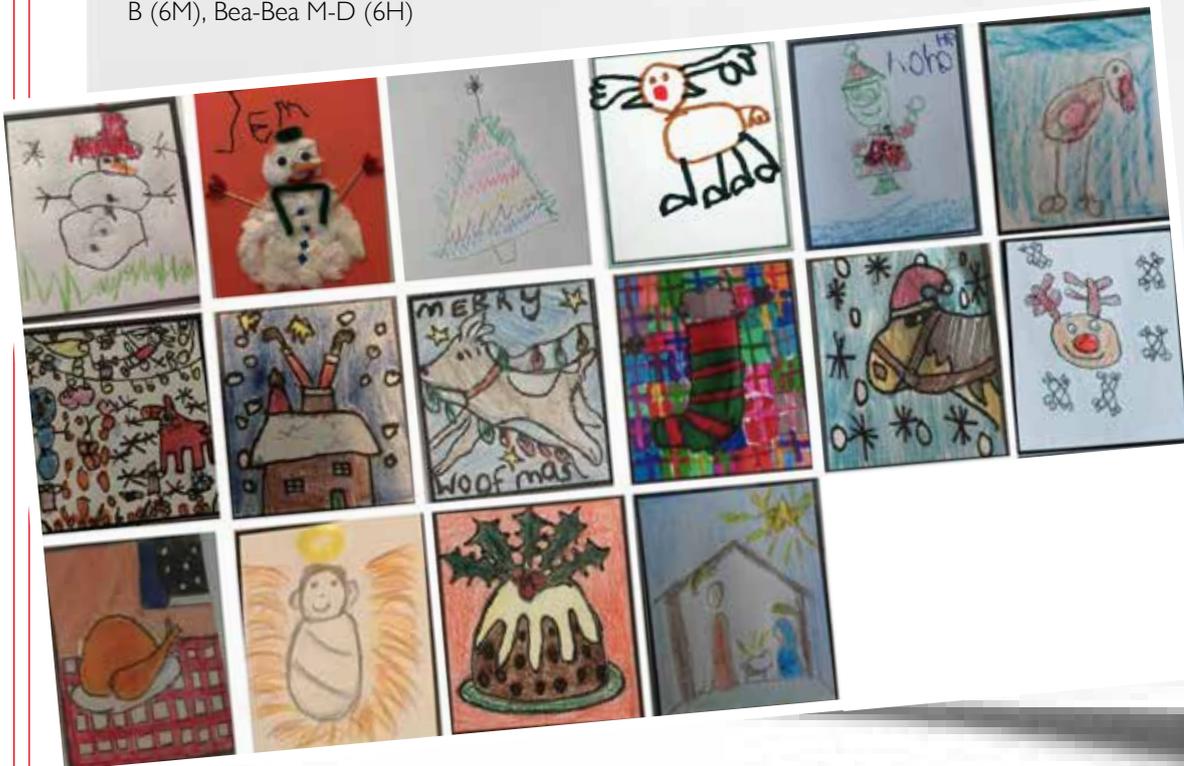
Sam B in 5K suggests uses for your real Christmas tree after the festivities: chop it up to make compost for your garden or stuff it into your hedge as it attracts wildlife.



### CHRISTMAS STAMP COMPETITION

We were thrilled with this year's beautiful and imaginative stamp designs. Submitted by pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6, we chose the following designs for the Berky Postal Service:

Arabella G (KG), Jeremiah T (KG), Devan P (RG), Gaia G (RR-W), Barnaby K (ICM), Jemima H-S (IS), Bruno R (2T), Rosie E (2L), Asia D (3M), Charlotte J (3C), Georgia E (4T), Floyd R (4E), Zoe S (5K), Chloe E (5B), Rosemary B (6M), Bea-Bea M-D (6H)





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## News from Early Years

It is my favourite time of the year and Kindergarten has been buzzing this week - you can really feel the excitement starting to build as we participate in Christmas activities. Everyone has made an eco-friendly candy cane decoration using Cheerios and a pipe cleaner for the School's Christmas tree; this also doubles up as a bird feeder so the children can hang it in an outside space and watch the birds feed over the Christmas holidays. Our party crowns are ready for December 9th and Kindergarten is looking very sparkly and shimmery as a result.

In Maths this week we have been learning about length and height and Christmas has influenced our maths activities. The children have used various lengths of paper to make a Christmas tree and we have used tape measures and rulers to measure each other and objects in the outdoor classroom. The children are beginning to use mathematical terms to describe length such as:

- Freddie: 'Short, long'**
- Amelia: 'Short, big, little, medium'**
- Flynn: 'Long, longer, short, bigger'**

We are ready for our concert of 'A Wiggly Nativity' on Wednesday; the singing and actions are coming along really well I am hope that you will be truly amazed by what the children can do as we are so proud of them.

This week in Literacy, the Reception children have been completing activities based on the story 'Night Monkey, Day Monkey.' They have answered comprehension questions about the text, sorted the animals from the story into nocturnal and diurnal animals and they have also created wonderful fact sheets about a nocturnal animal.

In Expressive Arts and Design, the children have taken part in a drama activity in which they re-enacted the story of 'Night Monkey, Day Monkey.' They first identified the characters in the story and thought about what they say and how they move. They then chose the character they wanted to play and acted the story as it was read to them.

Meanwhile, in Maths lessons, the children have been finding different ways of making 5 using a part-whole model and they have thought about how they would write these into a number sentence. They have also been listening to instructions containing positional language to help find the missing bear. The children then had a go using the language themselves to provide their own instructions. Good job, Reception! AH



**THIS WEEK'S AWARDS**  
 Kindergarten  
 Maddie L G, Heath G, Esme W  
 Reception  
 Max T, Rupert S, Arturo P,  
 George R, Devan P, Felix T,  
 Ned D, Tilly M

