



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 28TH MAY  
SUMMER TERM

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I always remind the children that if there is only one thing to be, it is to be kind. The children know this and I see so many fabulous examples of it each day in school. Today it was a delight to hand over the Gill Agg Kindness Cup to Polly E, and the Sally Lee Kindness Cup to Ethan S. Both are fabulous examples to us all.

How lovely to have some sunshine this week, particularly for the fixtures on Wednesday and Kindergarten's Teddy Bear Adventure! We have hurtled through this half term and what a relief it is not to have had to talk too much about COVID. We are not making too many changes after half term; however, we are changing the entrance gates for Kindergarten, Years 4 and 6.

**Kindergarten parents, please use the main gate (not the side gate) to enter the Pre-Prep Playground and walk around to Kindergarten. The drop-off and pick-up times remain the same.**

**Years 4 and 6 parents, please use the wooden gate on Pittville Circus Road. The drop-off and pick-up times remain the same.**

A message confirming this will be sent out early on Monday 7th June as a reminder.

Year 2 and Year 3, along with others from Years 4, 5 and 6 were at the Cheltenham Festival of the Performing Arts this week. Well done to all of them! I saw several performances in rehearsal and the standard was very high. We celebrated their achievements in school today.

On Wednesday, I seemed to spend quite a lot of time changing from one set of clothes to another! I was the Headmaster in a shirt and tie, interviewing our new peripatetic music staff at one moment and then Berky Bear in a furry onesie reading a story to Kindergarten the next. During the afternoon, I umpired a cricket match - in my tracksuit - when the U11B team won another of their matches against Cricklade Manor School. Please see the match report in the Sports Pages. These are the sort of days I love!

Do enjoy the Bank Holiday and I hope that the children make the most of the week off; I understand that there are a few places for Holiday Club still available so please contact the School Office if you would like to book a place.

Please remember that if you are going away over half-term, remain vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19; if you have any concerns, you and/or your child should take a COVID test then, if necessary, isolate for 10 days. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we could get to the end of term without the need to close a bubble.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



## Diary dates

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Mon 7th June**

School returns

4-6pm Art Exhibition

**Tue 8th June**

4-6pm Art Exhibition

Kindergarten Parents' Evening

4E Parents' Evening

**Wed 9th June**

4-6pm Art Exhibition

4.00pm Year 2 and their  
parents visit to Prep

2.15pm Girls' Cricket U11  
v King's Glos (A)

2.15pm Girls' Cricket U9  
v Rendcomb (H)

2.30pm Boys' Cricket U11A/B  
& U10 v Richard Pate (H)

**Thu 10th June**

Year 2 trip to Crickley Hill

4T Parents' Evening

**Fri 11th June**

11am - Year 2 playtime in Prep

2.15pm Girls' Cricket U9  
v King's Glos (H)

2.45pm Boys' Cricket U9A/B  
v Richard Pate (H)



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception  
Rocco B, Ralph A, Eleanor C, Tilly M, Lucy W, Chloe W, Felicity W, Max T

Kindergarten  
Eliyas SR, Finley S, Sophie B, Kitty L

## News from Early Years



Throughout this term, the Kindergarten children have been following the great adventures of Andrew Bear. He has sent us postcards from all around the world, including India, China, Australia and Africa; we have been looking at the animals and different cultures in these countries. This week, Andrew Bear returned to England and arrived at Berky, but not before he had created some mischief by hiding our snack and leaving us clues so that we could find it.

Andrew Bear also left some craft activities and equipment for biscuit making, and to complete our fun morning, we had a visit from a very important bear who was brilliant at reading stories.

After a delicious picnic lunch, we went to the wildlife garden where the children made dens for their bears from the sticks they collected from home. It was such a fun day, enjoyed by everyone - made extra special by comments from the children such as, "That was the best day ever!"

Reception Parents' Evening went very well and it was so positive to share with you the progress the children are making and what they have been learning. Please feel free to see staff at any time if you have questions or concerns about your child.

The children have learnt the art of being patient over the past few weeks waiting for our butterflies to emerge. Great excitement mounted as the children spotted them flying around inside the net! Everyone agreed to release them in the nature garden. The children waved goodbye as they fluttered happily away. Keeping the butterflies in the classroom has given the children an opportunity to see the life cycle of the butterfly first-hand.

During maths the children have been developing their spatial skills. They explored and found out about a tangram - the traditional Chinese puzzle. The children discussed the names and properties of the different 2D shapes found in a tangram and how they can be positioned. They enjoyed investigating the effect of slides, flips and turns to create animals such as cat, rabbit, dog horse, goat, ox, monkey and snake. They are beginning to understand how to reposition tangram shapes and develop their spatial skills.

Minibeast masks were created this week. Using paper plates cut in half, the children designed their own minibeast masks using a variety of craft materials. They loved selecting the different media and each mask was very individual!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
VALUES TREE

Kindergarten  
Henrietta C, Nina C, Heath G, Flynn J, Maddie LG, Esme W, Jeremiah T, Rupert R.  
Reception  
Arlo R, Devan P, Eleanor C, Lilian L, Blaise K, Ollie S, Max T, Arturo P





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## News from around the school

### CHESS NEWS

The four chess clubs - one per year group - have seen their final matches of the season. Plenty of splendid chess has been played and I am happy to report a real strength in depth throughout the school. These players have ended the season with places on 'the podium' and were awarded medals and certificates in assembly this morning:

Y3 1st Tom R, 2nd George J, 3rd = Ted L and Ben R

Y4 1st Seb C, 2nd Joseph W, 3rd Gideon T

Y5 1st= Barnaby W and Isla R, 3rd Georgia A

Y6 1st Patrick D, 2nd Henry R, 3rd Serena A

### SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

We warmly invite parents to our Summer Art Exhibition which takes place in the Prep Hall from 4pm to 6pm on Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th June (the week after half term). Showcasing artwork from every pupil in the school, this year's show will be adhering to Covid regulations with social distancing and a one-way system. Please wear a mask, enter the hall via the blue fire exit door (near the outdoor classroom on the Hewlett Road side) and leave via the internal door.



### BERKY ECO PLEDGE

The Berky Eco Pledge for Years 3-6 was launched this week with a brilliant and hard-hitting assembly presented by our Berky Gets Greener team. The pupils explained that to earn an Eco-Warrior badge, families would need to choose at least 5 pledges, and to carry these out at home on a regular and consistent basis. Pledge 10 is an essential requirement. The pledges are explained in greater depth on Teams, but here are the main points:

- 1 We pledge to reuse and recycle unwanted household items.
- 2 We pledge not to waste food/buy food produced in a non-eco-friendly way.
- 3 We pledge to use less plastic.
- 4 We pledge to reduce the amount of electricity and gas we consume.
- 5 We pledge not to waste paper.
- 6 We pledge not to waste water.
- 7 We pledge to reduce our fuel consumption.
- 8 We will support wildlife and plants at home and further afield.
- 9 We will be less materialistic.
- 10 We will spread the word!

To earn their **Eco-Warrior badge** (made from recycled tin), pupils need to send in a Pledge Form and some photos of themselves and their families doing each of their chosen things to [ecowarrior@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk](mailto:ecowarrior@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk)

We are hoping that as many children as possible will want to take part!





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

We are tremendously proud of all the children who took part in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts, and congratulations to the following prize winners:

#### VERSE SPEAKING:

Year 2

Olivia M - Gold medal  
Diana S - Silver medal  
Rose B - Silver medal

Year 3

Ara K - Gold medal  
Freddie L - Silver medal  
Hugo H - Bronze medal  
George J - Bronze medal  
Ben R - Bronze medal

Year 4

Alba N - Silver medal

Year 5

Chloe E - Bronze medal

Year 6

Beatrice M-D - Gold medal (Bronze in Singing)  
Beatrice N - Bronze medal

#### STORY WRITING:

Year 6 - Isabella E - the Maureen Jones Award for Original Story Writing - Under 11 years

Here is Isabella's gripping story:

#### RUNNING

*He was running, running, running. His heart pounded in his chest. What had he done? As fast as he could, Jim ran across the ploughed field towards the deep, dense woods. He turned and took one last look at his childhood home and remembered all the happy times he had spent there. A shiver ran down his spine as he took the first step into the woods.*

*Immediately, he felt scared - no, petrified. It was a crisp autumn night, the mist ghosted through the tall towering trees like a white blanket enveloping the whole woods. As Jim walked on, he felt tired, cold and hungry, he longed for a bowl of steaming hot soup. His mind was full of self-doubt but he could not undo what he had done. He only had an hour until dawn would break, an hour until Ma would find the note.*

*He quickened his pace, beads of sweat started to trickle down his face like rain on a windowpane. Jim broke into a run, his breath quickened, all he could hear was the crack of the twigs under his studded boots. The brutal wind bullied the trees into giving up their crisp autumn leaves. The leaves swirled around Jim making him feel disorientated. But he had to carry on.*

*Dawn was now breaking. Jim could hear the first sounds of birdsong in the trees, he knew that Ma would now be reading his note. He stopped for a moment, the realisation of the consequences of his actions now hitting him like a bolt of lightning.*

*As he left the woods and took his first step into the unknown, his thoughts turned again to Ma, she would be weeping now, weeping tears of sorrow. Jim's heart told him to turn back but his head told him to carry on. His feet were aching, his body was weary, but he gritted his teeth and carried on.*

*He looked at his watch, it said 7.15am. He only had fifteen minutes to reach his destiny. Jim pulled his cap down so no one would recognise him. He wrapped his coat around him as the biting wind was now seeping into his veins. He took a deep breath and carried on running down the rugged path towards the village. The village which would change his life forever.*

*As he entered the village, Jim's thoughts turned to his brothers who had both lost their lives in the war that Jim was about to fight. He knew what he was doing was wrong, he had falsified his papers saying that he was eighteen but really he was just sixteen. He wanted to be brave like his brothers and fight for his king and country.*

*As Jim jumped into the army truck, little did he know the dangers that he was about to face, but what he did know was that no matter what, he would keep running, running, running until he was home once more.*





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Prep matches

Please keep an eye on fixtures each week; some details might change due to the ever-changing circumstances at the moment.

## Cricket reports...

### BOYS

**U10 v Cricklade Manor**  
Cricklade 291-6  
Berky 275-7

On Wednesday afternoon the rain finally cleared and the U10 boys played a cricket match against Cricklade. The match was at Cricklade and the boys chose to field first. The boys bowled well, taking 6 wickets but Cricklade were very good at scoring single runs where they could and this, along with a few 4s and 6s, allowed them to score 291 runs. When we came to bat, it was a challenge because Cricklade bowled very well, and their fielding was also good. They took 7 wickets from us and with very few wide or no balls, we finished with a score of 275.

A loss unfortunately but lots to learn and something to bounce back from in the next match.

**U11A v Cricklade Manor**  
Cricklade - 121 for 5  
Berky - 84 for 8  
Cricklade won by 37 runs.

The U11A team enjoyed their first hardball game of the season against Cricklade on Wednesday. Our opponents elected to bat and we made a couple of early breakthroughs with a fine catch by Rufus off Will C's bowling and an excellent run out by Harry A. However, Cricklade proved very capable with the bat and continued to score at a fairly quick rate. Their main batsman reached his half century before being dismissed by a fine delivery from Harry A, which was taken safely by Patrick, behind the stumps. We managed another run out and a wicket from Michael C, before they finished on 121 for 5. Overall, our bowling was very encouraging and we displayed lots of energy in the field.

Cricklade had a very strong bowling attack and a couple of early wickets had us on the back foot. However, our middle order got us back in the game with some solid partnerships. Will C batted beautifully before being bowled for 40. Although we batted our required overs, we came up a little short, finishing on 84 for 8.

There were a lot of very positive aspects to the game and the boys will have learned lots from it. We came up against a very good side and acquitted ourselves well. Well done, boys, for an excellent effort.

**U11B v Cricklade Manor**  
Won by 24 runs

It was with relief that this fixture wasn't rained off – following rain for much of May – as the boys were eager to play a match. Captain Harry won the toss and chose to bowl on a damp wicket. With each bowler bowling two overs I was keen they got off to a good start. This they did with accurate bowling from Mateo (4 wickets), Harry (2 wickets), Albie B-C (2 wickets) and Robert (1 wicket) taking the wickets. Connor too was very accurate with his bowling. In the field, the boys were alert and eager to restrict the running of the Cricklade batsmen and they restricted Cricklade to 52 runs.

The batting started well with Connor and Luke (17 runs – 2 wickets) hitting the ball well against some accurate bowling. Harry and Charles scored very well with some big shots as well as some sneaky singles (23 runs – 1 wicket). Robert and Arthur started nervously but were superb with the quick singles, putting pressure on the Cricklade fielders and scoring 21 runs for only 1 wicket. Finally, Mateo and Albie came in at the end with 40 runs on the board for Berky – 12 to win. This Mateo did with a man-of-the-match performance scoring 22 runs in his first over. Albie contributed well too and they scored 47 runs for 2 wickets, leaving Berky easy victors with a total of 76 runs. A great win, boys – well played.

