

Parking

Please can parents be careful not to obstruct pavement crossing points outside school, as this makes it unsafe for parents crossing the road with pushchairs and young children.
Thank you!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 29TH APRIL
SUMMER TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure to see the smiling faces enjoying the fresh air and looking smart and cool in the summer uniform. Practices began at the lovely Victoria Ground this week and it was a real delight to see such talent at the beginning of the cricket season - there are some seriously quick bowlers amongst the girls and boys. We look forward to enjoying many fixtures at the Victoria Ground and hope that as many of you as possible will come along and relax and enjoy the sport in the sun - fingers crossed the temperatures pick up in May!

I have been showing round many prospective parents this and have quite a few more booked next week too. They always comment on the welcome they receive from the children and staff and on the friendly community feel of the school. We do have a few places left in Reception for September, and in other year groups too, so if you know of anyone looking for a school...

We have been shortlisted again for the SoGlos Independent School of the Year. We were so close to winning this last year and your vote really counts. Please do vote for us! I will send you a separate message with all the details for registering your vote.

Thank you for your comments regarding communications from school. We are researching alternative platforms for communicating important information, including the school calendar linked directly to your phone calendar, that I hope will help to improve things. Please bear with us while we find better ways to keep you up to date.

Two important dates!

Wednesday 4th May 7pm - PTA Meeting in the Pre-Prep Hall
Discussions on the PTA Summer events and fundraising

Friday 27th May

Queen's Jubilee Tea Party

We plan to have the whole school having a picnic lunch together - street party style - on the Pre-Prep lawn from 12:30pm. The PTA have kindly also agreed to support this and have a parents' tea party too. Please put this date in your diaries! More details to follow.

Staff updates:

I am sad to let you know that Jess Watkins, Teaching Assistant in Reception will be leaving us to start in a senior position at a pre-school in Gloucester. We wish her all the very best for her new role. Jess has been a super support to the children in Reception and we will miss her hugely. We have appointed Ady Moscovich to this position in Reception for the rest of the term. Ady has been working in Reception as part of her Early Years Childhood degree and having finished her course is able to join us this term.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon 2nd May**
Bank Holiday - school closed
- Tues 3rd May**
Glos. wildlife quiz semi final at Richard Pate 4pm
- Wed 4th May**
2.15pm - U11/U10 Boys' Cricket v King's, Glos (A)
2.30pm - U11/U10 Girls' Cricket v King's Glos (H)
7.00pm - PTA Meeting, Pre-Prep Hall
- Fri 6th May**
8.30am - Visiting Head's Assembly - Mr Salisbury, Dean Close





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years

KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten children have come back from their Easter holidays rested and full of enthusiasm. We are very proud of how supportive the children have been towards our new starters, helping them to make friends, follow the Kindergarten routine and enjoy the varied and fun activities together.

We have started our new topic of The Beach/Holidays. During Circle Time the children have been telling us all about their adventures over the Easter break and it is lovely to see how their confidence is growing to talk more openly in a group.

In literacy we have been reading postcards that Andrew Bear has sent from around the world and the children have been busy mark making and using early writing skills to write postcards to each other.

Our art workshop has been extremely popular with children using glue to stick various lengths of yellow and blue tissue paper on to black paper to create a beach scene - the results are amazing!

Next week the children will be tasting breads from around the world. After a vote, we have decided to try pitta, baguette, pretzels, ciabatta, and naan. The children will be encouraged to try each bread; they will draw a simple happy or sad face next to a photograph of each bread to show their like or dislike, and we will then be able to decide on an overall winner.




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten: Isa K, India L,
Douglas R, Oscar W

Edna Bear: Max W





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years

RECEPTION

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a lovely holiday. The children have returned to school happy and eager to engage in all the exciting activities they have planned with the staff.

This week, the Reception children have been exploring 'The Characteristics of Effective Learning' which describe behaviours children use in order to learn - an important part of the EYFS curriculum. Staff reflect on the children's different learning styles having carefully planned lessons and activities, and then assessing the children's success.

The three EYFS characteristics of effective learning are:

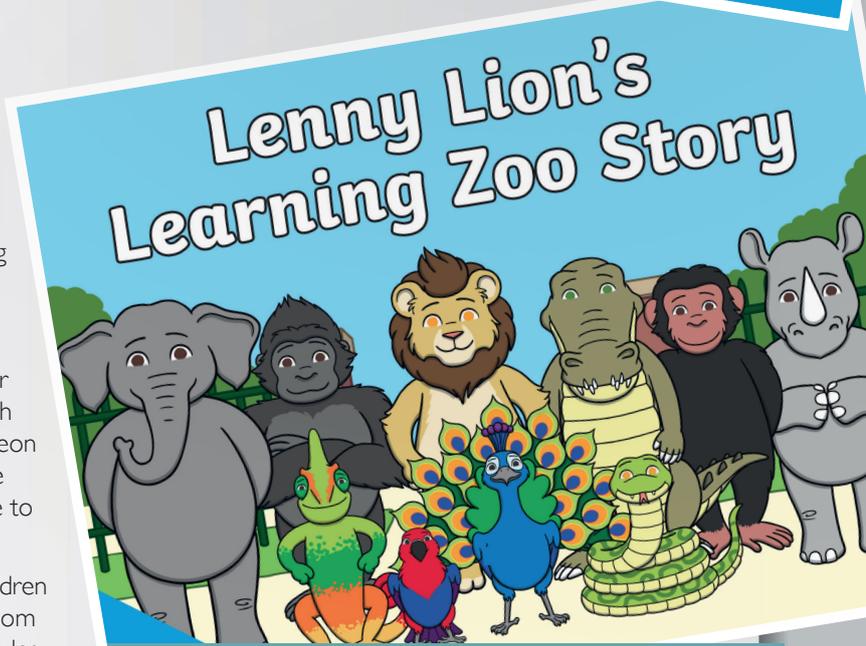
Playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.

Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.

Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

To help the children understand their own learning styles, they have been introduced to a story about Lenny Lion who sets the other animals at the learning zoo a challenge - can they build a new play area for the zoo? As the animals complete this challenge, they each demonstrate a different aspect of the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning. For example, Persevering Parrot who keeps on trying with the challenge of building a swing or Creative Chameleon who has a range of creative and exciting ideas for the play area. The children loved the story and were able to match their own learning styles to the animals!

Throughout the term we will be encouraging the children to discuss their type of learning using the new classroom display to support them in identifying their learning styles.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Reception: Elias SR,
Thomas H, Tobias L,
Meriem T





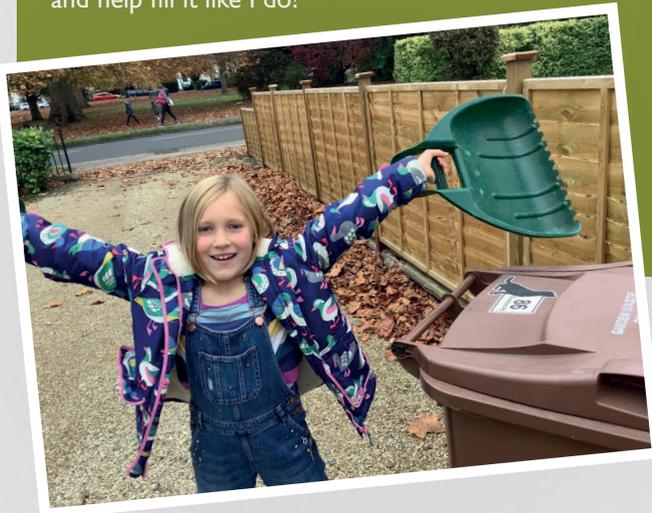
BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Eco news

TOP TIP FROM A Y3 BERKY GETS GREENER BADGE HOLDER

Consider using a garden waste bin, and help fill it like I do!



BERKY GETS GREENER

Our Prep children are so keen to get involved with litter picking that Miss Walter has had to draw up a rota for committee members - plus other volunteers - for Thursday mid-morning break litter picking!

Well done to our resident Wombling community for being so keen to keep Berky clean and tidy!



News from around The school

ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

Cheltenham Croquet Club is keen to attract young players, and so they are holding an open evening for under 18s on Tuesday 31st May, from 5.30 - 7pm. If you can't make this time, please contact nao.whitehead@gmail.com or telephone 01242 227519

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For further insight into your child's day at Berky, please follow us on Social Media. We would be really grateful if you could share stories too. Here are our Social Media handles:

- Instagram:** [berkhampstead_school](#)
- Facebook:** [Berkhampstead](#)
- Twitter:** [BerkyCheltenham](#)

