



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a super couple of weeks for sporting fixtures; every child in the Prep has played at least one match and many have played two. All at Berky play and all benefit from the exercise, the camaraderie and the fresh air! The results have been mixed but the experience invaluable for all involved and I am pleased to say that they have all been played in super spirit. I would particularly like to mention my U11B Football team who came up against a very strong King's Worcester side this week but competed right to the end with enthusiasm and superb team spirit. We sadly lost 10-0 but the sausage roll and KitKat that followed more than made up for the disappointment of a loss. So very well done to Ethan, Nic, Charlie, Henry, Ollie, Edwin, Jasper and Max for playing with the Berky spirit - Perseverantia Vincit.

I was delighted to hear from Emily, our Day Nursery Manager, that when she was at school she was enthralled and captivated by the story telling of her teacher Mr Titley. She was keen for the younger children at Berky - those in the Day Nursery - to experience this too and invited Mr T to read a story to the pre-school. This he did, and I think he has agreed to make this a regular event - I am determined to make the next one!

I was thrilled to welcome John Bartholomew from the RNLI to our assembly this morning. The School Council (Ollie A and Naomi F) had written to John explaining that the RNLI was the chosen charity of the school this term and invited him to the school to explain about the charity. He talked in assembly about the work of the RNLI and showed videos of some of the amazing rescues at sea. I was amazed to hear how much coast line is covered - 19,000 miles - and how much the equipment costs for the Lifeboats, Lifeboat Stations and Crew. I am sure that John's assembly has made the children even more determined to raise a lot of money for this wonderful charity.

ADVANCE WARNING

The resurfacing of Pittville Circus Road will be happening between Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th of March. This is part of the work the Highways Agency are carrying out to make the area around the school safer for the children, parents and residents. I have been told that the resurfacing will not affect the drop-off and pick-up times as the work will be between 9.30am and 3.30pm. However, cars will not be able to be parked along Pittville Circus Road during the day. I believe that the safety aspect of the work ... the School Safety Zone ... will happen during the Easter Holidays.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 7th Feb

Year 5 trip to The Commandery
Year 1 trip to Cadbury World
6.00pm - Year 4 Parents' Evening

Wed 8th Feb

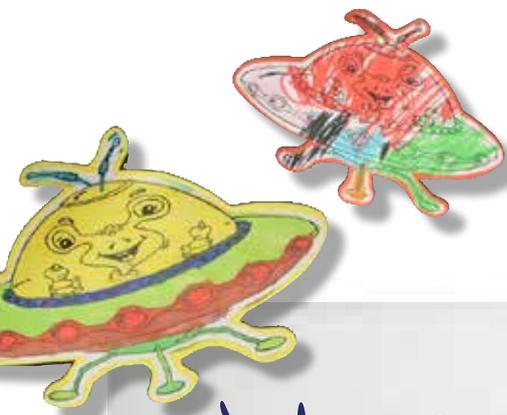
2.30pm - Netball U11A, U11B,
U10A, U10B v Cheltenham
College Prep School (A)
2.30pm - Netball U9A, U9B,
U8A, U8B v Cheltenham College
Prep School (H)
2.30pm - Football U11, U10
v Hatherop (A)

Fri 10th Feb

Year 2 History Mystery Day



Lifeboats



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

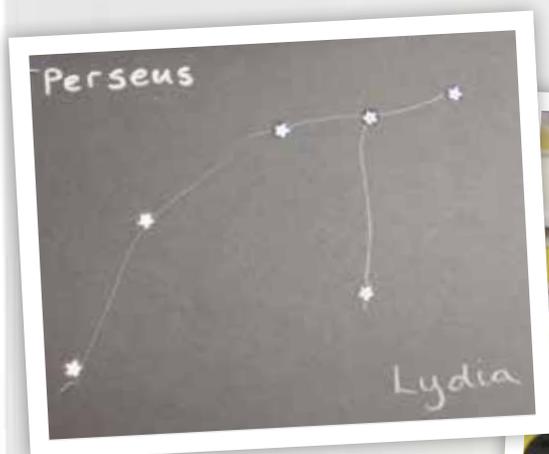
News from around the school

KINDERGARTEN

After leaving a footprint on our sandy moon, it was time to make a memento to take home of their space adventures.

The children were offered a lump of clay to poke, pound, squash and squeeze! They were encouraged to describe the surface of the moon, whether it was rocky and bumpy or smooth and flat. They all experimented with their lump of clay to give it different textures by using their fingers. Of course no Moon surface would be complete without an alien. They picked which colour pom pom they would like and how many eyes their alien should have.

We wanted the children to experience star gazing without keeping them up past their bedtime, so the next best thing was to watch a video informing them what stars are and why they twinkle. We then had fun looking at how we can join the stars up like a dot-to-dot to make constellations. The children each had a turn to make their own patterns, demonstrating good pen control, encouraging the correct grip, and learning about the different constellations. Some of the children were able to recognise and point out the constellations they had drawn on our display.





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Big Strings Project

Advance notice for all string players of a fantastic 2-day music course organised locally at half term in February.

This is an amazing opportunity which has been run for several years to great acclaim. Please register your interest with Elyn Oxley on admin@gamusic.co.uk or 01452 668592.

News from around the school

YEAR 1 VISIT ALL SAINTS'

On Thursday morning, Year One braved the wind and rain to make a trip to All Saints' Church as part of their RE topic about special places. Prior to the trip the children had studied common features of a Christian church and what the different parts were used for. Upon arrival the children were given a talk by Deacon Jennifer about All Saints' and its history. There was time for everyone to search for the features discussed during RE lessons as well as to carry out some observational drawings!

INTERNET SAFETY AT HOME

The children have been learning a lot about internet safety in CWB lessons in school but is always good to discuss these types of issue at home too. If as a parent you are looking for a way to start that all-important conversation about social media, gaming and other online activities with your son or daughter you may find the latest issue of Digital Parenting magazine number 5 useful, produced by Vodafone, which is out now and available free online for parents at:

www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/learning-and-fun/digital-parenting-magazine.html



FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION

All the Berky children have been invited to make an A4 piece of artwork based on the title 'What Fairview Means To Me'. This can be using any medium. Their entries need to be in by the first Monday after half term (20th February) and the prize is that the artwork will be made into a tile that will be permanently displayed in Fairview. We hope that lots of you will have a go - perhaps a project for the half-term holidays? Please give your entries in at the school office.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U8 Bisons v Hatherop - Lost 2-5

The boys had a very competitive game filled with end to end action. Everyone got stuck into the game and played their part. It was for the most part a very even game which isn't reflected in the score line. We created plenty of opportunities to score but were unable to find the back of the net as often as Hatherop.

The boys kept their heads up well throughout the game. Improvements are being made to our team play with every match that we play. Well done, boys.

U8 Buffaloes v Hatherop - Won 2-1

This was my first look at a boys' football match at Berky and what a treat! The boys started off strongly and were attacking the Hatherop goal with great skill and determination. The Hatherop team then broke strongly to the other end and scored a fine goal, very much against the run of play. The boys, with Otto and Griff up front and Ollie, Jack and Alex in mid-field, were tackling hard and playing very well as a team. Jonny made a couple of good saves in goal and Seb was an excellent defender, making numerous strong tackles. The game was pretty evenly matched but Berky fully deserved their equaliser scored by Jack; the score at half time was 1-1. The team at half time was swapped around and the result of the match remained very much in the balance even though Berky had the slight edge. Our second goal was scored by Otto and despite Hatherop having one very good player Berky managed to hang onto the 2-1 victory. Well done, boys!

U10A v King's Worcester - Draw 0-0

A really hard fought close match in which both sides showed good skill and determination. Rumhann was our lone striker up front but ably supported by Rhys/Jack on the left wing, Charlton on the right, and Benji M in midfield. James S was also adding his weight to the attack. James E and George de B-T were our solid defenders. Jack and Rhys shared the goalkeeping position. King's Worcester proved to be a very solid team. They passed the ball well but George and James at the back were equal to the challenge and made great tackles, pushed their attackers wide from which they had little opportunity to shoot. When the shots did come, Jack and Rhys were there to calmly collect the ball making sure that their whole body was able to take the shot.

In the centre Benji and Rhys battled well for the ball and played some lovely through balls for Rumhann to run onto. Jack and Rhys both held their position well and made some good runs, crossing the ball well. On the right Charlton made some good runs but was hustled off the ball by the opposition. There were several chances with all the attackers and James and George all taking shots but the King's defence and their goalkeeper prevented the ball from going in the net. Excitingly in the second half, Berky had to defend an indirect free kick from only 3 yards out. Even Rumhann came back to take part in the wall. The kick was charged down and Berky defended well. At the other end Berky had several corners but could not quite find an opening. Towards the end of the game George was putting in some great long balls causing the King's defence lots of problems but still we could not quite score. Despite being goalless, this was a great exciting game.

U10B v King's Worcester - Lost 1-3

An energetic match saw King's Worcester defeat a brave Berky team by 3 goals to 1. Notable performances from Olly (both as defender and goalkeeper), Eliot (a strong runner), George (full of tricks) and William (plenty of vim and vigour) kept Berky in the game. Charlie defended with gusto while Archie, James and Benjamin all made decent contributions to the cause. George's first half goal, slotted in adroitly from a difficult angle, gave our lads the lead but King's proved a little too strong.

U11A v King's Worcester - Draw 2-2

Wednesday saw another closely contested fixture for our boys. Both teams were well organised, passing the ball around and looking for an advantage. There were shots on target for both teams, but it was Berky who broke the deadlock with a fine shot from Ollie A.

The second half was equally enthralling. Passing out from the back Adam often started our attacks which were taken on skilfully by Ollie R, Bertie and Harry. However we couldn't manage to create a two goal gap. Although there was excellent goalkeeping by Rex and solid defending by Sam and Toby, two well taken goals by King's saw them edge in front. Not long after, some fine build up play from Ollie R and Bertie resulted in the equaliser from Harry. All-out attack in the last few minutes saw us go close but in the end a 2-2 draw was a fair result.

Our boys played some great attacking football and our pressing in defence was particularly pleasing. Well done, boys, for another super performance.

