



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

**FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

On Tuesday, eight pupils from Years 5 and 6 proudly represented Berkhamstead at Cheltenham College's annual Primary Team Maths Challenge, competing against 13 other schools. Both teams were outstanding, and we are all thrilled that both teams achieved Gold – an outstanding and well-deserved success.

Ned D, Oliver S, Ben S and Rupert S (Year 5), together with Mark B, Rowan J, Jonas D and Tamar C (Year 6), tackled the challenge with confidence, determination and exceptional mathematical flair. Their superb teamwork, sharp reasoning and calm problem-solving shone throughout the demanding rounds. Berky has competed in this prestigious event for several years, consistently placing in the top three - a remarkable record that reflects our pupils' resilience, collaboration and unmistakable Berky spirit. Head of Maths, Mr Lovell, who accompanied the teams, was immensely proud of their performance, as are we all. Huge congratulations to both teams on a truly brilliant achievement.

Thank you to all the Prep parents who joined us for our 'Book Look' event on Monday after school. This provided a valuable opportunity to explore your children's work, celebrate their progress and gain insight into their learning. We were also delighted to welcome our Early Years parents on Wednesday afternoon, when our Kindergarten and Reception classes opened their doors to share and celebrate the children's learning in a similarly open and engaging way.

Events such as these highlight the strength of our close-knit school community and the benefits of our small class sizes. From Reception to Year 2, classes are capped at 18 pupils, and in the Prep School (Years 3 to 6) at 20 pupils, limits we are fully committed to maintaining and never exceeding. Alongside this, we benefit from a healthy ratio of teaching assistants across the school, enabling high levels of individual attention, targeted support and strong pastoral care throughout the school day.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 2nd February

2.30pm U10 & U11 Girls' Football v Holy Apostles and St Mary's, Prestbury (home)
5:30pm 3O Parents' Evening - Online

Tuesday 3rd February

Y1 trip to Gloucester Cathedral

Wednesday 4th February

2.15pm U10 Boys' Football v Richard Pate School (away)
2.15pm U10 Netball v Richard Pate School (away)
2.30pm U11 Netball v Beaudesert (away)
5:30pm 3M Parents' Evening - Online

Thursday 5th February

Reception trip to Museum in the Park
Nat Harrison Author assembly, followed by Year 5 & Year 6 workshops

Friday 6th February

2.15pm U9 Boys' Football v Richard Pate School (away)
2.15pm U8 Netball v Richard Pate School (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

We hope that opportunities like Book Look continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school, giving parents a deeper understanding of how their child is developing across the curriculum. Book Look forms part of our 'Keeping Parents in the Loop' initiative, which aims to foster open communication and meaningful involvement in school life. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

This morning, our Year 3 pupils joined an exciting online event with the author and illustrator duo Reeves and McIntyre. Having spent January reading and reviewing their books as part of our Author of the Month scheme, the children were thrilled to hear directly from the creators. The session included a fascinating chat about the process of writing and illustrating a book, followed by a fun draw-along inspired by the Adventuremice series. Thank you to our English department and the Rebel Reading Society for organising the event.

Have a lovely weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Year 2 have been buzzing with creativity this week! As budding authors, they have written their own "There's a Tiger in the Garden" stories, using rich descriptive language and all five senses to bring their settings — and their tigers — roaring to life. They've worked incredibly hard to widen their vocabulary, confidently using ambitious words like luscious, putrid and humongous! In art, the children have begun their stunning Rousseau-inspired masterpieces, carefully planning their pictures using pencil, then exploring how different brushes can be used to create exciting effects. Meanwhile, in maths, Year 2 have embarked on their multiplication journey, showing fantastic understanding by drawing pictures, using maths apparatus, and correctly applying mathematical vocabulary. What a super week of learning! Science lessons have been a hive of activity; the children turned into mini explorers as they investigated our local habitat, spotting the creatures and plants that call it home. They then travelled around the world (without leaving the classroom!) to explore different habitats, discovering how animals have clever adaptations that help them survive.

Year 1 have been diving into *The Great Explorer* by Chris Judge. After sequencing the story and bringing it to life through drama, they are now busy writing their own explorer tales. They are especially excited to share their stories with the Early Years children — a real audience will make them feel like proper authors.

In maths, they have been strengthening their number skills by working on addition and subtraction within 20, counting forwards and backwards, mastering number bonds, and tackling missing number challenges. Lots of thinking, problem-solving, and confidence building!

Their art lessons have been full of colour! They have explored cold colours, created striking collages and silhouettes, and are now using paint to design cold scenes, practising their blending skills to create smooth, icy effects.

They have been learning all about communities in CWB and the many groups they belong to — from our neighbourhoods to clubs and activities. It's been lovely seeing how everyone connects in different ways.

They have been learning lots of new sounds in phonics. Please keep reading with the children at home to help reinforce these sounds — it really makes a big difference. Thank you for your continued support.

From curious questions to exciting discoveries, the Pre-Prep have definitely been learning so much!
MW





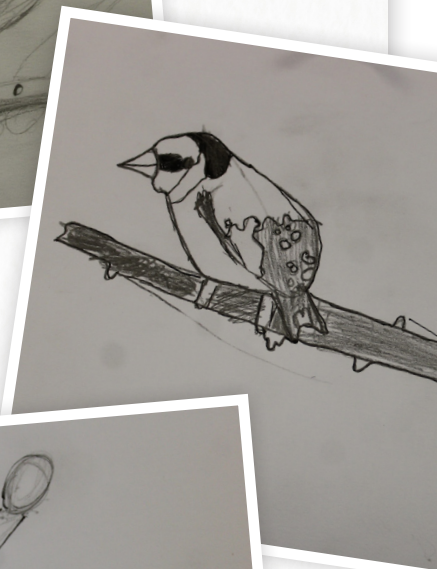
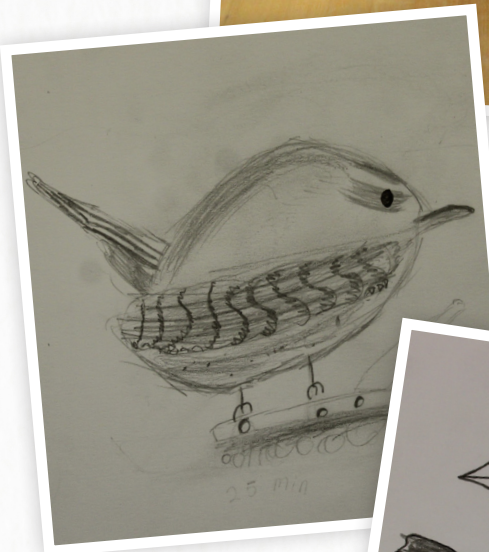
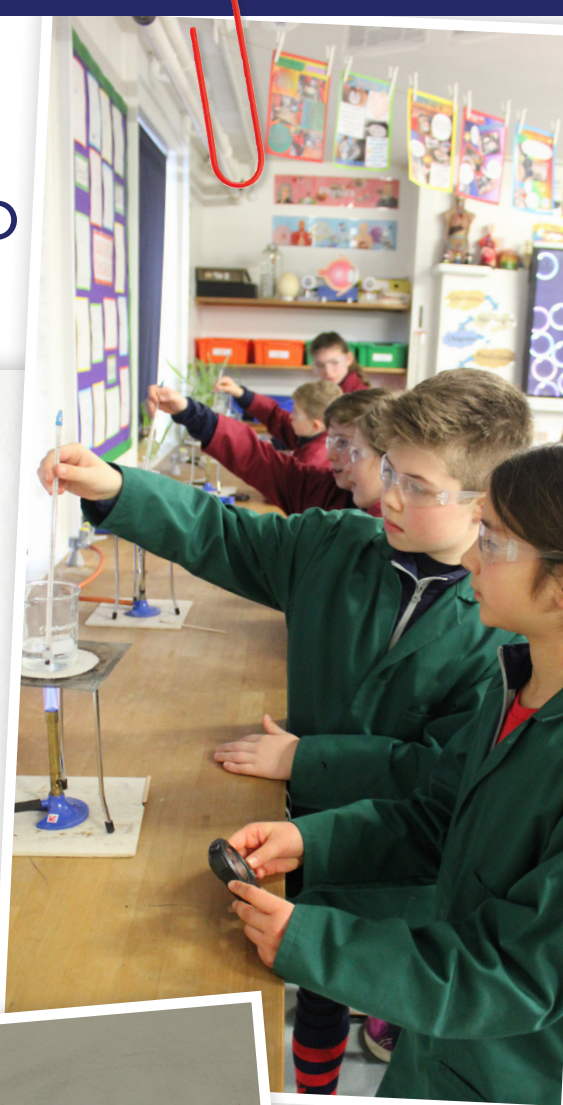
BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PREP

Do you have a morning routine at the weekend? Maybe you head off for a quick run and a warm coffee before the children get out of bed, or perhaps you find a quiet corner of the house to read the Berky newsletter before a morning kitchen disco?

Here at the Prep, we have used the beginning of a new school term as an opportunity to take stock and reset our routines. You may have heard your child talking about the Berky Bs at home and been hoping some Berkhamstead-branded honey might come your way later this year. Alas, there are no plans for a school apiary at this time! Instead, the Berky Bs are our way of ensuring the children enjoy a positive, purposeful school day by instilling clear, achievable expectations in line with our school values. Just like your routines at home, over time, these moments should become second nature and help create a calm environment for the children, whilst also building their responsibility, independence and resilience. So far, we are extremely proud of how hard the children are working to stick to the Berky Bs and, whilst we don't expect everyone to get it right all the time, we are noticing a huge effort from everyone to share the collective responsibility to give the whole community (even the adults) an enjoyable day at school.

On that note, Mr Lovell has a new set of wheels – trundle wheels! He's been kind enough to let his Year 6 Maths class work out the area and perimeter of the playground. Mr Morphew has once again been setting the world of science on fire by teaching Year 5 how to use the Bunsen burners and many people have been flocking to the art room to admire Year 4's beautiful bird drawings, under the eagle eyes of Mrs Hartley. The range of learning opportunities around the school are a joy to behold and reminds us all how lucky we are to be at Berkhamstead. LJ



The Berky Bs

Lining up

- Be forward facing
- Be in alphabetical order
- Be **silent**
- Be still

Around the school

- Be walking
- Be quiet
- Be on the right-hand side
- Be polite to everyone

End of the day

- Be with your teacher
- Be patient
- Be respectful
- Be timely





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Y6 SWIMMING SUCCESS

We are delighted to share that one of our Year 6 pupils achieved an outstanding success at the Gloucestershire County Swimming Championships on Saturday in Bristol, winning the 50m breaststroke.

This is a significant achievement in the competitive swimming world, and her excellent time has also qualified her for the South West Regional Swimming Championships in April - a fantastic opportunity to compete at an even higher level.

Her performance is a true testament to dedication, hard work and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of her. Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment!



CALLING ALL YOUNG BAKERS: APPLY FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF 2026!

Do you know a budding baker aged 9–15? Here's their chance to shine! Applications are now open for Junior Bake Off 2026.

Filming will take place from July 2026, and young bakers are invited to apply online at www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk.

Applications close on Sunday 15th March.

FOOTBALL

Good luck to one of our Year 6 pupils, as Cheltenham Primary Schools take on Liverpool Primary Schools in the National Cup quarter-finals on Saturday. Kick-off is at 1pm at St Peter's High School, Gloucester.

Having reached the last eight from 69 teams, our talented football player and his teammates now face three-time defending champions Liverpool. We wish them every success and hope supporters can go along to cheer them on!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

UIIA v King's Gloucester

The UIIA team put in a strong and determined performance this week, playing some excellent netball despite a tough loss. From the first whistle, the girls showed great teamwork and moved the ball well down the court and working hard for every pass.

Defensively, the team applied good pressure, with several important interceptions and rebounds that helped slow the opposition's attack. In attack, the shooters showed confidence and accuracy, creating good scoring opportunities and staying focused throughout the game.

Although the final score didn't go our way, their positive attitude, commitment, and sportsmanship were great to see and made it a performance to be proud of. Well done to all players - this was a match full of effort and improvement, and the team can take many positives into the next game. CK

UIIB v King's Gloucester

The UIIB team had a fantastic game this week, securing a very close win by just one goal in an exciting and hard-fought match. From the start, the team showed great determination and focus, working well together across the court.

Passing was steady and controlled, allowing the ball to move smoothly into the attacking circle. The shooters stayed calm under pressure and made the most of their opportunities, which proved crucial in such a tight contest. In defence, the team worked tirelessly, applying strong pressure and coming up with some key interceptions at important moments.

The girls showed great teamwork to hold on for a well-deserved one-goal victory. This was a great example of perseverance, teamwork, and positive attitude. Well done to all players on an excellent team performance - your hard work paid off! CK

UI0A v King's Gloucester

The UI0 girls delivered another strong team performance, showing excellent effort and teamwork throughout the match. They passed and moved well, working hard to create space and give each other clear options. Communication was a real highlight, with great calling that helped maintain possession and build confidence across the court. The girls supported one another in both attack and defence, offering encouragement and always backing each other up. Their movement off the ball and willingness to work as a team made for an enjoyable game to watch. Overall, it was a positive performance that showed clear improvement, strong teamwork, and a fantastic attitude from all players. WON: 9 - 8. IP

UI0B v King's Gloucester

The B team produced an excellent performance from start to finish and demonstrated an improving understanding of what it takes to win netball matches. They regularly tried to limit the space of the opposition and put pressure on them to win the ball back. Once our girls had the ball, we produced some good attacking play; however, we need to be slightly more secure with our passing. Once we reached the D, we took some of our chances and were constantly in the lead. Alongside the performance, they worked excellently as a team constantly providing encouragement and support. Overall, the girls should be extremely pleased with their performance as they continue to improve with every game. WON 6 - 5

U8/9 vs King's Gloucester

The U8/9 girls' netball team played a competitive match against King's Gloucester, showing plenty of positive moments throughout the game. There was lots of good play across the court, with some pleasing goals scored as the team worked the ball into the shooting circle.

Early on, the girls were a little hesitant and tended to hide behind the opposition, but as the match progressed, they showed growing confidence. This was clear as they began to run towards the ball with more drive and determination, creating better opportunities in both attack and defence.

The team worked well together and, importantly, demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the match. It was a valuable learning experience and a promising performance with clear signs of improvement as the game went on. CK

UII v Rendcomb and Hopelands

The UIIs had an excellent day on court, taking on Rendcomb and Hopelands and coming away with four well-deserved wins.

A Team

The A team showed great teamwork throughout both matches, working hard for one another and moving the ball confidently down the court. Passing was strong and accurate, allowing the team to maintain possession and create scoring opportunities. The players supported each other well in all areas, and their collective effort paid off with two convincing victories.

B Team

The B team delivered a dominant performance, showing fantastic movement around the court and a high level of awareness. Their ability to read the game led to numerous well-timed intercepts, which were quickly turned into attacking opportunities. The team worked cohesively from start to finish and controlled the pace of both games, securing wins against both opponents.

Overall, it was a brilliant performance from all players, highlighting strong teamwork, skill development, and great sportsmanship across both teams. CK





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U8 v Kings Gloucester

We had two teams playing against King's Gloucester's one, so the Bisons and Buffaloes took it in turn to play. We also had to lend extra players to make the teams even. Thank you to Toby, Oscar and Peter for volunteering. Even though they played against Berkhampstead they still played their best and helped King's a lot.

The Bisons played first and had the lion's share of the ball but were unable to find the back of the net. The Buffaloes played next and managed to score a goal courtesy of Noah, winning the game 1 - 0.

Both teams played well and showed good ability. We do need to practise moving into space a little more and not just chasing the ball. This will come in time. A lovely first game to kick off our football season. Well played to all the boys. TM

U9A v King's Gloucester

The U9s opened their season in impressive fashion with a strong team performance against King's. The boys began confidently, showing discipline along with good control and passing in the first half. Their efforts were rewarded when Tobias found the back of the net to give Berky an early lead.

King's enjoyed periods of possession and created several chances, but determined defending and assured goalkeeping from Elliott ensured Berky maintained their advantage going into halftime.

The second half saw Berky firmly in control, with the team stepping up the intensity and creating numerous opportunities. Heath added to the scoreline before Harvey completed a superb hat-trick.

The standout moment of the match came from a flowing team move that began in our own half. Tom H drove forward before finding Heath, whose perfectly weighted cross was met first time by Harvey to cap off a fantastic piece of football.

A brilliant start to the season and a real team effort from all involved. Well done to the players and thank you as always to our supporters. P McC

U11 Football v Hatherop

Both U11 teams enjoyed a hugely successful afternoon away at Hatherop, producing two dominant performances packed with energy, teamwork, and goals.

The U11Bs continued their impressive form with a convincing victory, playing four quarters of 5-a-side football while rotating positions to give everyone valuable experience across the pitch.

After a cagey opening quarter that finished 0-0, the Berky boys began to take control of the game. Winning their 50/50 battles and showing great awareness of teammates in space, they quickly built momentum. George H (4 goals) and Magnus (2) led the scoring, combining for six between them, while Atharv, after starting in goal, came out to add an impressive four goals of his own.

The performance was underpinned by outstanding effort from everyone involved. Eddie H, Mark, Milo, Quinn, Teddy, Toby and Ioan all worked tirelessly throughout the afternoon, showing great determination and team spirit. A fantastic collective display — well done to all the boys.

Playing the same format, the U11A team extended their winning streak with a commanding performance of their own. With positions rotated, the boys adapted brilliantly, working hard for each other and creating a host of scoring opportunities.

The Berky boys scored an amazing 12 goals, whilst conceding none. Max and Seth led the way with hat tricks, Arthur and Jonas both grabbed braces, and George L found the net after stepping out from goal. A superb all-round effort and another excellent result for the team.

A huge thank you to all the parents who travelled to Hatherop to support both teams — your encouragement is greatly appreciated.

Well done to everyone involved! P McC

