



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

My assemblies this week focused on the importance of telling the truth and why honesty really matters. With the help of two volunteers and a bucket of tennis balls, the pupils explored how lies can quickly build up. For every lie told, one pupil passed a tennis ball to the other, until holding on to them all became almost impossible. It was a simple but powerful way to show how difficult it can be to manage too many untruths - and why telling the truth from the start is always the right thing to do. Thank you to the pupils involved for their impressive acting skills, which really brought the message to life.

On Monday afternoon, we hosted a Year 5 and 6 girls' football tournament at the Victoria Ground, welcoming teams from Holy Apostles and Prestbury St Mary's. Pupils from the three schools enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of competitive football, playing with enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship. My thanks go to Mr Lovell and Mr Parker for coaching the teams and for their support in making the afternoon such a successful occasion. (More from both teachers later in this newsletter).

Two exciting trips took place this week. Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Gloucester Cathedral, exploring the crypt and learning about its history, including how the throne was stored there during the Second World War. The children also learned about Christian practices, made clay candle holders, and created stained-glass window designs using glass beads. Meanwhile, our Reception children excitedly travelled to Stroud's Museum in the Park to take part in a day of fantastic activities exploring toys from the past. (More from Mrs Meredith-Smyth later in the newsletter).

Yesterday morning, we were delighted to welcome children's author Nat Harrison to the Prep department. She delivered a super assembly and led creative workshops with our Year 5 and 6 pupils, inspiring them with her love of storytelling and writing. Copies of her book, 'The Girl Who Raced the World', are available in the library, or if families would like to purchase their own copy, please visit: <https://www.hatchards.co.uk/book/the-girl-who-raced-the-world/nat-harrison/9781835871416> My thanks go to the English department and the Rebel Reading Society for organising another great morning.

I wish you all a happy and enjoyable weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 10 February

5.30pm 4J Parents' Evening - Online

Wednesday 11 February

Year 2 Indian Dance Workshop
2.15pm U11 Netball v Richard Pate School (away)
2.15pm U11 & U10 Boys' Football v Wycliffe (venue tbc)
2.30pm U8 & U9 Boys' Football v Cheltenham College Prep (away)

2.30pm U8 & U9 Netball v Cheltenham College Prep (away)
3pm Year 2 Indian dance workshop performance to parents

Thursday 12 February

Year 5 trip to The Commandery
5.30pm 4P Parents' Evening - Online

Friday 13 February

Cake at Break - please bring £1.00

3pm Prep Pancake Races - Prep Parents Invited, Gate opens 2.45pm





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

We have enjoyed a variety of activities in Kindergarten this week. Our focus has been on how to be a good friend, and we have been thinking about what we can do to make our friends feel special. We have enjoyed reading *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers, which highlights the importance of companionship. The story of the boy and his friend, the penguin, travelling to the Antarctic led us to think about the explorers who first went on expeditions to the South Pole. The children loved discovering that they travelled on sleds pulled by huskies! We extended this learning by making our own maps to help us reach the South Pole.

Despite the cold and wet weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed outdoor activities this week. Helping polar animals frozen in ice travel down our plastic guttering was a real highlight. This activity encouraged teamwork and problem-solving as the children worked out how to help the animals move faster or slower by changing the slope. It also supported the development of fine motor skills as they used jugs to pour water onto the guttering.

We got messy inside Kindergarten too whilst making paper plate animals. The children were full of ideas about which polar animals they wanted to recreate, including orca whales, penguins, and polar bears. They thought carefully about which colours and materials to use.

We have continued to introduce one letter each week during our daily phonics sessions, and the children have been excited to learn the 'a' sound this week. We have been practising saying the sound clearly and listening carefully for it at the beginning of words. The children enjoyed spotting objects that begin with 'a' around the classroom and even outside on the big playground. LS



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Berky Bears: Cecilia BW,
Theodore B





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION



We have had a wonderfully busy and creative time in Reception this week, full of curiosity, teamwork and hands-on learning.

One of the children's favourite activities this half term has been designing and making their own wooden spoon characters. The children planned their designs carefully, selected materials thoughtfully and showed great creativity as their characters came to life with a little help from pipe cleaners, pompoms, wool and paint! It was lovely to see the pride the children felt in their finished creations.

In our CWB lesson this week, we focused on resilience and perseverance. We used the story *The Magical Yet* to guide our discussion, exploring how mistakes are an important part of learning and why effort should be celebrated just as much as success. The children showed real maturity as they encouraged one another and used positive language to overcome challenges. We ended the lesson by learning a tricky tongue twister — impossible at first, but brilliantly fluent once we broke it down and practised together.

In maths, we have been exploring doubles and pairs. Using practical resources, games and everyday examples, the children learned to recognise and create pairs, and to understand what happens when numbers are doubled. The children enjoyed making beautiful double butterflies and ladybirds, making sure their wings matched!

Our highlight of the week was undoubtedly our trip to the Stroud's Museum in the Park. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and represented us beautifully throughout the day - we are so proud of them! During the day we explored toys from the past, handled real artefacts, learned traditional playground games and enjoyed looking around the museum. In the afternoon, the children even made their own spinning thaumatrope, which was a magical way to link history, science and creativity. The visit truly brought our learning about toys to life and created memories we will treasure. Z M-S



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Berky Bears: Billie O'H,
Theodore Cr



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA EVENTS

SPRING / SUMMER 2026

FEB 13
£1
PER CHILD

Cake @ break
Valentine's special



MARCH 27
£1
PER CHILD

Cake @ break
Easter bake



FEB 13
from 3pm
MUGA

PREP PANCAKE RACES
YEARS 3 - 6
REFRESHMENTS £1



MAY 13
6:30-8PM
PRE-PREP HALL

PTA MEETING

All welcome!



MARCH 13
8:30-9:30AM
PRE-PREP HALL

COFFEE MORNING

All welcome!



MAY 22
£1
PER CHILD

Cake @ break
Summer special



MARCH 20
5PM RECEPTION & PRE-PREP/
6:15PM PREP
TITHE BARN

School Disco!
TICKETED EVENT



JUNE 20
FROM 6PM
PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM

SUMMER BALL
TICKETED EVENT



MARCH 25
6:30-8PM
PRE-PREP HALL

PTA MEETING

All welcome!



JUNE 27
1-4PM
PRE-PREP PLAYGROUND

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026
FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!



CONTACT THE PTA

CHARLOTTENOAR.PTA@BERKHAMPSTEADSCHOOL.CO.UK

UNIFORM SHOP

MONDAYS: 08:15 - 08:45
THURSDAYS: 15:30-16:00





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

ALUMNI EVENT

As part of our 80th anniversary celebrations, we are planning a special alumni event that will take place on a Saturday during the Summer Term. To help mark this milestone, we would love to create a gallery of historic Berky photographs. If you are a Berky alumni and have any photographs you would be happy to share, we would be extremely grateful if you could email copies to alumni@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk. Alternatively, photographs can be brought into the school office, where they can be scanned.



WELL DONE TO ALL OUR ECO WARRIORS!

During this week's trip to Gloucester Cathedral, the children made a brilliant effort to collect all the crisp packets from their picnic lunch. Rather than going into landfill, these will now be recycled.

ROAD CLOSURE

Please note that Harp Hill is due to be closed from **09:30-15:30** from **9th - 24th February**. Please bear this in mind for pick up next week.



Special Valentine's Day

Cake @ break

£1 per child

Friday 13th February

Proceeds to Berkhamstead PTA

BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PREP PANCAKE RACES

YEARS 3 - 6

FRI 13TH FEBRUARY

ON THE MUGA - GATES OPEN FROM 2.45PM
RACES START AT 3.00PM

REFRESHMENTS = £1
tea/coffee/cake provided by the PTA
please bring change!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U11A v Beaudesert

The U11A team played a strong and competitive game against Beaudesert. It was an even contest throughout, with both teams showing good skills and determination. Despite a narrow 2-1 loss, the team worked hard across the court and should be proud of their effort in such a close match. CK

U11B v Beaudesert

Our first match was against Beaudesert and all the girls showed great determination throughout the match. The players worked hard to move into space, offering clear passing options and supporting each other down the court. Defenders stayed focused and contested every ball, while the midcourt kept chasing and transitioning as quickly as they could. Although opportunities were hard to come by for the shooters and attackers, they continued to battle hard to create chance. The team demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and a positive attitude which will help them grow in confidence as the term continues. Final score 7-0 to Beaudesert IP

U11A v Kingswood

The U11A team faced a tough challenge against a strong Kingswood side. The team tried hard and showed great persistence, but Kingswood's strength and consistency proved difficult to match. Although the game ended in an 8-2 loss, the players continued to give their best effort and gained valuable experience. CK

U11B v Kingswood

The second game was against a very strong Kingswood, and while the final score didn't go our way, the team showed fantastic effort and determination throughout the match. The girls never gave up, working hard from the first whistle to the last and supporting each other on court. There were some great passages of play and clear improvement in teamwork and positioning. Most importantly, the team showed excellent sportsmanship and resilience, and they should be very proud of how hard they tried against a tougher, taller side. Final score 12-0 to Kingswood IP

U10 v The Richard Pate School

A happy band of Y5s and some Y4s arrived at RPS for a 7-a-side netball match. We were divided into three teams, but as there were only two courts, we had to rotate the teams playing and each team played for three quarters. It soon transpired that RPS had filled in some of their gaps with some Y6 players and this meant that with some of the rotations on the pitch we had some mismatches in height etc which meant that some defence situations were a tad tricky. This did not deter our plucky Berky girls and we kept our chins up, played with excellent passing and attacking skills and this is to be commended highly. Over the course of the afternoon, plenty of goals were scored by both sides, but the RPS teams were the ultimate victors. C McC

U9 v Rendcomb School

Last Friday we arrived at Rendcomb for our bee netball match in beautiful sunshine that felt warm on our skin, and it felt like spring was in the air! Unfortunately, it was raining by the time we left there...but in the meantime we played two bee netball matches, each with four quarters and with four girls in each team. This meant there was no rotation and so all our girls had to work hard running up and down the courts. The Rendcomb girls moved excellently around the court, marked well and demonstrated quick passing. They showed our girls that we still have a lot to learn, particularly in defence. Despite this, Berky's girls played well and showed how much their netball skills are developing. Each game was hotly contested and fiercely enjoyed. Both games ended in a loss for Berky, but a super afternoon was had by all! C McC





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U10 & U11 v Holy Apostles & Prestbury St Mary's

Mr Lovell's Team

Mr Lovell's girls' football team produced two performances full of determination. From the very first whistle, the girls played with great energy, moving the ball confidently and working hard to support each other all over the pitch. Solid defending and fantastic pressing helped keep the opposition out, while sharp passing and good pace allowed us to create opportunities in attack. Even when the matches became tough, the team showed fantastic resilience and commitment, never backing out of a challenge and always tracking back to help their teammates.

What stood out most was the respect and sportsmanship shown throughout. The girls listened carefully to the referee, communicated positively with one another, and recognised good play from both sides.

After two matches (a 3-0 win against Prestbury St Mary's and a 4-0 loss to Holy Apostles), the girls should feel very proud of their efforts, and I am extremely proud of the progress they continue to make. ZL

Mr Parker's Team

On a cold afternoon, Mr Parker's girls' football team delivered performances full of heart, teamwork, and pride. From the opening whistle, the girls pressed with energy, attempted to move the ball, and supporting one another across the pitch. Strong defending and brave goalkeeping kept the opposition at bay, while quick passing and clever movement created chances going forward. Even when the game became challenging, the team showed outstanding effort and determination, never giving up on a tackle and sprinting back to help their teammates.

What stood out most was the excellent respect shown throughout the match. The girls listened carefully to the referee, encouraged each other with positive words, and applauded good play from both teams. All parents and staff were extremely pleased with what they saw.

After the two matches (we won one 4-3 against Prestbury St Mary's and lost 4-1 against Holy Apostles), the girls should be extremely proud of their performances, and I am very proud of the progress they have made! IP



U10A v The Richard Pate School

The U10A team were involved in a real thriller against RPS this week, producing an exciting and hard-fought performance from start to finish.

We made the perfect start, taking an early 1-0 lead, and from there showed tremendous resilience to hold onto it for much of the first half. Richard Pate moved the ball well and probably edged possession, but some outstanding defensive work and excellent goalkeeping kept them at bay. The team worked tirelessly to protect the lead and showed great determination at the back.

After half-time, Richard Pate found an equaliser and the game became much more evenly matched. Our passing improved significantly and we began to connect play much better going forward, while still maintaining a strong defensive wall. The match swung back and forth, with both sides creating chances, and the score moved to a tense 2-2.

With just two minutes remaining, Max stepped up to score the decisive goal, completing a fantastic hat-trick and sealing a brilliant 3-2 win in dramatic fashion. A superb end to a great game of football.



Player of the Match was a difficult decision, with several players deserving recognition for their defensive efforts, but after scoring three excellent goals, it's hard to look past Max.

Well done to all the team for their effort and teamwork throughout. ZL

U10B v The Richard Pate School

The U10B team played a superb match against RPS on Wednesday, demonstrating excellent structure and a brilliant understanding of their positions throughout the game. For the first 30 minutes, the boys dominated the opposition with confident, composed football.

Ben was outstanding in defence, confidently shutting down every RPS attack. He was strongly supported by Jonah in goal, along with Devan, Felix, and Ezra, who all worked tirelessly to maintain control at the back.

Up front, George delivered a skilful and dynamic performance, scoring a fantastic hat-trick and creating numerous additional scoring opportunities. He was well supported by Arlo, Sebbie, Jack and Arturo, with Jack adding a well-taken fourth goal.

As we entered the final stages of the match and with the team leading 4-1, the Team Manager made some positional changes to mix things up. Unfortunately, this opened the door for RPS to get back into the game, and they were able to level the score. The match finished 4-4.

While the boys were rightly thrilled with their overall performance, the manager offered a heartfelt apology for the late changes and promised not to repeat the experiment—while also praising the team for their excellent play, teamwork and spirit. RPC