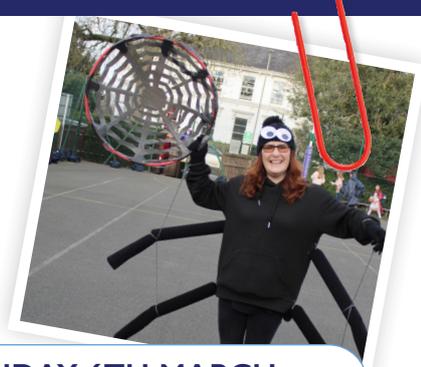




BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

In assembly this week, we explored the theme 'It's Not Fair'. The children considered the important difference between something being equal and being fair. We discussed how equality means everyone receiving the same, whereas equity means everyone getting what they need to succeed. This helped the children to understand that fairness is not always about treating everyone identically, but about ensuring everyone has the right support to thrive.

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, everyone dressed up as their favourite book character. An array of storybook characters filled the playgrounds across the school and day nurseries, creating a fantastic atmosphere. Mrs Davies organised a book carousel for Reception to Years 2, Mrs Hext ran one for Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6 took part in a virtual author event with Author of the Month, Maisie Chan.

I had great fun dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, along with by my SLT colleagues: Richard Cross as the lion, Tom Denmead as the scarecrow and Mollie Dodds as the witch! The catering department prepared a fantastic book-themed menu. A Willy Wonka Berky Bar (chocolate shortbread) was served for snack, and Harry Potter Mandrakes (puff pastry with spinach tops), Snowy's mashed potato (from the Adventures of Tintin) and Peter Rabbit's vegetables from Mr McGregor's garden (Chantenay carrots and Romanesco broccoli) was served with beef ragu. Quidditch cupcakes were served for pudding. A big thank you to all the parents for providing all the brilliant costumes, and to the teaching staff for laying on all the book-inspired activities.

World Book Day also marked the launch of our Read for Good Readathon. This national initiative celebrates the joy of reading while raising funds for children in UK hospitals. Through the charity, brand-new books and storyteller visits are provided to help brighten the days of young patients. Our Readathon will run for three weeks, finishing on the final Thursday before the Easter holidays. We hope that many pupils will be inspired to take part and enjoy plenty of reading along the way.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday 7th March

Open Morning

Monday 9th March

3.30pm Pre-Prep Book Look,
Pre-Prep parents invited

Tuesday 10th March

Year 1 trip to Bristol Zoo
Project

Wednesday 11th March

9am Year 6 Detective Agency
workshop

2.15pm U11 Netball v Dean
Close Prep (away)

2.15pm U11 Football v Richard
Pate (away)

2.15pm U10 Netball v Dean
Close Prep (away)

Friday 13th March

PTA Mother's Day Coffee
Morning - all parents invited
after drop off





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Thank you to Mrs Hannett (Future Schools) and Mrs Stephenson (E-Safety) for their insightful presentations on Monday evening. The session was very well attended, and we received fantastic feedback from parents on how useful and informative they found the talks.

Thanks, too, to all the Prep parents who joined us for our Visiting Heads event this morning. We welcomed Mr Morgan from The Cotswold School, and we all enjoyed his assembly, which was followed by the opportunity to chat together over coffee.

Have a super weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PREP

World Book Day is a fantastic celebration of reading and the children looked magnificent in their various costumes. We are all readers - of recipes, instructions, maps, comics, holiday brochures, novels and newspapers. Mrs Hext ran a series of FUNtastic events focusing on storytelling and short stories in particular, whilst Mrs Davies has continued to organise brilliant, bespoke author events across the year groups. In English, the children have been telling me all about their favourite books through different media, including some fabulously created Lego sets, inventive use of modelling clay and shoeboxes full of weird and wonderful items, representing the storyline. What an artistic bunch of brains!

It might be worth having a conversation over the table this weekend about who you would have dressed up as for World Book Day, or carving out a bit of family reading time, too. Perhaps you have some books at home that you could consider offering to someone else or to your local charity shop? There are so many different ways to celebrate reading, I hope you find a moment to get involved too.

As the sunshine roared on last week, it was fantastic to see the children working so hard and having fun practising their football and netball skills in Games. Year 5 were on the playground having a 'wheel' of a time measuring area and perimeter with their trundle wheels, whilst Year 4 visited a local primary school to see a production of *In the Net* - a performance that highlighted the importance of online safety in a pantomime style. Oh no they didn't!

This weekend sees the arrival of our Open Morning - a wonderful opportunity to invite families into our school and show them what we are all about. I am particularly grateful to our kind and friendly Year 6 tour guides who are the best possible advert for our school - the children truly are the greatest thing about Berkhampstead. LJ





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

What a vibrant and joyful week in Pre-Prep! The children have been shining in so many ways, and we're so proud of all they've achieved.

Last Friday, to celebrate filling their Pom-pom jar, the children earned extra Golden Time, tucked into some well-deserved bear biscuits and even had special guest stars - a teacher from another class read a story.

Year 1 transformed their classroom into a chilly corner of the Arctic, the children worked collaboratively using a variety of construction materials to design and build their own igloos. They carefully considered what shape an igloo needs to be, how to stack and balance materials effectively to make the structure strong and stable and how to work as a team and share ideas.

As part of their learning, they also explored the lives of the Inuit people and how they have adapted to live in a very cold environment, why igloos are shaped like domes, how snow can keep people warm and what Inuit families traditionally eat and wear.

Meanwhile, Year 2 have had a fantastic start to swimming lessons. The staff at Cheltenham Ladies' College were full of praise for their careful listening and how polite they were.

Last Wednesday, dressed in bright and vibrant colours, Year 2 celebrated their Inspiring India WOW Day. They immersed themselves in a day filled with curiosity, creativity and cultural appreciation; cooking samosas with Mrs Amlani, dressing up in beautiful clothing, asking thoughtful questions about Hinduism, making diya lamps and researching Indian animals. A huge thank you to Rob and team for preparing such delicious Indian snacks and lunch.

This year World Book Day aims to deliver one very important message: reading is for fun. We were so impressed by the creativity and effort that went into everyone's costumes, bringing favourite characters and words to life. On Thursday, Pre-Prep and Reception welcomed the amazing Lucy Davies (Author and Berky TA) who ran a series of workshops and on Friday, local author Sian Hughes came to read us her latest book.

Reading for pleasure builds vocabulary, imagination, empathy and confidence, and importantly, a lifelong love of books.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. C M-L





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

FUNDRAISING FOR HEADSPACE

The Prep School Council has voted to hold a non-uniform day in support of Headspace on Thursday 19th March, with the theme 'Marvellous Me'. Children are encouraged to come to school wearing something that reflects their personality and celebrates what makes them unique.

Meanwhile, the Pre-Prep School Council has chosen to host a fun 'Break the Rules Day' on Tuesday 17th March, giving children the chance to enjoy a few light-hearted rule changes for the day.

We would welcome donations of at least £1 for each event, with all proceeds going to Headspace, this year's chosen charity, which supports the mental health and wellbeing of teenagers. Thank you for your support.

PARKING REMINDER

We have recently received an increase in complaints from our neighbours regarding parking at drop-off and pick-up times. May we kindly remind all parents to park safely and considerately, ensuring driveways are not blocked and access is maintained for residents and emergency vehicles. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRACKSUIT BOTTOMS

We would be very grateful for any donations of outgrown school PE tracksuit bottoms (Early Years and Pre-Prep sizes) for our spare clothes box. If you have any items in good condition that your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to school - your support is much appreciated.

HAIR GUIDELINES

Please remember that children with shoulder-length or longer hair should keep it neatly tied back using a red, navy or white hair tie. Any ribbons or hairbands should also be in the school's regulation colours. To maintain a smart and appropriate appearance, we request that hairstyles are not unsuitable for school, for instance, shaved. As part of our dress code, pupils are expected to have natural hair colours. This means hair should not be dyed with highlights or artificial colours. We appreciate your support in ensuring that hair remains in a natural shade, free from permanent or semi-permanent colouring.



MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to one of our Year 4 pupils, who claimed first place in the 12 & under category at the EPTA UK Piano Competition (Gloucestershire regional heat) last Saturday at The King's School, Gloucester. She performed two Grade 7 pieces and will now advance to the Regional Final in Bristol later this month.



HOCKEY NEWS

Well done to all the girls who took part in the In2Hockey county rounds last weekend! Special congratulations to Maddie E and Flo R (Y5), who finished second with Lansdown Lions and will now represent the team at the Regional Finals at Clifton College.



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Thanks to her outstanding performances in the Cross-Country events so far this term, one of our Year 6 pupils has been selected to represent the Cheltenham and District team at the Gloucestershire Primary Schools' Cross Country Championships which take place on Sunday. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and wish her the very best in the competition!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



PARENT FEEDBACK

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Thank you to all 130 families who shared their feedback. We're delighted that the results reflect strong confidence in many areas of school life.

OUR STRENGTHS

Parents rated the school very highly for curriculum breadth (97.7%), children's happiness (93.1%) and safety (92.3%), and our physical health initiatives (94.6%). Access to staff (93.1%) and facilities (90.8%) were also seen as strong, alongside positive views of behaviour (88.4%) and pupil progress (90.0%). We're proud that families feel their children are thriving in a safe, supportive, and well-rounded environment.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ... AND ACTIONS UNDERWAY

We also value the clear and constructive suggestions shared, and action is already in progress:

RSE communication

Updated RSE information has already been shared with parents, and a consultation will follow to ensure families can ask questions and provide feedback. We will continue to make overviews, FAQs, and key dates clear and accessible.

Communication

We are reviewing the cadence and number of emails and communication.

Food experience

We are exploring ways to strengthen menu feedback, offer alternatives for common dislikes, and review Tea Club snack provision.



11+ provision

Our recent Future Schools Evening provided further clarity on how we support pupils, what is delivered in school, and where external tutoring may be appropriate. We will continue to ensure balanced opportunities for all pupils.

After-school and holiday provision

We recognise the desire for broader options with earlier visibility to support family planning and are reviewing this accordingly.

Uniform

We are delighted that, following discussions with School Blazer, this pleated navy skirt will be introduced to the Prep Uniform.

Look out

for this becoming available on the School Blazer website from October.

THANK YOU

We are really grateful for your engagement and partnership. Your feedback directly informs our planning, and we look forward to continuing to build on these strong foundations together.



PRE-PREP PILLAR

Earlier this week, a delivery driver unfortunately knocked into one of the pillars at the front of the Pre-Prep building, causing some damage. The pillar has now been taken down and repairs will be carried out imminently. At the same time, preparations are underway for the installation of an electric gate, which is due to be fitted within the next few weeks.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U8 & U9 v Ashley Manor

The Year 3 and 4 girls put on a fantastic performance in their matches this week, showing brilliant shooting and excellent passing from start to finish. Every player joined in with enthusiasm, supporting one another and working together as a true team. Their passing was sharp and accurate, helping to move the ball confidently down the court. When it came to shooting, the girls showed great focus and determination, scoring some wonderful goals that made everyone cheer.

What was most impressive was their lovely attitude throughout the game. They encouraged each other, listened carefully, and always showed great sportsmanship. Every single girl contributed and performed brilliantly, making the whole team proud. It was a joy to watch such teamwork, effort, and positivity on display. Well done, girls! IP

U10A & B v Ashley Manor

The U10 netball teams showed fantastic effort and determination in their matches against Ashley Manor. They demonstrated excellent passing skills, moving the ball quickly and accurately down the court. The players focused on using short, sharp passes and calling clearly for the ball, which helped them attempt to maintain possession and create attacking opportunities. It was great to see how confidently they used chest passes and shoulder passes to keep the game flowing.

The team also worked hard to find space, spreading out well and constantly moving to provide

options for their teammates. They showed a good understanding of positioning and tried to dodge away from defenders to receive the ball in clear areas. Most importantly, every player kept working hard from the first whistle to the last. Their positive attitudes, teamwork, and determination made them a pleasure to watch, and they should be very proud of their performance. U10A Lost 0-6, U10B Won 4-1. IP





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U11A v Ashley Manor

The U11A team had a tough encounter against a strong Ashley Manor team on Wednesday. The boys made a bright start, opening the scoring with a fantastic long-range effort from Rowan. Our opponents fired back with two first half goals of their own, to lead 2-1 at half time. The second half saw three more goals from Ashley Manor and despite our effort and energy, we couldn't breach their goal. Although a loss against a very good team, I'm sure the boys will learn much from it. It was very much to their credit that heads never dropped, and on a large pitch, we worked tirelessly throughout the game. Well done, boys! P McC



U10A v Ashley Manor

It was a quick welcome to adult-sized pitches when we arrived at Ashley Manor — something that could feel daunting for some but exciting for others. The boys embraced the challenge brilliantly and showed just how much they have been learning and developing in training.

From the start, the team played with great confidence, using the same ideas we worked on in our Space Invaders training game. They did an excellent job of keeping possession, spreading out, and passing into space to move the ball away from pressure. This approach caused real problems for Ashley Manor throughout the match.

The passing and movement created chance after chance, with what must have been over 20 opportunities on goal across the game. The boys were clinical with several of them, hitting the back of the net six times in a fantastic attacking display.

Ashley Manor had a few very strong players who tried to push forward and create chances of their own. Our team defended well for the majority of the game and worked hard to keep them under control. There were a couple of moments where we were caught slightly off guard — either not having quite enough players back or everyone being drawn towards the ball — which allowed Ashley Manor to get their goal. These moments will be great learning opportunities as we continue to develop our positioning and awareness.

Overall, this was a brilliant team performance and a huge turnaround from last year's 5-1 defeat to Ashley Manor. It really shows the effort and hard work the boys have been putting in.

Players of the Match

This week's Player of the Match is shared between two players who have been consistently fantastic, not just in this game but over the past few matches as well.

Jack O K – Outstanding defensively,

showing great positioning, determination, and composure at the back.

George R – Excellent going forward, great tracking back, constantly creating attacking opportunities and supporting the team with energy and skill. A huge well done to the whole team for a fantastic performance!

Ashley Manor 1 – Berkhampstead 6
ZL

U10B v Ashley Manor

What a lovely, sunny afternoon we had this week for the match against Ashley Manor. The U10Bs arrived keen and excited, determined to secure a win so they could sing on the bus on the way home.

The game started well, with plenty of early chances. Arlo, Jacob, Rocco and Arturo were superb in midfield—names that could easily represent any European nation! They created several opportunities for George, and eventually two goals were scored. In defence, the team were solid, with Jack, Ezra, Devan and Ben ensuring that very few chances reached Jonah in goal.

After the break, Ashley Manor scored a good breakaway goal, which put some pressure back on the boys. However, this did not faze them, and they responded well by taking further chances to extend the score to 4-1.

A special mention must go to our team coach and supporter, Sebbie, who sadly left his boots in the car that morning but still did a great job cheering the team on from the sidelines.

It was a great win, followed by match tea and a fantastic rendition of *Sweet Caroline* on the bus back to school. Well done, boys!

RPC



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U9A v Ashley Manor

Last Friday brought about another fixture for the U9A football team; a match versus our geographically closest opposition, Ashley Manor. After a quick warm up and coin toss, the game kicked off, with our opponents enjoying the lion's share of opportunities during the first period. Finley stood tall in defence for Berky, meeting attacks well, with Tom R supporting his efforts. Ashley Manor managed to convert two well taken goals, before the boys managed to half the deficit just before half time, with Tobais collecting a long ball at halfway, before carrying and finishing expertly. After a quick regroup and a switch of ends, the second half began, initially balanced before Ashley Manor scored their third. Our Berky boys began to tire; the huge pitch taking its toll on legs - Gabriel, in goal, keeping us in touching distance with a string of frankly superhuman saves. Ashley Manor picked up a fourth, before a last-minute chance for our super striker Tobias, who smashed the outside of the post with a powerful left-footed thunderbolt. A great effort from the lads but a frustrating loss. Well done boys and thanks, as always to parents and supporters. KJ

Freddie and Ollie without any reply. Rufus, Daniel, Archer and Peter all made great contributions to the win. Everyone changed their positions within the game and always played their best.

I felt there was a great team spirit between the boys and am proud with how they played and conducted themselves. Well done everyone. TM



U8 Bisons v Ashley Manor

The Bisons played a lovely game against Ashley Manor. In the first half we were playing up hill (a very steep hill in football terms) but managed to dominate. We were unfortunate to let a couple of goals in as they went against the flow of play. The second half saw us going down hill and we exerted our dominance even more. We scored multiple goals through

