



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

What a lovely, and very busy, first week back. We have hit the ground running, and there's been a real bustle about the place. A warm welcome to Zak S and Theo C who are joining us in Year 4 and Penelope S, George W and Cecilia H-W who will be joining us in Kindergarten over the next two weeks.

On the first day back, Year 1 enjoyed a day devoted to the magic of Diwali and were given an insight into its traditions, and the importance celebrating diverse cultures during their carousel of activities. They made rangoli patterns with coloured rice and enjoyed learning how to make chapatis and Bombay aloo with Mrs Amlani. The classrooms were decorated beautifully with lights, and the children dressed up in saris and dhotis. Year 1's fun continued with a brilliant 'Quest for Guy Fawkes' Workshop on Tuesday – thank you to the PTA for so generously funding this.

Harvest Festival, held on the final Friday before half term, was a wonderful celebration, marked by beautiful singing from all our pupils, and eloquent readings from the Prep School children. I was thrilled to present the Kindness Cups to Dylan B and Hugo B. At Berkhamstead, kindness, courtesy and respect are core values, and these awards reflect their importance. Both pupils are truly deserving of this recognition – well done. Thank you for all your generous donations; together, we raised £389.04 for the Cheltenham Food Bank.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children who took the grammar school test earlier this term. Thoroughly prepared during their time in the Prep School, they approached the test with confidence and gave their best effort. Results are now in, and many have qualified, with final placements to be confirmed in March. Securing a grammar school place is a commendable achievement, but we are fortunate in Gloucestershire to have a wide choice of excellent senior schools. Our focus remains on finding the right fit for each child. This month, many pupils will also sit entry exams and scholarships for independent schools, spanning Academic, Sport, Drama, Music and Art. We wish them all the very best of luck!

Among our talented Year 6 cohort, we are delighted to celebrate two exceptional individual achievements. Mark B took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge – a national competition usually entered by A Level Maths students – and was placed in the top 10% nationally. A phenomenal achievement! He has also been offered a place in the National Children's Orchestra for 2026 – a wonderful recognition of his musical talent. Meanwhile, Starlar H has also been offered a place in the National Children's Orchestra, celebrating her outstanding musical ability. We couldn't be prouder of our Year 6 pupils and their accomplishments.

It's been a pleasure welcoming Year 5 parents to Parents' Evenings this week; it was good to discuss your children's progress and plans with you. As always, if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Mrs Hannett – we're always happy to help.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 10th November

Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week, all children invited to wear odd socks or jazzy tights to school

4.00pm Pre-Prep Parents' Evening

Tuesday 11th November:

Flu Immunisations for Reception to Year 6

Wednesday 12th November:

2.30pm U10 Rugby v The Richard Pate School (home)

6.30pm PTA Meeting - all welcome

Friday 14th November:

2.30pm U8 Hockey v The Richard Pate School (away)

2.30pm U9 Hockey v Hopelands (home)

2.30pm U9 Rugby v The Richard Pate School (away)



Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back to another exciting half term. We have loved hearing all about the children's half-term adventures and sharing in their stories. It has been so wonderful to hear about trips, visits, and special moments that the children have enjoyed with their families. We have also been delighted to welcome some new friends into Kindergarten; it has been lovely to see everyone settling in so well and making new friends.

This week the children have enjoyed making beautiful firework pictures, exploring the bright colours, and exciting patterns that fireworks create. We also spent time learning about fire safety, discussing ways to stay safe while enjoying celebrations.

In maths, we have been practising ordering numbers, helping the children develop their counting skills and understanding of sequences. We have also been working on fine motor skills and practising our cutting.

We are looking forward to more exciting activities in the coming weeks. Don't forget our Forest School sessions restart next Wednesday. GB




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Florence D
Zachary B
Berkly Bear: Hudson M





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

We are so excited to be back at school for our second half term in Reception! The children have bounced back in with big smiles, full of wonderful stories about their holidays.

This week, after reading Julia Donaldson's *Room on the Broom*, the children have been busy becoming mini magicians and scientists! Together we explored the world of potion making, using a variety of sensory ingredients such as colourful glitter, scented powders such as ground ginger, sparkly sequins and even some googly eyes! The children absolutely loved experimenting with mixing, pouring, and stirring — using all their senses to see what might happen when different materials combine such as flour, vinegar and oil. There were plenty of giggles and “wow!” moments as their potions bubbled. Our special challenge was to create a magical potion that could make toys come to life and we used the magic spell ‘lggity, ziggety, zaggety zoom!’ to help the potion along! In our writing session on Thursday, we then had a go at writing about our potions, where the progress with the children's phonics application was absolutely amazing!

We had a fun and rather muddy time out at Forest School on Monday afternoon, digging and creating potions in the mud kitchen. Please do make sure you child has a pair of waterproof trousers and wellingtons in school, as we like to go out in all winds and weathers.

During our Understanding of the World lessons this week we have loved learning about Guy Fawkes and this stimulated some amazing conversations. We went on to talk about being safe around bonfires and fireworks and created some spectacular firework art on Wednesday afternoon painting in the style of Jackson Pollock. We hope you have a wonderful time celebrating with fireworks and bonfires this weekend! Z M-S




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Odin T, Rannoch G,
Theo C, Toby S

Berky Bear: Ralph H,
Theo C



PARKING REMINDER

A reminder to everyone to please park thoughtfully around the site. Please avoid blocking driveways, gateways or access points, and take extra care to keep everyone safe at drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for helping us to be considerate neighbours and for keeping our children safe.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

POSITIVE NOTICING DAY

We are delighted to be participating in Positive Noticing Day again this year on Wednesday 12th November.

We will be spending some time during the day thinking about the power of positive noticing. It is simple, practical, and highly effective. Being positively noticed by others builds self-esteem, supports behaviour and promotes good mental health.

We encourage families to join in at home too. You can write positive notes for family members on luggage labels, post it notes or pieces of paper. We know that children who are positively noticed by their parents/carers are happier, healthier and more resilient and secure.

You can find out more about positive noticing and Positive Noticing Day at <https://www.positivenoticingday.com/homeadults>. JG

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA

National children's Orchestra success: huge congratulations to these talented Year 6 musicians, who successfully auditioned for the NCO over half term and were awarded a place. We are all so proud of them.

BERKY PRAYER GROUP

Just a reminder that there is a Berky Prayer WhatsApp Group – please contact the school office if you would like to be included.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB GAMES

If you have any complete but unwanted board games or puzzles, our After-School Club would be very grateful for donations. Thank you for your support!

POPPIES FOR SALE

Poppies and poppy-themed items are now available to buy in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. It's a wonderful cause that helps those who have served and their families. Thank you for supporting this important charity.



THE BIG STRING

Many of our pupils take part in The Big String, The Big Blast and Cotswold Music Tutors local courses during half terms and holidays - look out for information if your child would like to try any of these great musical experiences with friends from school. PM



POLITE NOTICE

Please ensure that children wear regulation winter accessories such as school hats, scarves and gloves. Non-regulation items – including earmuffs – and other accessories, should not be worn with school uniform. Thank you for your support.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

U8 v Dean Close Prep

On Wednesday, eight brilliant young 'hockeyists' visited Dean Close to play under the floodlights. The girls performed fantastically and are really starting to apply some of the skills covered within our training sessions - they are spreading out a little more and showing pace in attack. This, coupled with their enthusiastic nature and pressing style of hockey, resulted in a really positive result, with Berky ending up 5-0 victors. However, the most impressive aspect of the afternoon was their positive, supportive behaviour; they really represented our school brilliantly. Well done girls! We are very proud of you! KJ



Year 6 Hockey Training





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

UIIA v Cricklade Manor

On Wednesday the UIIA team enjoyed a lively match against Cricklade. The boys rucked efficiently to produce quick ball and some strong running and deft handling saw lots of first half tries. Our opponents proved stubborn opposition and worked hard to score a couple of their own before half time. The second half, saw the Berky boys demonstrate some fantastic footwork and handling skills, resulting in them crossing the whitewash several times. Our defence was full of energy and once again their commitment and willingness to work hard for each other was a prominent factor in the performance. A victory by three clear scores was just reward for some excellent rugby. Our scorers were Atharv, George H, Rowan, Jacob (2), George L, Max and Teddy. Well done, boys! P McC

UI0/II v Cricklade

The mixed u10/II team put in a dominant performance on Wednesday afternoon, securing a convincing victory.

Throughout the game, the boys defended with real determination and were running strong attacking lines. Their ball handling was impressive, and every player contributed to a really strong team effort. 14:1 win. JH

UI0A v Cricklade Manor

This week, our UI0A squad took on a very strong Cricklade side - undoubtedly our toughest opponents so far this season. From the first whistle, it was clear both teams were up for the challenge, and the match proved to be an exciting, hard-fought contest.

The first half was extremely close, with both sides trading tries to make it 2-2. In the final three minutes before half-time, Berky showed real determination and teamwork, breaking through twice to take a 4-2 lead into the break.

Cricklade came out firing in the second half, scoring an excellent try to make it 4-3 and setting up what looked like a nail-biting finish. However, Berky kept their composure and made the most of some fantastic breaks - our depth of speed across the team proved the difference, with most line breaks ending in points and leading us to a 9-4 victory.

While both teams were evenly matched overall, Berky's ability to capitalise on opportunities and maintain defensive pressure made the difference.

Walker deserves the Player of the Match award, not only for scoring some incredible tries but also for working tirelessly in defence.

In our next training session, we'll be concentrating on rucking, securing the ball back and supporting break aways. ZL

