



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 8TH JULY
SUMMER TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

This week's huge highlight has been the Year 6 Drama production - Pirates of the Curry Bean. What a treat! The story revolves around the twins Jack & Liza Periwinkle (and their faithful cat Fiddlesticks) who discover a real-life treasure map! However, the infamous Pirate 'Redbeard' (don't mention that his beard is pink) and his smelly Pirates of the Curry Bean are out to steal the map and get to the treasure first.

The performance on Tuesday was superb with Year 6 delivering comical lines with perfect timing and having the audience in stitches. From Thea's characterisation of a forgetful Admiral to Otto's Redbeard explaining why the eye-patch was needed, to the Health and Safety Inspectors A. Wally and A. Pratt (played by Manas and Reuben) explaining why Captain Cod's (played by Sophia) sword has no point along with the Naval Crew of the ship 'The Crunchy Frog' and Band of Pirates on board their ship 'The Curry Bean'. They all delivered astonishingly accomplished performances.

It is 'anchors away' again tonight for another swashbuckling pirate adventure on the high seas. I can't wait! Well done to Mrs Macpherson-Light and Mrs Holland (Directors), Mrs Mitchell (Musical Director), Mrs Bareham and Mrs Rees (Scenery and Props) and Mr Tittle (Lighting) and to the fabulous Year 6!

The Pre-Prep and Kindergarten Sports Days were a real pleasure. All competed in a range of events including the traditional 'egg and spoon' and 'sack race'. The enthusiastic crowd were on the edge of their seats and the enjoyment on the children's faces was clear to see. Well done to all for competing so well. Miss Keegan has that remarkable talent of being able to encourage the very youngest to compete so enthusiastically along with coaching the talented Prep athletes. The Prep Sports Day is next week.

As a very proud Headmaster this week has been a joy. Just this morning I handed out two Platinum Awards for pupils who have completed a 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' style logbook about the new skills they have developed, the volunteering they have done, their recent physical achievements and the adventures they have been on. The Prep then gave their huge congratulations to Sam in Year 6 who recently became British U12 Champion in two categories for his archery. This was an amazing achievement alongside his county records and archery trophies. I then rushed over to Reception and Kindergarten to watch 'Billy Goats Gruff'. What a lovely performance with Reception narrating the story which seemed to bring together Sleeping Beauty, The Gingerbread man, Red Riding Hood and various other characters whilst Kindergarten acted out various parts. All sang and played so well and royally entertained the parent audience. Congratulations to all involved. Following this I showed prospective parents around school for a place in Year 3. They commented on how well behaved and welcoming the children are, how engaged they were in their lessons and on what a variety of opportunities there are for the children. It is always a joy for me to walk around school and see the children at work and play.

Our last day of term is next Thursday, and the school will come together in the morning to celebrate the last year. It will be the first time we have had a whole school assembly for three years.

Speech Day, next Friday, is a wonderful Berky occasion for Year 6 and their parents. It is a time to reflect upon and revisit some of the year's events, to say farewell to the Year 6 Leavers and it gives me the opportunity to thank publicly the many people whose enthusiasm and professionalism make it all possible. This year we hope to hold this at school and I know that Year 6 are keen for their parents to hear about what has made Berky special for them.

Richard
Richard Cross
Headmaster

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 11th July

9:00am Pre-Prep Field Events
(no spectators)

2:15pm Kindergarten to Year 2
Moving Up Afternoon

Tuesday 12th July

Early Years and Pre-Prep
Pom Pom Party Day

3:40pm Reception parents
visit Year 1 classrooms

6:00pm Year 6 Leavers' Disco

Wednesday 13th July

Year 2 History Mystery Day
Pre School and Reception trip
to Cotswold Wildlife Park

9:00am Prep Sports Day
(Parents invited from 1:00pm)

9:30am Kindergarten Summer
Concert with Mrs Sallis
(Kindergarten parents invited)

Thursday 14th July

9:30am Whole School Assembly
at All Saints' Church

3:30/3:45pm Term ends for Early
Years, Pre-Prep, Years 3, 4 and 5

Friday 15th July

10:30am Year 6 Leavers' Service
followed by refreshments



Please note

Can all Year 1 pupils please bring in their red PE bags next week, to take end of year work home. Thank you!



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News from Pre-Prep

It has been a busy, but enjoyable couple of weeks in the Pre-Prep. Last Friday Year 2 took to the stage and wowed their audience with their amazing performance of 'Stella the Starfish'. The children spoke clearly and acted brilliantly throughout their performance; the solo singers and instrumentalists were fantastic! A huge well done to all the Year 2 children and the staff for putting on such a fabulous end of year production.

All the Pre-Prep children came in with their running legs ready for action on Tuesday as we held our track events for sports day. The children had to negotiate an obstacle course, balance an egg on a spoon and use those springy legs to compete in the sack race! The sprint and relays were also hotly contested races. All the children tried their best and there were some very close finishes.

Yesterday, Year 1 had their Beach Day; the weather started off in true British style, damp and drizzly! During the morning, the children painted pebbles and made their own groovy sunglasses. Thankfully it brightened up by lunchtime and we were able to have our picnic lunch outside as planned. After lunch we designed ice-creams and then went to play games on the MUGA. We were all rather warm after our games so we were very grateful to be able to cool off a little with an ice lolly. A very enjoyable day was had by all.





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News from around the school

MRS REES

Mrs Rees has recently qualified as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant - nationally recognised as an ELSA. She has undergone training by Educational Psychologists and is now trained to deliver specifically tailored support to the children. Some examples of why your child may see an ELSA are a family breakdown, friendship issues, behaviour troubles, a death/loss, a change in circumstance or simply that your child may need help communicating and understanding their own emotions.

Sessions with Mrs Rees take place on a referral basis only. A concern may be raised with a form teacher, and needs, targets and goals will be set for six weekly sessions.

Having an ELSA within our school goes hand in hand with our values. As a school, we actively support - and encourage - the children's awareness of their social and emotional wellbeing, and treat this with the utmost importance. We are, therefore, delighted with the development of Mrs Rees' role.

Mrs Rees is due to begin her maternity leave in September, but is keen to continue her role as soon as she returns.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Meet Mark Young, our Head Chef, who started with us during the Easter holidays. Mark has worked in catering for many years, and has over 10 years' pastry experience working in hotels. He moved to Cheltenham in 2010 to work at The Montpellier Chapter Hotel, and then The Daffodil.

A family man, he and his wife (a barista at Huffkins) have two sons aged six and four. Berkhampstead is the first school he has worked for, and he thoroughly enjoys it: 'I really like the staff at the school. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming.

I enjoy working alongside Rob (our Catering Manager), and I love cooking nutritious and healthy food for the children and staff. I love to see the children's expressions when they are eating something they enjoy!



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to this impressive Year 6 pupil, who recently attended the Junior National for a two-day archery event, walking away the British Champion for the Under 12 Barrow for both the Bristol 4 round and the Metric 4. He has also claimed three further Gloucestershire County records, the highest level of the Rose Award and another another UK record as well! Everyone at Berky is very proud of him.

Congratulations, too, to this brilliant Year 1 pupil whose beautiful work is featured in a recently published book, 'Yikesy Meets Gaia'. The lovely book is all about the fight to rid beaches of plastic, and our super Year 2 artist contributed many of the book's drawings.

If you would like a copy, please visit: amzn.eu/d/858jD7M





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This week's productions





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Sports days





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Cricket reports...

BOYS' CRICKET

U8 Buffaloes v Rendcomb College

For the third and final match of the season, the Buffaloes had a great game. Everyone managed to score runs and everyone's bowling had shown an improvement. Rendcomb were put into bat first. Throughout their 8 overs we managed to keep their run scoring to a minimum and took 4 wickets. Having started on 200 runs, Rendcomb's final score was 193.

Toby and Jasper were our first batters and managed to score 30 runs between them. It would have been 35 except for Hughie (on loan to Rendcomb to field) who made a great catch. Hughie and Fergus boosted our score by adding 17 more runs. Charlie F, Jacob D, Isaac and Tharusha also added to our score but were unfortunate to lose a couple of wickets. Our final score was 253 runs. Well done also to Jack H for supporting his team when unable to play himself. Well played, boys.

GIRLS' CRICKET

U11B v The Richard Pate School

Unfortunately, the Year 6 girls did not end up with a win in their last match of the season but they put up a good fight. The bowling was much improved from the previous week and if it hadn't been for one over when the RPS team scored 32, the result would have been much closer. There was also some excellent communication between our batters and the game was played with a lovely spirit. The final score was a loss of 243 to 286. Well done, girls.

U11 v St Edward's

We started well with some good fielding, but struggled to keep their score down. St Edward's made good connection with the Berky bowls and managed quite a few 4s and 6s. When in the field we were mostly alert and moving, but couldn't quite get enough catches. A few of the girls got a couple out through their bowling and catching. There was lots of good teamwork in the field, and communication amongst the team, which was nice to see. During the batting we struggled to make regular contact. We got a few runs under our belts, but not enough to take a lead. We lost by 94 runs. Well done girls, good work!

