



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

I was delighted to be able to appoint the House Captains last week. Congratulations to Lottie - St Andrew's, Matilda H - St David's, Oli M - St George's and Beatrice N - St Patrick's. I am sure that they will do a good job of leading their Houses and marshalling the troops for the many House events ahead as well as giving the much-valued peer support for younger children.

The School Council Leaders were also appointed. Mateo and Matilda E will lead the School Council. This is run democratically, and the Council discuss matters affecting the pupils. Each class has now held a vote and the School Council reps for each class will be announced next week. Any child can approach their class rep and put forward a suggestion for discussion at the meeting.

I was also able to announce the Eco-Warrior Leaders. The campaign to become more environmentally friendly has gone from strength to strength with Eco-Warriors in each class. The School has now achieved the Silver Eco-Schools Award – thanks to Mrs McInnes, Mrs Bareham and the Eco-Committee from last year – and, as we aim for the Gold Award, the Eco-Warrior Committee will be led by Hannah H and Luke R in Year 6.

At this time of year, I usually talk to Year 5 about the Platinum Award and hand a logbook to those who wish to have a go at this. Available to Years 5 and 6 and adopting the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, it gives children opportunities to make decisions for themselves and encourages their independent, risk-taking and adventurous spirit. The Award is made up of four sections: skills, physical, adventure and volunteering – these will provide a framework – the detail is up to each child and they will decide where their interest takes them. It aims to celebrate the 'can-do' attitude and the generous spirit and encourage resilience, and fits seamlessly with our school motto, adopted in 1945 – Perseverantia Vincit. I have delayed discussing this with them due to current circumstances but will talk to Year 5 and 6 about ways they can complete the logbook in a COVID-19 compliant way.

We are over-subscribed for our 'appointment only' Open Morning tomorrow so I have had the pleasure of showing a number of prospective parents around recently - in a COVID-19 compliant way. The overwhelming feedback is of the positive relationships that are evident amongst the children and staff and how welcoming they are. It is hugely reassuring to me that, for the children, school is their safe space where they can enjoy each other's company and thrive on the learning experience.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Wed 14th October**

5.30pm - 6M Online  
Parents' Evening

**Thur 15th October**

5.00pm - 6H Online  
Parents' Evening

**Sat 17th Oct - Sun 31st October**  
Half term

**Mon 2nd November**

School returns  
Year 6 ICT & Rivers trip





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## News from Pre-Prep

Wow, Year 1 have been busy this week! First and foremost, we finished writing our 'Monkey Puzzle' books, inspired by Julia Donaldson, where we rewrote the story, changing all the characters. We worked really hard on including lots of exciting adjectives and the results were brilliant. The children even illustrated their books and shared them with each other in a class story time. We finished putting up our wonderful rainforest display in the hall and used chalk to create some beautiful rainforest butterflies.

Last week, we looked at the weather in Rio and compared it to the weather in Cheltenham. This tied in really nicely to our science where we are looking for signs of autumn. We went for a walk around the school grounds, noting what we could see; it's safe to say we found plenty of conkers and the weather certainly felt very autumnal.

Last week, Mr Taylor came and told us all about belonging to a church; he brought some great pictures for us to see! This week, we've started thinking about Harvest and why we celebrate at Harvest time. We all thought really carefully about the things we are particularly thankful for. HC



### Lost Property

Lost Berkhampstead coat belonging to Amelia S (KG) was taken by mistake after Supastrikers on Tuesday. We would be grateful if you could check your child's coat to ensure it is theirs!



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## National Schools Quiz Finals

On an exciting morning, way back in February, the Berky Quiz Team won its regional heat and qualified for the National Schools Quiz Final. The grand final was supposed to take place in a West End theatre last summer but Covid's intervention meant the greatly anticipated trip to London was shelved. Instead, the final took place online yesterday and our team of four gathered (slightly anticlimactically) in the school hall. However, the final proved enormously enjoyable. Forty-seven eager school teams from the length and breadth of the United Kingdom assembled remotely and were bombarded with questions about history, geography, science, literature, art, spelling and every other subject you can imagine. An early burst from the Berky brains propelled us to equal first place after 15 questions but the pressure was relentless and a few questions didn't quite go our way in the second half of the event. Our final placing - 22nd nationally - was a huge achievement though. The competition was tough so we can feel very proud of our progress in this ever-thrilling tournament. Congratulations to our splendid captain Will C and his loyal cohorts, Will S, Zoe B and Joseph W. MC

