



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of what has been an extraordinary term following the Summer lockdown. Whilst we have been less busy with the usual fixtures, visits and trips the children and staff have worked incredibly hard in the classroom and have made great progress. We have recently received news of the Grammar School results and are thrilled with the outcome. Many more of Year 6 are sitting Scholarship Awards to the local Independent Schools and the early feedback from these is also very positive. We are incredibly proud of the Year 6 pupils who have worked so hard towards these examinations and to those sitting Music, Art, Sport and Drama assessments next term, we wish them well.

I have viewed the nativity films now and they look amazing. I also saw some of the filming for the candlelit Carol Service at All Saints' Church – and this too promises to be a magical film. I hope that you are able to get the technology working through MS Teams to watch these over the Christmas period. You may want to watch them over and over again! My enormous thanks to all the staff involved but particularly the Directors Mrs Main, Mrs Gargan, Mrs Langley and Mrs Mitchell and the Cinematographers.

The PTA have been really creative this term and their events have included the Quiz Night – attended by 56 teams – Cake at Break and, of course, a visit from Father Christmas for all the pupils in the school. The gifts carefully wrapped for Early Years and Pre-Prep and eco-wrapped for Prep were amazing. The delight on the children's faces was a sight to behold. Thank you to Joey and the PTA committee and to you all for supporting these events financially. All the money raised is going towards the video equipment we need to provide you with ongoing filming of school productions and events.

We have had a great week with the last House Matches, the annual Prep Classroom Decoration Competition and the culmination of the 100 Words Christmas Story Competition too. We celebrated these in assemblies, but the biggest applause went to the Year 4 children returning from isolation! Well done to all the amazing staff and children who coped so magnificently with remote teaching and learning running alongside those still in school.

Whilst we have not been able to show prospective parents round in the same way this term we have recruited a good number of new pupils. We have had a new starter this term and we anticipate 6 new pupils starting in January. Since lockdown I have shown around parents for a potential 12 new pupils and I hope that these will come to fruition in 2021. We have an Early Years Open Morning on January 9th and if you know of anyone interested in the Berky experience then do ask them to get in touch.

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

Tue 5th January 2021
Spring Term begins

6th January
Reception and Year 1 Space Day
7th January
6M visit to SkillZone
8th January
6H visit to SkillZone
9th January
Early Years Open Morning





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

The Day Nursery continues to go from strength to strength under the temporary leadership of Emily Bradshaw, whilst Mollie Dodds is on maternity leave. They are a dedicated team who have lots of ideas to implement to make the children's experience even better in the Day Nursery. The recent developments (including new outside access for the Teddy Bear Room) have been very well received and there are plans for a canopy (similar to the Kindergarten canopy) in 2021. Our Day Nursery children, familiar with the school facilities, make the transition to the Kindergarten with ease and we look forward to welcoming more children to Kindergarten in January.

The quality and dedication of the teaching and support staff here is outstanding. All contribute enormously to making Berky a remarkable school. I would like to thank them for all they do for the School and for your children and to thank you for your continued support. On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to remind you that the new term starts on Tuesday 5th January 2021.



Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Congratulations to this term's Kindness Cup winners, shown are the winners of the Pre-Prep Sally Lee Kindness Cup and the Prep School's Gill Agg Kindness Cup. Well done to both of these delightful girls.



Congratulations to St Patrick's who won the House Rugby competition, St Andrew's who won the hockey, and St George's who won the House Points competition for the Autumn term. Shown are the House Captains of these three winning houses.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

Over the last few weeks the festive celebrations have continued within the Early Years department.

The Early Years Nativities: Reception's 'Whoops-a-Daisy' and Kindergarten's 'A Wriggly Nativity' were great successes; this year both were filmed for parents to watch instead of being performed to a live audience. The children did a very good job of narrating and singing the lovely songs. Thank you to the parents who provided the wonderful costumes.

The Early Years Christmas parties were also days to remember. The children and staff spent the morning playing traditional games such as Christmas Lotto and Pin the Red Nose on Rudolph, as well as making delicious Christmas Rice Krispie Cakes and imaginative Christmas crafts. After a wonderful picnic with lots of party food, a very special visitor parked his sleigh and came to see the children. He brought a present for each child! A memorable ending to this exciting last week of school.

**We wish you a very Happy Christmas
and see you in 2021! HRW**





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

BERKY GETS GREENER ...AT CHRISTMAS

The Berky Gets Greener eco-committee ran a 100 word story competition for the Prep School children, and the theme was an 'Eco Christmas.' The pupils were encouraged to be as imaginative and creative as possible, and we certainly were not disappointed with their entries!

The winning stories for each year group, plus runners-up and highly commended, have been put up on Teams, and they are well worth a read. Congratulations to the following winners:

Y3 - Highly commended: George J and Isaac R
Runner-up: Mollie R
Winner: Georgiana S

Y4 - Highly Commended: Amelia J and Erin R
Runner-up: Bertie L
Winner: Gideon T

Y5 - Highly Commended: Hannah D and Alice S
Runners up: Sam B and Maisie G
Winner: Zoe B

Y6 - Highly Commended: Rosemary B and Matilda H
Runners-up: Isabella E and Henry R
Winner: Bea Bea M-D

PREP CLASSROOM DECORATION RESULTS 2020

It is tradition that Mr and Mrs Taylor judge the Prep Classroom competition, which this year was eco-themed. In their own words:

We were delighted to be asked to judge the classroom decoration competition again this year. We loved the eco nature of this year's decorations and have been very impressed with the everyone's ideas. As always it was extremely difficult to choose a winner. Many of the rooms had fantastic paper chains and bunting all made from recycled material along with other great ideas.

We have noted what impressed us in each class.

- 3M the hanging paper chain snowmen and toilet roll reindeer
- 3C the message of a green Christmas on the wall
- 4T the acrostic poems (Simon particularly liked the pint of beer)
- 5K Pinecone door wreath and Games board (we won a wonderful lucky dip prize)
- 5B cork reindeer in tissue snow on the windowsill
- 6H homemade eco crib and fireplace
- 6M addition of festive hats to the children's photos and sumo Santa

After much deliberation the runner up place, because of the quality and presentation of the decorations and the effect of the entire room goes to 6H.

First place goes to 3M. We were impressed by the imaginative use made of their materials; items here were not seen anywhere else.

Merry Christmas

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Merry Christmas...

