



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It was with great pleasure that I welcomed Milly Till and Maddie McClemont back to Berkhamstead this morning when they came in with Mrs Clayfield and Mrs Pope from St. Edward's School. In assembly both girls played their instruments – Maddie the harp and Milly the trumpet – both instruments they started to play at Berk. They are both accomplished musicians and with their assembly - 'Shine a light on your talents' - certainly inspired us all that anything is possible. I am grateful to Mrs Clayfield and Mrs Pope for their assembly and for taking the time to speak to parents about St. Edward's.

VISITING HEADS FOR PARENTS

I am sure that parents of children in Years 4 and 5 are already thinking about future schools. I have extended an invitation to other school Heads from each of our local schools to lead a 'Visiting Head's Assembly' at Berkhamstead. Many have taken up this opportunity and their visit dates are in the Calendar. Coffee and biscuits will be served in the Pre-Prep hall after the assemblies. May I warmly invite you to join us for this. It will give you the opportunity to meet the Heads informally and to gently (or otherwise) ask questions of them about their schools. Some Heads haven't as yet confirmed their dates but I will keep you informed as this changes.

FUTURE SCHOOLS BRIEFING FOR YEAR 4 AND 5 PARENTS

We will also be holding our annual forum to provide you with information on the application process and expectations of the local senior and secondary schools – whether they are state Academies, Grammar, Comprehensive or Independent Schools. There will be a presentation and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. This will be held on Monday March 13th at 6pm and is aimed at Year 4 and 5 parents.

BERKY BLAZER

I am delighted that the Berky Blazer for the Autumn Term is going out today. It is always enjoyable looking back on the wonderful events of the term including the Christmas festivities. If you would like a further copy of the magazine for family or friends do please ask in the office.

FIXTURES

The first football and netball matches of the season kicked off this week and were played in good spirit, despite the rather cold and windy turn to the weather. There were some encouraging performances across the board – there is some way to go before we reach our best form, though, and as the season progresses, this will inevitably happen. After-School Games sessions for the Prep children will of course help with this and these will commence after half term when the evenings are lighter and the weather more clement.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 17th Jan

3.40pm – Chess v St Gregory's

Wed 18th Jan

2.30pm – Netball U11, U10 v Hatherop Castle School (H)

2.30pm – Football U11A, U11B, U11C v Rendcomb (A)

2.30pm – Netball U9 v Malvern St James (A)

Fri 20th Jan

Assembly for Year 2 – Year 6 by Issy Bailey – Paralympian in Rio 2016 – followed by official Opening of MUGA

3.15pm – Football U8, U9 v Cheltenham College Prep (A)

3.30pm – Netball U9A, U9B v Dean Close (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

NEWS FROM EARLY YEARS

Reception had a great introduction to this term's topic 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' this week with their visit to @tBristol Science Centre. The children and staff were very impressed by the size of the centre and the variety of things there were to see and do. The children loved the visit to Body Basics where they met Mr Stuffee, a giant doll with removable internal organs, and learnt about the basic needs of life, systems of the human body such as digestion and the heart, and how we use our senses to detect the outside world. A great day out was had by all!

After such a successful trip to @tBristol science centre this week everyone wanted to write a recount of our trip. We discussed how the events must be in the right order and what words we could use to connect them. The children wrote some fantastic recounts to remember this day by!

The children explored symmetry in many ways: by using mirrors, completing pictures and creating their own symmetrical patterns. During outdoor maths

the children worked with their talk partner to make a symmetrical pattern using natural materials.



SWIMMING GALA 2017

St Andrew's won the house swimming trophy!

There was an excited buzz in the air as the children settled down on the poolside for the 2017 swimming gala. The noise of course got louder and louder as all the children swam firstly a length of front crawl, then backstroke and finally a breaststroke length for their houses. Some of the Year 6 girls and boys then blasted down the pool with a length of butterfly and the gala came to a conclusion with the house relays. Everyone as usual gave it their best shot and was always very supportive of everyone else, but especially the children who find swimming more of a challenge.

With the fantastic club swimmers we have had over the last few years, records were going to be hard to break but there was one with the very last race of the morning when the Year 5/6 boys equalled the existing relay record. Well done to Harry B, Jasper A, Adam R and George dBT. The final results were the closest they have been for years with only 19 points separating the first three houses. Well done to all the swimmers for their huge endeavour and especially to St Andrew's for winning the trophy. Thank you also for the parental support which is always very important for the children to see and much appreciated by the staff.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U11A v King's - Won 1-0

On Wednesday the U11A opened their season with a 1-0 victory against King's. The first half was evenly contested with both sides having opportunities to score. However after some close range shots, Harry broke the deadlock to put Berky in front.

The second half saw the King's boys play with greater energy. We had to endure several waves of King's attacks and they had several shots on target which were saved brilliantly by Sam. A combination of Sam's fantastic goalkeeping and some last ditch defence, saw us end the game as victors.

The boys worked hard as always and there were some good passages of play. Ollie R, Benji and James were lively in midfield. Ollie A and Harry tackled and passed well. Although there is lots to work on, this was a good start by the boys. Well done!



U11B v King's - Lost 2-6

The game proved to be a game of two halves. In the first half Berky failed to maximise on their potential. The Kings team were well drilled and took opportunities when they presented themselves. Although Toby, Max and Nic battled bravely at the back they were often left stranded as the King's team passed the ball into space. Rex in goal made some good saves but was often left to defend the goal on his own. In the first half King's put 4 goals in. In the midfield Ethan and Charlton tried to battle their way through but were often crowded out by the King's defence. On the left wing Rhys held his position well and made a couple of good runs. He had our one shot of the half which sadly went wide. Playing up front Olly tried hard but rarely saw the ball.

The second half was a different story with Charlton pressuring the King's defence. Rex now in centre midfield battled well. Both Charlie and Rhys were great on the wings creating great runs and opportunities for the front players. Finally with good passing play by the front players, Rhys opened the scoring with a goal. Berky were really pressing the attack and several corners were conceded by King's. At the back, Toby, Henry and Hugo really played well marking the forward players. Unfortunately on the break King's scored twice more, but a great shot by Henry was deflected into the King's goal meaning Berky had scored again.

Despite Berky having most of the play on the second half the score remained at only 2 for Berky. A good effort by the team and lots for us to think about and improve on for our next match.



U11C v King's - Won 3-0

The U11C team had a great start to the season with a fine win over King's Gloucester. On a cold and windy afternoon - and ball control a challenge - the boys worked really hard in both defence and attack. Charlie D held the back line steady and guided Peter and Edwin in ensuring the early King's attacks were stopped. Eliot in goal had a great half with two great saves. Just before half-time James E found himself in space and pushed forward before slotting the ball past the goalkeeper. 1-0 at half time!

In the second half with a few positional changes and the midfield of Ollie O, Archie M, George L and William P dominating, the game opened up a bit. James C-G, striker, had a few chances before he made an excellent pass to James E for his second goal. Jasper A and Benji J shared the goalkeeper position in the second half as well as playing outfield and this ensured King's were denied a goal. In the final few minutes another goal chance came to James E and he was determined to score his well-deserved hat-trick. All the boys celebrated - as did James with a two-knee slide across the centre-circle!

Well done boys on a 3-0 win.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

NETBALL

U10B v RPS - Won 9-2

The first game of the season and the girls certainly were impressive! Sarah (Captain) led from the front and was everywhere – playing the role of Centre perfectly. All the girls played with great determination and at a fast pace. They fought for the ball and Chiara was impressive as Wing Attack in the first half, leaping for any interceptions. Isi and Rosannah developed a lovely partnership, helping each other to get into the best position for shooting. At half time the score was 3 -1, so still quite close.

The girls continued to play well in the second half and began to dominate. Georgia and Zoe, both in their first game for Berky, made a great team in Defence – using their height to great advantage and the girls who came on in the second half continued with the energetic play. The final score was 9 -2 to Berky!

Well done girls - what a way to start the season!

U10A v RPS - Won 18-4

Wow! What a start to the season! The girls were certainly fired up and began the match with incredible energy – I am not sure RPS knew what had hit them! The passing worked a dream and the footwork was impressive – I couldn't help but smile to myself! Flormie (Captain) and Alice were like the dream team – working together to get into the best positions for shooting. The girls dictated the pace of the match and moved the ball quickly up the court. By half time the score was 10-1. RPS came back in the second half and began to move the ball around well: our girls had to work harder to intercept the ball. Leslie and Jemima (both playing Goal Keeper) worked well to intercept passes to the Goal Shooter. Once again the girls found their rhythm and began adding to their total – all the girls talked to each other and worked well as a team.

A thoroughly impressive win, girls – let's keep the energy up! Well done to you all.

U11A and B v RPS - Lost A 4-6 and Lost B 0-7

On a bitterly cold afternoon the Bs were first to play and it was obvious from the start that RPS were a much stronger team and also much taller!

Under pressure from the first whistle the girls tried hard but it was an upward struggle and it wasn't long before RPS took a healthy lead. Our girls need to be more feisty and stronger on the court – they are just too nice! There was some improvement in the second half but also much to work on.

The A match was a much more even affair and Berky had every chance of winning. Katie was superb in defence and if we had taken all of our shooting chances it would have been a victory to Berky. The final result was 6-4 to RPS.

All of the girls played well and considering we were missing two key players I am very encouraged by what this team could achieve over the term.

