



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

What a wonderful term this has been with the sun shining for much of the time, many trips and extras and smiling faces all around! It bodes well for a glorious summer holiday! I'm delighted to be able to say that it has been another fantastic year for Berkhampstead, with the ISI Inspection team judging the school as **EXCELLENT IN ALL AREAS**. The Inspection team of 6 spent three days observing lessons, scrutinising work, examining our policies and speaking to pupils, staff and parents. We are all obviously thrilled with the endorsement from the Independent School Inspectorate for all we do. We have also been thrilled with a super number of Grammar School places won, a very pleasing number of Independent School Scholarships won and some superb internal exam results from across the year groups – there's been a lot of learning done!

I am also thrilled that **Berkhampstead Day Nursery**, inspected at the same time as the school, was rated as **OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS** (the inspectors use the Ofsted ratings here which are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate). Congratulations to Emily, Mollie and the team of staff who have worked so hard to achieve this.

Both reports will be emailed separately to you and be on the school website soon.

Our sporting and chess endeavours have again been excellent and shelves are groaning under the weight of trophies – the children have competed in a wide range of events and have done so in super spirit. We've had lovely services in All Saints' Church and enjoyed the spectacularly good Spring Concert in the Pittville Pump Room. What a wonderful event the Art Exhibition was – featuring a piece from every child from Reception to Year 6, some 230 children.

In the last two weeks, there have been terrific Sports Days for each age group and all have competed with determination and good spirit, but most significantly they have supported and encouraged one another splendidly! There's been sporting behaviour and competitiveness on show from the very tiniest in their first set of races aged 3, through to the Prep children at the Prince of Wales stadium. The great weather and the talent and endeavour meant that numerous School Records were broken, from Year 5 girls Long Jump to the Year 6 boys 100m - more in the next Berky Blazer.

The year has been punctuated with trips and events, which have enriched the children's learning. The last two weeks alone have featured pond dipping, seeking the Gruffalo in the Forest of Dean, an encounter with Romans at the Corinium Museum and a trip down the pit at the Black Country Museum – probably the coolest place in the West Midlands!

I have witnessed some truly creative and imaginatively delivered lessons, seen pupils performing both musically and dramatically at very high standards for their ages – Once Upon a Time, Eddie the Penguin and Pirates of the Curry Bean – fabulous! I have been impressed over and over again with all that is achieved during a Berky school year. The children have applied themselves with gusto to all opportunities presented to them. The Berky 'can-do' attitude has been so much in evidence from the very youngest age through to those who are now mature and ready to leave us – our Year 6 pupils. They have been a splendid year group, with many talents, and we wish them all the very best of luck next year and in the future.

THURSDAY 13TH JULY
SUMMER TERM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

You will receive your children's written reports tomorrow and I hope you enjoy reading them. Having read each report myself over recent days, I know that there are some super comments for you to look forward to!

This year has again included some wonderful contributions from the PTA, the 007 May Ball was splendid and the Berky Feast Summer Fete was a huge success - perfect weather to enjoy the stalls, the Pimms, the Berky's Got Talent and of course, the tug of war! Over the year, an enormous amount of money has been raised for school funds and for charity, there is a huge amount of goodwill and time given willingly by parents and friends and I am very grateful for this. THANK YOU for all of your contributions and to Steve Ackland and the PTA committee for pulling it all together. The staff and children have been delighted to see the 4th (St. Andrew's) minibus arrive last week.

Steve has decided to step down as PTA Chair this year and I would like to thank him for all his hard work and support over the last two years.

This holiday we are continuing with our rolling program of refurbishment around school as well as exciting updates to the Pre-Prep Hall, Kindergarten Cloakrooms and Prep Foyer.

May I remind you that the new term will start on Wednesday, September 6th.

It remains only for me to wish you all a very happy and restful holiday and to thank you for your support of the school.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

CRICKET

U9

The U9 team have had a fabulous last week of cricket. They have played King's Worcester and The Richard Pate School and won both games. The overwhelming reason for this has been team spirit. Against King's Gloucester, captain Luke won the toss and elected to field first. After a slow start, with the boys bowling and fielding well, King's last two pairs started to pile on the runs. A great catch from Andrew and an astonishing catch from Jensen pegged them back and King's finished on 88 runs. Each of the Berky batting pairs contributed with just the occasional wicket falling. The penultimate pair, Luke and Noah, still had much to do and they played well to get to 82 within 6 runs of the King's total. The last pair, Oscar A and Harry, came to the crease and intelligently Oscar knew that if no more wickets were taken then, through wides and no-balls, the total should be reached. They both batted very sensibly, encouraging each other and with Oscar reminding Harry of the score each ball. After their two overs, the score had reached 93, and a great win by 5 runs.

Against RPS Luke lost the toss and they were put in to bat. Euan and George opened against their top bowlers and unusually found scoring runs difficult. However, they ran a few singles before a couple of wickets set the team back. However, Andrew and Ed came in next and quickly got into their stride. Between them they scored 27 runs and only 1 wicket fell. Jensen and Finn were in next and the left-hand, right-hand combination led to more runs - 24 between them. Finally, Luke and Noah, up against the RPS top bowlers again, managed to survive and put on a valuable 19 runs for a total of 254 for 5. The pressure was now on the bowlers to protect this achievable score. The pick of the bowlers were Euan (2 overs, 2 wickets for 15 runs), George (2 overs, 2 wickets for 7 runs) and Finn (2 overs, 2 wickets for 15 runs). Luke bowled very meagrely with only 6 runs off his 2 overs. With 8 wickets taken RPS were restricted to 239 runs and Berky had won by 15 runs.

This has been a superb cricket season for the U9 boys. They remain undefeated against some tough opposition and have worked hard at improving their game. Team spirit has been the key and the boys should feel very proud.

The U9 Cricket team 2017: George, Ed, Oscar H, Jensen, Noah, Oscar A, Finn, Luke (captain), Euan, Andrew and Harry (unfortunately who was away on the day of the photograph).

