



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a lovely start to the new term. It has been super to see everyone back, looking smart, refreshed and ready to go. The new children are settling in fast and enjoying their first taste of Berky. Many of our brilliant Year 6 are sitting the Grammar School entrance exam on Saturday – this always takes place early in September. They have been thoroughly prepared and many have attended the Berky revision sessions over the summer holidays and our 'mock' test last Saturday led by Mrs Agg and Mr Cole. The aim of this was to give them a taste of completing all the different styles of questions over the two 45-minute sessions allocated by the grammar schools. We all wish them the very best of luck.

I was delighted to accompany our Year 5 boys to King's, Gloucester this week where they had a coaching session with the Gloucester RFU coaches and players. They were met by two current Gloucester players; Will Safe, who is local and went to Bournside School, and Jaco Kriel, a South African International Rugby player. The boys had a great experience and learnt much about working together as a team on the rugby pitch – they also came home with an 'England Supporters' scarf!

Year 2 have been off on a trip already – their excited explorations on Crickley Hill were an enjoyable part of research into a project on settlements – see picture above. We are warming up to running at full speed in terms of clubs and activities – many of these will start next week.

We do appreciate how difficult it is to find parking in the area around school during the key pick-up and drop-off times of the day. This seems to have been made worse by the increased restrictions that have been applied to the centre of Cheltenham. In recent days, I have received several complaints from local residents, parents and staff expressing concern about some of the car parking they have seen at pick-up and drop-off times in Hewlett Road and Cleeve View Road. The safety of the children and pedestrians must be paramount and it seems that a small minority of parents are not always parking with this in mind.



FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 17th September

2.15pm – Rugby U11, U10
v Bowbrook House (H)

Tue 18th September

4.00pm - Year 5 Viney Hill
Meeting, Prep Hall

Wed 19th September

Year 1 trip to Crickley Hill
2.30pm – Rugby U9A, U9B
v Beaudesert (A)

2.30pm – Rugby U10A, U10B
v Hatherop (A)

2.30pm – Hockey U11A, U11B,
U10A, U10B v The Croft (A)

Fri 21st September

3.00pm – Rugby U8 (2 teams)
v Richard Pate (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

I am sure you will agree that creating a safer community is a partnership. In school, we teach the pupils to respect the rules and encourage them to conduct themselves safely and considerately at all times. I am sure that you would all endorse this as good sense and good citizenship and would wish to support the school and your children in doing the right thing. I would like to remind you of the following:

You MUST NOT wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs.

You MUST NOT wait, park or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings.

DO NOT stop or park

- Near the school entrance
- Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- In front of an entrance to a property where there is a dropped kerb or H markings
- On a bend
- In a way that obstructs the pavement.

I will be reminding the children of this during the next week in the hope that they might speak to you – if you are one of those parents that parks inconsiderately and dangerously.

We have over **200 users of the Berky App now** and I hope that you have learnt how to access dates, useful information and contacts. Please do encourage other parents to use the app and we will start making more use of the notification aspect of it.

Next week, I will be writing to you with more detail of the School Strategic Development Plan. I am excited about the developments we have done in recent years but am more excited about what is to come. Look out for this next week!

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



*Uniform shop
is full!*
Sorry, no more second hand
uniform to be dropped off at
the uniform shop until
after half term.



Missing...
Clarks Shoes
Black size 1H
UNNAMED



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

The beginning of a new School year is always an exciting time as we look forward to all the challenges and activities ahead. We welcome the children back to school and would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new pupils and their families. We do hope that you will soon feel that you are a part of our happy school.

The children looked so smart in their uniforms and have had lots of fun in their first week of school. They have been busy little bees getting to know each other and making themselves familiar with their new surroundings and routines.

The Information Meetings for Kindergarten and Reception this week were very successful; the staff enjoyed meeting you all and talking about daily routines and expectations for the year ahead and answering your questions. Thank you to all those who attended.

The Kindergarten children have been busy this week making new friends. They have enjoyed playing together and getting to know each other. During circle times, they have been encouraged to tell everyone their name, favourite colour and story book which enabled the children's confidence to grow.

The children have been exploring their new environment. They have particularly enjoyed time in the Early Years garden and on the big playground. They have been busy watering the plants, digging in the mud sink and counting dinosaurs in the 'tuff spot'.

Inside, the children have been mark-making in sand and making faces with playdough as well as working on fine motor skills with the tweezers and sugar snap peas.

Kindergarten is full of new experiences and the children have been brilliant in trying new things and going to new places. They have enjoyed going to lunches in Pre-Prep with the Reception children.

Reception children are enjoying the topic 'Family and Friends' and the children had some excellent ideas. This week in Forest School the children have been learning how to stay safe and enjoy their time in Forest School by creating their own rules. Great discussions took place regarding what the rules might be and they worked very well together, creating some excellent rules for everyone to follow!

During another of our carousel groups the children painted self-portraits. They used mirrors and were encouraged to look at matching colours, and the shapes that made up their face.

They cannot wait for next week to add the finishing touches e.g. eyes, features and noses!

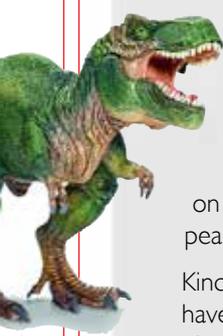
The children and staff found a missing poster from a Mummy owl. The children agreed it could be about the story 'Owl Babies.' The children sequenced the story using a time line to show beginning, middle and end. They made a story map to share with their talk partners to help retell the story.

We are encouraging the children to be as self-sufficient as possible so it would be very helpful if on a Monday you could hang their overall on their peg ready for them to put on by themselves when needed.

Children and staff endeavour to go outside in most weather conditions, so a named pair of wellingtons and navy raincoat should always be in school.

Please can Reception children bring book bags in daily and red shoe bags only on P.E, ballet and Supastriker days. The children need only wear a coat or blazer, and not both. On PE days a full School kit is required: named Velcro trainers, tracksuit, navy shorts, white socks and PE shirt. Library day is on a Friday so please remember to return their library book so they can choose a new one.

Thank you for your cooperation; do please come and ask staff if you have any questions.



**BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL**
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS
Kindergarten
Charlie K, Elise A
Reception
Harry L, Oliver B,
Polly B, Oliver B



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Music News

MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to all those who took music exams in the Summer Term. We were delighted with the results which showed great preparation and a high level of performance. Of particular note were the results for Rhys Loffhagen and Leslie More who took Grade 7 and Grade 8 on their instruments. Both were taught by our music teachers in school (Mr Stillman and Mr Trim) and have achieved an extraordinary level for their age.

Prep Test (Piano)

Eleanor T, Jonny W, Rupert G, Darcey C.

Grade 1

Henry T (Guitar), Freddie B (Guitar*), Oliver M (Guitar*), Benji M (Drum Kit*), Chiara O'C (Drum Kit*), Jensen A (Bass Guitar**), Luke F (Cornet), Beatrice N (Cello*), Charlotte B (Cornet**), Bea D (Cornet**)

Grade 2

Will C (Guitar**), William S (Electric Guitar*), Emily W (Singing), Eleanor T (Double Bass**), Eliot A (Double Bass**), Catherine W (Clarinet**)

Grade 3

Rosannah M (Viola*), George R (Violin)

Grade 4

Olly W (Drum Kit), Emily W (Piano), Jack P (Cello), Griff L (Trombone*)

Grade 5

Grace W (Violin), Olly W (Cello)

Grade 7

Rhys L (Piano*)

Grade 8

Leslie M (Viola*)

(*Denotes pass with mMerit, ** Denotes pass with distinction)



Music Ensembles will be starting next week with Jazz Band/ Combo and Jigsaw on Monday from 4-4.30.

Please collect children from the Prep building this week.

BerKeys, Chamber Ensemble, Keyboard Orchestra and Berky Bows will each start at 8.20 - it would be most helpful if the children can arrive at school in good time to come straight in for the start of their rehearsal.

VoxBox, Percussion Ensemble and Guitar Club will be held at Lunch Break. Please check the details on your termly calendar for the day of each rehearsal.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...

PTA AGM AND QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and is feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead!

We are starting the year off with our annual **PTA Quiz and AGM, on Friday 28th September.**

Information on the quiz was sent out yesterday via email and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Tickets always sell out quickly so get in quick with your teams.

It is a great way to catch up after the summer or meet new parents who have recently joined the school; with fantastic questions from Mr Titley and a fabulous dinner provided by the award-winning Simpson's Fish & Chips, it promises to be a fun and fiercely competitive evening!

We will also hold a short AGM at the beginning of the evening to vote in the new committee and share details of last year.

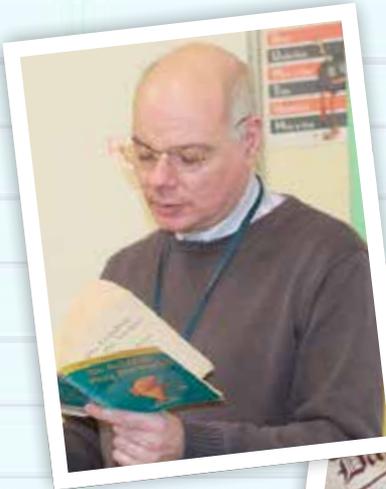
We will be having our first PTA Meeting on Wednesday 10th October and further details regarding this will be shared nearer the time.

We hope everyone has settled in well and we look forward to seeing you on the 28th!

Many Thanks,

Joey

PTA Chair
berkhampsteadpta@gmail.com





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

U10B v Kitebrook

Draw 4-4

This was the girls' first match of the season (captained by Eleri) and they were excited. A beautiful, warm autumnal day in an amazing setting was a perfect backdrop. The pitch was small so we decided to play six on the field. The girls were full of enthusiasm, running everywhere. Although some of the skills were a little rusty, the girls demonstrated some super teamwork and were certainly not going to be beaten. The Kitebrook girls scored first but that just made our girls even more determined! It was end to end action with the girls being rotated on and off, learning to play in different positions and understanding their positioning on the field. I was really pleased at how they listened and responded to our team talks. Each time Kitebrook scored, Berky responded with an attacking piece of play. Our defenders developed good communication and we improved on our free hits as the match progressed. Eleanor and Darcey scored a goal each with Hazel sneaking two. It was a good team effort and a promising start. We now need to work on positioning and space a little more! Well done girls!

U11A v St Edward's Lost 3-0

This was the first game of the season and the girls were ready to go. We started off slowly but after a few minutes the girls got into the flow of the game. There was some great defending by the team and lovely passes out wide to our wings. The score didn't reflect the game, we had some great opportunities but were unable to get our shots over the line. St Edward's were quick from the start and drove into our half with determination; we fought hard but they managed to get one past us. During the second half St Edward's were strong in defence and didn't allow our girls an inch of movement; we had a few chances but struggled to get the ball into our attacking D. We were busy in defence, with all girls playing their part, but St Edward's were too strong for us and managed to get another 2 goals. Well done girls - good first effort, let's win the next one!

U11B v St Edward's Won 1-0

As the score suggests, this was a close match that could have gone either way.

For their first match, the girls all played really well. Lorien was the goalie. She was rarely troubled. This is a mark of a good defence. In the first half Emily, and in the second half Eloise, both held their position well and in the second half, Eloise was required to clear the ball. St Edward's had shots, but fortunately they all went wide.

Just ahead, Frankie played a magnificent game tackling all that tried to pass her. She won the ball and passed on numerous occasions to great wide positions causing the St Edward's defence no end of problems. Sophie and Lizzie both played a fantastic game on the wings, both playing the ball into wide positions and then passing the ball into the D. Emma worked tirelessly in the centre. Up front, Georgie in the first half and Edith in the second both played a great attacking game. The goal came in the first half with great passing between Georgie, Lizzie and Emma with the ball finally going through to Sophie who scored the match winner. A great game with a nail-biting ending as St Edward's stormed forward to get the equaliser. However, the Berky girls held strong and secured the victory.

