



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Getting up in the morning during January and February can be pretty tough, especially when we are a few weeks into the term, but the days are definitely getting longer and there is a real feeling of Spring in the air.

Many congratulations to Mrs Roddy-Watts and her Early Years team for yet again achieving the Bristol Standard this year; I know how hard they work to give the children the best possible start to their school life and this award endorses this. Congratulations, too, to Mr Cole's formidable chess team who won the District League Championship on Tuesday, beating Holy Apostles 4-2; this is our fourth time of winning this prestigious title. (See Mr Cole's report)

We are always encouraging the children to try new foods and to eat a healthy, balanced diet with plenty of vegetables. With this in mind, our caterers Palmer and Howells organise special food tasting events for different parts of the school. On Tuesday, it was the turn of Years 1 and 2. Initially, our chef Alex was dubious as to whether the children would appreciate his efforts with two rather more unusual vegetables - kale and celeriac: celeriac and apple soup, celeriac remoulade with Parma ham en croute, Tuscan kale and ricotta sausage pasta bake and Cajun kale crisps. By the end, Alex was rubbing his head in disbelief - the children (and staff) loved it and some even came back for a second helping!

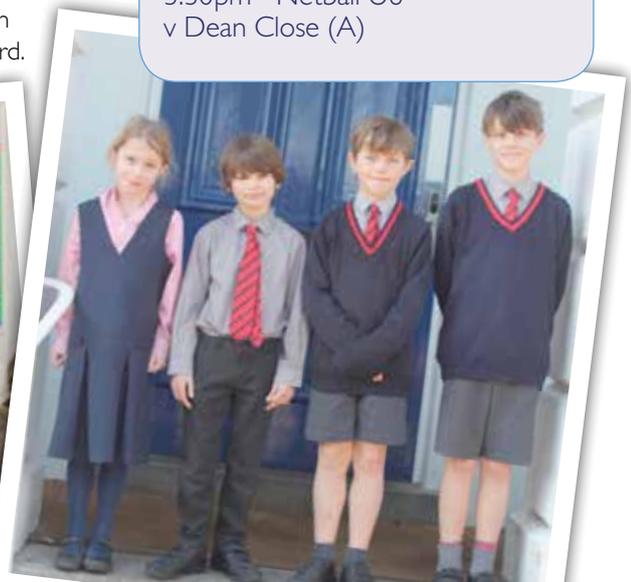
Today, the Year 2 children are having a marvellous time with their Medieval Cookery Day: learning about different grains and how to make bread with Mr Ackland, and making butter and a sort of jam - no sugar, of course, as it wouldn't have been available in England back then. No doubt they will really enjoy eating the results of their labours at the end of the day. A big thank you to Mr Ackland for spending time with the children this morning to teach them this useful skill. Thanks too, to Shipton Mill for so kindly donating samples of grain showing different stages of the milling process.

Our Quiz team for the National KS2 General Knowledge Quiz Championship is now finalised. These children, one from each year group, qualified with the highest scores: Alice S (Y3), Charles C (Y4), Alessio T (Y5) and Oscar A (Y6). We are hoping they will spend some time learning lots of useful facts over half term.

Speaking of half term, we hope that you have a restful break and return to school on 25th February, ready for more interesting and exciting events such as the Prep Pancake Races (and pancake eating), the Year 2 History Mystery and the Spring Concert at Pittville Pump Room. Our Open Morning will be held on Saturday, 9th March so if you know parents who might be interested, please do spread the word.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 25th February

School returns

Tue 26th February

6.00pm - 5K Parents' Evening

Wed 27th February

8.40am - Year 2 Parents

invited to Prep Assembly

and tour of Prep classrooms

2.30pm - Football U8 v

Cheltenham College Prep (A)

2.30pm - Football U10A, U10B,

U11B v St Edward's (H)

2.30pm - Netball U11, U10 v

King's, Glos (A)

Thu 28th February

1.45pm - Six Year 6 pupils visiting

Cheltenham College Science

Festival

4.15pm - Cross Country at

St Edward's

6.00pm - 5B Parents' Evening

Fri 1st March

2.30pm - Football U8

v Rendcomb (H)

3.00pm - Football U9A, U9B

v Richard Pate (A)

2.30pm - Netball U9

v Rendcomb (H)

3.30pm - Netball U8

v Dean Close (A)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

EARLY YEARS ACHIEVE THE BRISTOL STANDARD YET AGAIN!

The Early Years Department are pleased to announce that we have achieved the Bristol Standard award for the fifth time in a row! The Bristol Standard is an annual award and has been achieved here every year since 2013. It was devised as a self-evaluation document for Early Years settings to develop outstanding practice to support the young learners in their care. The Standard itself is separated into ten dimensions, which includes topics such as Values and Aims, Relationships and Interactions and The Reflective Practitioner; it is designed to support an Early Years setting in the evaluation and development across these ten dimensions.

The national assessors who scrutinise our documentation and action planning are always happy with the way in which we evaluate our Early Years provision, and particularly note the way we illustrate how all these changes will impact upon the children.

Our priority targets for this year are:

- To further improve provision to meet the mental and emotional wellbeing of our children through mindfulness
- To further develop children's core and fine motor skills
- To further promote curiosity, enquiry and creativity within the learning environment by investigating a variety of educational theory-led approaches.

BERKY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ TEAM SELECTED

We've been quizzing keenly at school this week, with the Berky General Knowledge Quiz Team being selected via some hotly contested qualifiers. The top scorers in each year group were: Y3 Alice S and Zoe B; Y4 Charles C, Patrick D, Beatrice N and Matilda E; Y5 Alessio T and Jonathan B; Y6 Oscar A and Luke F. Tie-break questions were needed to select the final team line-up: Alice S, Charles C, Alessio T and Oscar A. Oscar will captain the team when it embarks on its National Quiz Championship campaign next month. Many thanks to all who took part. MC

BERKY CHESS TEAM CLAIM THE DISTRICT LEAGUE SHIELD

The Berkhamstead chess team claimed the District League Shield on Tuesday with a nervous 4-2 victory over a strong and experienced Holy Apostles side. Last summer, five members of our previous team left the school so this was effectively a brand new set of players which makes their achievement all the more noteworthy. This is the fourth year in a row that Berkhamstead have collected the District League Shield and, with the bulk of our team remaining to play again next year, there is every chance that a fifth title can be attained. I salute and warmly congratulate six splendid chess players: Edith H (captain), Griff L, Rupert G, Oli S, Finian C and Jonathan B.

On the same evening, an inexperienced but promising Berky 'B' team - proudly captained by Alex S (probably the most improved player at the school) lost 2-4 to their Holy Apostles counterparts. MC





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Movie Night

Last Friday saw Movie Night take place in both the Pre-Prep and Prep Halls. Lots of onesies, cushions, teddies and excited children were seen arriving through the school gates! Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was a lovely opportunity for the children to get together in their PJ's and relax!

Thank you to all the teachers and parent volunteers who assisted on the evening; we couldn't do it without you.

Bags 2 School

After half term we will be sending home Bags 2 School which can be filled with unwanted clothes and returned to school on Monday 4th March ready for collection on Tuesday 5th March. The PTA receives a donation for every bag handed in, so have a sort out over half term of unwanted clothes ready for the bags when we return!

Pancake Races

On Tuesday 5th March we will see the annual pancake races on the MUGA. Straight after this at 3:30pm the PTA will be serving pancakes from the Pre-Prep dining hall. Donations are most welcome for the pancakes and this will go directly to the school's chosen charity.

Totaliser

Amazingly we have reached and exceeded our target of £6000 for the new Pre-Prep road safety playground already! This is amazing news and only possible due to the great attendance at all the events to date; thank you for coming along!

Of course none of this would be possible without the amazing support of the teachers and all the PTA volunteers who give up their time so generously to put on these wonderful events for us all to enjoy - thank you to each and every one of you for your amazing support, energy and enthusiasm.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

 Joey



£6,000





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

NETBALL

U11A v Wycliffe

Lost 7-10

This was an evenly matched game and Berky had every chance to win it. Up to half time we had more of the ball and even though the score was 4-4 at the half way point we should have been ahead. A few missed shots and inaccurate passing led to the even score line. In the third quarter Berky took a well-deserved 2 shot lead but this was short lived. The Wycliffe girls shot 4 goals in quick succession for an 8-6 lead. I was still convinced Berky could win in the final quarter if the girls tightened up on certain aspects of their play. Frustratingly this was not to be, and the final score was 10-7 to Wycliffe. Positives of the game were that some of our girls played superbly out of their usual positions and our girls fought hard to the final whistle. Well tried!

U11B v Wycliffe

Lost 3-1

This was a really close game. In the first and second quarters, the teams were very evenly matched. Anna had a few chances, but was unable to slot one home. Emily had the disadvantage of being marked by a player twice her size. In the centre Lizzie, Emma and Edith battled well and put some great passing moves together. At the back, Lorien, Eloise and Frankie marked well and kept a clean sheet.

In the third quarter, Wycliffe started to move faster and put some really good passes together that were stretching our defence. They shot two quick goals and we were unable to respond. In the final quarter, the game swung a little bit back to us and Anna scored a lovely goal. Although we had other chances we were unable to capitalise on these. In the dying minutes of the game Wycliffe scored again and secured a victory.

U10A v Wycliffe

Draw 3-3

After a long coach journey the girls warmed up on what was almost a spring-like afternoon. The captain, Grace, led the warm up and began shooting practice as the posts were set to the higher height. With no subs available, the girls were going to use all their energy. The match was played at great pace and it was end to end action. By half time Wycliffe were 2-0 up. Berky had many attempts on goal but neither Grace nor Issy had got their eye in yet. However this all changed in the third quarter and Issy scored twice to level the game. It was all to play for in the final quarter. The girls were working well together, although still bunching a little around the ball; Becky was intercepting passes and sending the ball up the court. Issy took a deep breath and scored again. It was a remarkable come back and we looked like we were going to hold on. But in the last thirty seconds Wycliffe scored! I was really proud of the team effort and the determination the girls showed. I think overall a draw is a fair reflection of the game. Well played girls -that footwork is certainly improving!

U10B v Wycliffe

Lost 7-3

The girls were a little sleepy after the coach journey and Viera (our captain) led a warm up to wake up those muscles! The girls took a little bit of time to get into the match and by half time Wycliffe were 4-0 up. After a chat, the marking became tighter and the girls began to grow in confidence. Hazel scored and that gave the girls a boost. Wycliffe were slightly stronger than us but we put up a good fight and by the fourth quarter both Bella and Hazel were making far more attempts on goal. Hazel managed to pop another two in. Special mention needs to be made of Eleri, who was an excellent Goalkeeper, intercepting many passes and of Viera who played in a range of positions and always gave 100%. Although a loss, girls, it was a good match; I was pleased with how your passing improved as your confidence grew. Well done ladies!

U9A v Wycliffe School

Won 9-4

Another excellent game from the Berky U9A girls! The team worked brilliantly together and showed super netball skills leading to a 9-4 win. There was wonderful attacking play (from Lottie, Rosemary and Aurielle) allowing Uma, Rosemary and Matilda

E to have plenty of shots at goal and the defenders (Beatrice, Jennella and Lucy) worked brilliantly to keep the Wycliffe girls down to only 4 goals.

Matilda E was voted player of the match for the second match in a row having scored 8 of the 9 goals! Another super win from this team.



Sports report...



FOOTBALL

U8 Bisons v King's, Gloucester

Won 5-1

On Friday the U8 boys played Kings Gloucester at the Victoria Ground. They were a player short so this could have been a challenging match for them but they handled it really well. The boys worked together and made some great passes to score lots of goals. George and Max linked up well to attack and press forward whilst Jacob DT, Jacob F and Azlaan worked hard to defend their goal. Eddie managed some good saves and I was impressed with his performance in goal. All the boys rotated positions in this match and they had a good understanding of what their new position entailed when they were put in it.

Well done boys, the match finished 5-1 and it was a well-deserved win for you. Thanks to all the parents and friends that came along to support the boys.

U8 Buffaloes v King's, Gloucester

Won 2-0

All of the Buffaloes played well throughout this hard fought match. Sam and Benjamin played half a game in goal each, both keeping a clean sheet. Bamaby, Max and Arsalaan made some important tackles and when possible got the ball going forward so that we might make an attack. Otto and Felix played particularly well in the second half in their midfield positions. The majority of the match was evenly played between the 2 teams. King's eventually were forced into a defensive error with the Buffaloes' pressure upon them. They scored an own goal. With lifted spirits Berky put on even more pressure. A lovely cross from Otto into the King's goalie area was slotted nicely into the back of the net by Felix. A great game, well done boys!

U9B v King's, Gloucester

Draw 0-0

On Friday 8th February, our U9B team hosted King's, Gloucester in a friendly football match. This really was a game of 2 halves! King's dominated the first half as we relied upon Henry in goal and Charles and Robert in defence to keep our opponents out. Luke chased everything up front and certainly did not give their defenders an easy ride as Hugo and Mateo looked to support when possible.

The second half was all ours with Harry picking out long passes, Will J helping link the defence and attack whilst Albie and Will S put in some fantastic tackles. It was Will S and Henry who came closest to scoring when their goalkeeper pulled off two fine saves, ensuring the ball did not cross the line. Our players were adamant both were goals but without the help of 'VAR' no goals were awarded. A very solid second half display but neither team could find a break through, meaning the game finished 0-0. Well done, boys.

U9B Festival at Beaudesert

Won 1 Lost 3

On Wednesday, the U9B team travelled to Beaudesert to play in a football festival.

Our first match was against St Hugh's; we were slow to start and never really got going as we lost 3-0. In our second game, we lost 1-0 to Pinewood and whilst there were pleasing passages of play, our performance was still not as we would have liked. However, our festival improved after this!

Harry played very well in goal against Kitebrook and Luke, again, looked dangerous up front. Will J and Charles helped secure our defence whilst Albie linked the defence and attack well. We lost 1-0 but the performance was much better.

Our final game was against Hatherop where we got our reward by winning 2-0. Henry bagged a brace whilst Mateo and Will S battled hard to keep our opponents out. Robert pulled off a great save in the last minute to secure our first clean sheet of the festival. A very pleasing end to an enjoyable afternoon.

U9A v King's, Gloucester

Won 10-1

Berky U9A played against King's, Gloucester on Friday in blustery wet conditions and on a very sticky wet surface. From the kick off we were quickly in front with a speculative kick on the edge of the penalty area resulting in a deflection and a fortunate goal. Our front five demonstrated a 'swarm attack' with King's finding it very difficult at times to get out of their own half. Patrick commanded the midfield superbly, making some excellent runs into the King's defence, peppering the goal mouth with a number of accurate shots. Will C made a number of excellent runs in attack and linked well with both Harry and Rufus to score two well worked goals. Ollie and Henry looked composed and assured in defence with Henry making a number of penetrating runs into the King's defence and scoring a hat trick. Ollie and Freddie shared the goal-keeping and both were effective and also showed promise on the pitch with Freddie scoring a superb left footed goal. Hat tricks for Patrick and Henry, two from Will C and one each for Freddie and Harry saw the boys close the game out with a comfortable 10-1 win.

U9A Festival at Beaudesert

Won 2 Lost 2

We travelled to Beaudesert on Wednesday to play in an U9 Football festival. Our first game against St Hugh's seemed to be going our way with Will C, Albie B and Harry all getting some good shots on goal. However, two long balls over the top of our defence proved productive for St Hugh's with their attack taking their chances and winning the game 2-0. We re-jigged a couple of positions for our match against Hatherop which seemed to do the trick and within minutes we were two goals up with some good strikes on target from Will C and Albie. Henry, held midfield superbly,

and made a number of good passing moves into the Hatherop defence opening up plenty of space for Will C, Harry and Albie to run onto the ball and score goals; the boys ran out comfortable winners 2-1. Wycliffe was next and all the boys were beginning to get into their stride. Ollie and Freddie both swapped in an out of goal and Rufus seamlessly swapped from the left and right wing and then into defence. Harry A continued his good form on the right wing and was unlucky not to score on a number of occasions. Once again Will C and Henry kept us in the game with some accurate shooting and the boys finally ran out easy winners 3-1. Our last 10 minutes was against St John's on a huge pitch; understandably we looked tired but never gave up. Both defences seemed to cancel each other and although we had chances we couldn't quite finish the game off losing the final game narrowly 1-0. With a couple of A team players missing all the boys stepped up and I was delighted with the commitment and attitude from all them. Well done boys.

U10A v Hatherop

Lost 0-3

On Wednesday afternoon the U10A team played Hatherop at the Victoria Ground. This was another match against a team of similar strength and was tightly contested at times. In the first half, our boys had most of the possession and there were some great shots at goal. Unfortunately, they conceded a corner and at half time it was 1-0 to Hatherop. The second half got off to a great start with a goal from Lincoln and the boys had several more shots which their keeper did well to save. Unfortunately the boys conceded a couple more goals and lost the match. This was a shame because they worked so hard and deserved a win. There was some excellent football on show and they played well. Thank you to the parents and friends that came to support the boys.

U11 v Hatherop

Won 3-0

The U11 team had a scrappy first half against Hatherop on Wednesday and struggled to find space due to the frenetic nature of the game. However the boys worked very hard and scored two goals through Jensen. The second half saw good improvement. We retained possession for longer periods and began to find openings behind the Hatherop defence. Fin, Andrew, Luke and Oscar H kept pressing forward and were rewarded with a goal which was a joint effort from Jensen, Andrew, Luke and Noah. Hatherop also had their fair share of attacks but excellent defending from Ed, Oscar A and Noah kept opportunities to a minimum. Well done for a super victory boys and thanks as always to our supporters.