



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Prep Quiz Team

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear parents

It was good to see so many Year 4 and 5 parents at the Future Schools evening last Monday. Choosing the right next school for your child is so important; 'one size fits all' certainly doesn't apply here. Mrs Holland and I have spent some time over recent months visiting and talking to the local senior schools. Knowing what each school sees as their strength, how they provide for talented musicians, sports players, for those with a passion for art, drama or the academic and getting a feel for their ethos is useful for when parents seek advice. We are so lucky in Gloucestershire to have a wide range of excellent options (both state and independent) available to Berky leavers. Without exception, Heads of these schools speak highly of what Berky pupils have gone on to achieve with them; they mention their resilience, 'can-do' attitude and their enthusiasm for learning.

A highlight for me this week was hearing from the victorious Prep Quiz Team which has qualified, against tough opposition, for the Semi-finals of the Schools Quiz Club National Championships. Another highlight was the Year 1 Assembly on Aliens in Space. It was poignant that this was on the day that sadly Professor Stephen Hawking died. He inspired us to 'Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up.' Year 1 did just that in delivering their assembly and dared us to believe that Aliens (and their underpants!) do exist somewhere.

The worst part of my week has been dealing with correspondence from our neighbours regarding the parking of some of the parents. I have spoken to two of our neighbours this week and they appreciate that, without a doubt, parking is one of the biggest challenges that parents face at the start and end of a school day. They also appreciate that it is a minority of parents who give the school and all the parent body a bad reputation. However, I am sad to say that a small handful of parents repeatedly ignore our appeals and continue to park haphazardly and discourteously. I believe, from photos and number plates that have been sent to me, that the following are some of those parents.

**CA66 LYO - L063 AYM - V011 AWP
JC04 JMC - WV14 WCD**

PLEASE, for the safety of all, park legally, be patient and respect other parents and our neighbours.

We have a busy week ahead with the Prep Cross-Country Competition, always eagerly contested, the Early Years Party Day and the Year 2 'Great Exhibition'. A highlight will of course be the Spring Concerts at the Pittville Pump Room. The event is always an outstanding display of musical talent and this year promises to be no exception (no pressure Parents' Choir!). Rehearsals are continuing apace, and refining performances is likely to go on right up to Wednesday; I am looking forward to it enormously and would encourage all to come along if at all possible.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 16TH MARCH
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun 18th March

3.00pm - 5.00pm Dress Rehearsal for Spring Concert – Parents' Choir, all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils

Mon 19th March

2.30pm - House Cross Country parents invited to watch

Wed 21st March

No Year 1 Choir after school
8.45am – 2.30pm Rehearsals for Spring Concert

2.30pm – 3.45pm Afternoon

Spring Concert, Pittville Pump Room - children to be collected from the Pump Room at 3.45pm
6.30pm – 8.00pm Evening Spring Concert, Pittville Pump Room

Thu 22nd March

Early Years Easter Party - all Kindergarten children invited
(children not normally in Kindergarten will need to be collected at 12.00 noon)

2.15pm – Year 2 Great Exhibition - parents invited

3.00pm - Year 2 Music

Extravaganza - parents invited

Fri 23rd March

2.30pm – Easter Service at All Saints' Church – parents welcome
NO LATE OR SUPERLATE CLUB
END OF TERM

Tuesday 17th April -
Summer Term begins



Missing items...

Missing named
school jumper
and tie
B. Abel



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

HISTORY MYSTERY 2018

The villainous Moriarty – arch-enemy of Sherlock Holmes – visited the Year 2 children on their History Mystery Day and stole the plans for installing electric street lighting in London from under the very nose of Sir Robert Peel and various other Victorian celebrities. It was lucky that Mr Holmes had the help of the resourceful street urchins known as the 'Baker Street Irregulars' to help solve this tricky case. The Irregulars met many challenges and worked hard to find out the answers to a quiz, memorise a table full of Victorian artefacts, decipher clues and maps, repair Mr Brunel's bridge (which Moriarty had blown up) and solve some tricky Maths problems, all of which led them to the final prize: the secret location of the plans and a handsome reward presented by Sir Robert himself.

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped to make this action-packed day run smoothly, particularly Mr and Mrs Taylor who worked tirelessly to make it all happen, and Mr Billings who so generously provided all the materials for the bridge building on the MUGA. GA



YEAR 2 TALK

On Monday Dr Wire and Mrs Thompson from the University of Gloucestershire joined Year 2 and gave a very interesting talk. They brought with them Florence Nightingale's travelling box which fascinated our clued up pupils. They shared many intriguing facts - did you know, for instance, that a bottle with ridges on it contained poison and was not to be drunk because it was for dabbing on wounds? Thank you, Dr Wire and Mrs Thompson, for such an interesting presentation!



MALVERN ART EXHIBITION

A lovely morning was spent at Malvern St James's Annual Primary Schools' Exhibition last Saturday, shown is Y6's Hannah with her striking Matisse cut-out inspired collage.

MUSIC NEWS

Dress Rehearsal for Ahoy!

This Sunday 18th March from 3-5pm in the Prep Hall for all Y5 and Y6 pupils with the Parents' and Friends' Choir and Band.

Spring Recital

We enjoyed a terrific Recital after school on Tuesday last week.

The programme was varied with players of many different instruments at different stages of their learning performing confidently and with great musicianship. The audience was most appreciative and warm in their response and a collection was taken for Winston's Wish and Edwards Trust as a culmination of our sponsored Practiceathon. Congratulations to all those who performed.

Sponsored Practiceathon

I am delighted that so many pupils have been sponsored for their practice during the last couple of weeks. Please could all monies and sponsor forms be taken to the office as soon as possible.

Music Exams

These have been confirmed for Saturday 17th March and the list of appointments has been sent out.

Summer Music Courses - Jazz, String Starters and Orchestra (Grade 1-4 and 5-8).

Organised by Cotswold Music Tutors in Stroud, July 30th - Aug 3rd. Please see website www.cotswoldmusictutors.co.uk for details. These are very popular and an excellent way to have fun, make new (musical) friends and develop skills. PM

NATIONAL SCHOOLS' QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two Berkhampstead teams travelled to Wycliffe this week for the area heat of the National Schools' Quiz Championships – the first time our school has entered this event. After qualifying quizzes at school earlier this term, our teams were selected and comprised – according to the rules – one child from each of the Prep year groups. It proved such an exciting morning! Facing stiff competition from five other teams, the Berkhampstead teams ended in first and second place. With forty questions in total, our main rivals from Wycliffe led with only a handful of questions remaining. However, a final push from our young quizzers saw us home and the Area Heat Winners trophy now sits proudly in the Berky cabinet.

Congratulations to both Berkhampstead teams. Team 1 (Darcy Y6, Luke Y5, Charlotte Y4, Uma Y3) came second while Team 2 (Leslie Y6, Oscar Y5, Jonathan Y4, Lucy Y3) pipped all-comers to clinch top spot and qualify for the National Semi-Final which takes place after Easter. The National Final is hosted by the House of Commons and we are now one tantalising step away. It was a splendid occasion on Wednesday as I'm sure the parents and grandparents who supported the teams will agree. The children behaved impeccably and showed a truly tremendous range of general knowledge and an ability to think calmly under pressure. Well done to all concerned! MC



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U10 v Beaudesert

Lost 0-2

On Wednesday, the U10 boys travelled to Beaudesert for their final match of the season. The match started well with some good attacking from our boys and for most of the first half the ball remained around the midfield area. During the second half Beaudesert pressed our defence much more and George made some fantastic saves to keep us in the game. Finian also had a shot hit the crossbar and I felt the boys were unlucky not to get a goal. The match finished 2-0 to Beaudesert.

Thank you to the parents who came along to support the boys.

U11A v Beaudesert

Won 3-0

On Wednesday we played our final game of the season in cold and blustery conditions at Beaudesert. The boys played at a high tempo throughout the game, pressing the opposition when they had the ball and swiftly turning attack into defence. I was very pleased with the way we passed accurately, moved off the ball and retained possession for large periods.

Our goalkeepers Adam and Jack were rarely troubled as the solid defence of George de B-T, James E and Charlton nullified the Beaudesert attack. Rhys and Benji attacked well down the flanks and Rumhann ran into good positions to receive the steady supply of passes. Our goals came from Benji, Rhys and Rumhann and if it hadn't been for some good saves by their goalkeeper, more goals would have been added.

This was a really enjoyable game in tricky conditions. Well done, boys, for a super season and many thanks to our loyal supporters for braving the elements.

U11B v Beaudesert

Won 4-1

A great game to end the season, with plenty of goals, good passing moves and fantastic saves. The game started brightly with Berky very much in the ascendancy. We were camped in the Beaudesert half but thanks to their great goalie, we were unable to find the net for the first 15 minutes. However, James, reliable as ever, held his position up front and scored a lovely goal. At the other end of the field the defence of William and Archie were largely untroubled and they cleared the ball well. Benjamin was just called upon to make one save and did well. Oly was making good crosses for either George L or Eliot to latch onto. However, it was the shot from Oly that found the back of the net. In the second half, Archie started up front with William on the wing. William and Eliot again both made good crosses. George L battled well in midfield. Charlie also made some good passes and shots, but it was Oly again that scored. Beaudesert came back however, and scored a well worked goal, leaving our defence stranded and Benjamin with no chance. Oly then went into goal and Benjamin took over the role of striker. After two goals last game, Benjamin again had some chances but the goalie was too good. William, however, powered a goal into the back of the net. Beaudesert finished strongly with at least three opportunities to score. However, Oly made three great saves and kept Berky in the game.



U11 Squad





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

NETBALL

U10A v St. Edward's Draw 3-3

This was the first time I had seen the U10 girls play this season and it was their last match! It was amazing to see how much they have matured in their gameplay since last year when they were my first team here at Berky!

Due to the windy conditions, we knew it was not going to be a high scoring game, but within a few minutes, the St.Edward's girls had scored and we could see that they looked a strong and slick team with some well-practised moves. Even though there was some strong attacking play from both sides, the score remained at 1-0 to half time. A further goal for St Edward's in the third quarter looked like sealing the game as a loss, but in the fourth quarter, Simran changed to the Centre position and with a bit of a switch around, Berky found their feet! A quick goal for us, followed by two more and the final score was a 3-3 draw!

Despite the windy day, our girls played exceptionally well and their team spirit was not blown away!

U10B v St Edward's Won 4-0

The last match of the season and the afternoon was a very windy affair! We knew it was going to be a low scoring match as the wind swirled around us in warm up. The team (captained by Eloise) were in high spirits, determined to end the season with a victory. Eloise won the toss and elected for the first centre pass. Georgie was focused and began the game with some accurate passing. Lizzie, Anna and Emma moved the ball around with speed to ensure the best possible conditions for scoring a goal. After the first quarter we were a goal up. The second quarter remained goalless. Edith came on as WD and we lost our captain to the A's who were a man down due to injury. Both Frankie and Lorien made some timely interceptions, defending their D tightly and to great effect. Berky were always in control of the game and dominated the play throughout. The match was played with great spirit from both sides and the girls were really enjoying themselves on court. All the girls have improved their skills this season and it almost seems a pity to stop now when everything is coming together – never mind, a great match to end the season!

U11A v St Edward's Lost 5-4

This was a very low scoring match for the under 11A game with the wind being the main issue. At the end of the first quarter there was no score at all! Berky were not at their best in this game with long passes and shots being carried by the wind but it was of course the same for both sides. We picked our game up in the second half and got the score back to 3-3. Berky did have more of the play in the later part of the match but just couldn't quite take advantage of this and St Edward's won the match by 5 goals to 4. Although a disappointing game to finish on, the girls battled away and never gave up – true Berky style.

U11B v St Edward's Won 6-1

Very well played, girls! From the outset, passing was fast as furious. Eleanor and Rosannah were fed the ball by a most accurate midfield and within the first quarter had scored five goals to St Ed's one. Isi, playing centre, was all around the court feeding Darcy, Kyla and Hannah. In defence, Zoe, Catherine and Chiara also played most efficiently despite very very windy conditions.

Rosannah scored one further goal before half time and that was that. Although play continued to be battled out no further scores were accrued in the second half. An excellent display of team work and fine netballing skills, girls. Bravo!



U11 Squad