

Book fair...

Come and browse the newest and latest children's books at this year's Scholastic Book Fair. Last day, Monday from 3.15 to 4.15pm in the Andrews Centre.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a lovely and very busy week. As I write, the children and staff are all excited about the wonderful Firework Party this evening. What a lovely social event this is - children and parents alike enjoying delicious food and drink, plenty of sparkling, flashing plastic things and good company! My thanks to Graham and his firework team, as well as all the PTA and helpers for organising and running such a great evening - and today the weather is perfect!

Next up in this busy term for the PTA is the Christmas Fayre and I'm pleased to be able to announce that Father Christmas has once again agreed to attend. For those boys and girls who have been good... and would like to see him... the booking form is online.

It was lovely to meet many of the Year 5 parents this week and to be able to discuss their children's progress and their plans for senior schools. We have a wealth of experience of what each school offers, we know your children and the senior schools well so we are in a good position to advise. There will be a Future Schools Evening for parents of Year 4 and 5 in the Spring Term. In the meantime, though, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Agg or Mrs Holland if you would like to discuss your thoughts for your child's next school.

It's been a super couple of weeks for participation; every boy and girl in the Prep has been involved in fixtures (if fit to play) and we've had some terrific matches - unbeaten in hockey and rugby this week. In addition, we have had two great chess results too. As always, we've played determinedly and in good spirit - well done to all - including those parents who braved the weather to come out and support!

The anti-bullying week has gone very well this week. As my daughter said last weekend, anti-bullying should be every week, but it is always good to remind ourselves how important this is and this year the focus has been on 'Respect'. I am always thrilled at how knowledgeable the children are on expectations of behaviour and how shocked they are when they witness 'disrespect'. Your children are a delight... and we are privileged to have the opportunity to spend time with them and influence their growth socially, academically and emotionally.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 19th Nov

4.00pm - Chess v St John's A
(6 Players)

3.30pm - 4.15pm Book Fair,
Andrews Gym

Tue 20th Nov

2.15pm - Year 4 visit to Synagogue

3.30pm - 4.15pm Book Fair
Andrews Gym

6.00pm - 4E Parents' Evening

Wed 21st Nov

2.00pm - U8 Tag Rugby Festival
at Hatherop

2.00pm - U10A, U10B Rugby
Festival at Dean Close

Thu 22nd Nov

4.15pm - 5.15pm Autumn
Music Recital

6.00pm - 4T Parents' Evening

Fri 23rd Nov

9.30am - Year 6 Internet
Safety Play at Gloucestershire
Constabulary HQ

1pm-3pm Year 5 Maths Challenge
at St Edward's

2.30pm - Hockey U9, U8
v Kitebrook (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Missing...
Prep Sports Hoodie
named HIRANI

News from around the school

EN GARDE!

Four Year 6 pupils took part in a friendly team fencing competition at Cheltenham Ladies' College earlier in the week. Fencing all the members of the opposite team (Cotswold Fencing Club) in a relay, although they didn't win their match, the referee commented on how well they fought considering that they have only been fencing for six weeks.

Fencing is a Year 6 club run by professional fencer Kevin Nelson. Kevin has been fencing for over 30 years, and has been coaching since 2006.

Berky's Fencing Club takes place on a Friday at 3.30pm.



CHESS NEWS

Another week, another victory for our talented chess team. Captained by the earnest Finian C, Berkhamstead 'A' defeated Bishop's Cleeve by 3.5 boards to 2.5. Lottie A made an impressive debut for the school's 'first team'. An inexperienced 'B' team won their fixture against Bishop's Cleeve 'B' by a comfortable 5-1 margin. Alex S captained the B's and crowned a fine display with an eye-catching king-and-rook versus king checkmate.



YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE RAINFOREST

An excited Year 5 arrived at the rainforest with the news that the sloth 'Cinnamon' was in clear view – and she was. They were very lucky as this was the best view of her, ever! Not only was she in clear view but she was actually moving albeit very slowly and when we came back from lunch she had moved to a very well camouflaged position in a tree. Our 'Amazing Adaptations' tour was fascinating, and the children listened well and took a lot of information on board. The giant stick insects were in a new display and their camouflage was incredible – it was only when they moved that you could distinguish them from a twig! All the usual characters were there, Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches, Emerald Green Boas and the adorable Pygmy Marmosets. The children worked hard on the worksheets in their free time in the glasshouses and I hope they enjoyed their day in the rainforest. Well done!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

LEST WE FORGET

This week Year 6 were asked to write their own war poems. Head of English Miss Evans was hugely impressed by the year group's outstanding writing, and their very sensitive responses to their task. She read out the following poems in assembly one morning, and all three pupils were awarded "Writer of the Week." Well done to all Year 6 - you created some truly inspiring poetry.

LOST FOREVER

On the battle field a falling plane cried
Then the man inside it lost his life.
A plane that had fallen had its last ride,
But the few survivors were wounded like they
had been stabbed by a knife.

While a soldier fell and was shot by a gun
Knowing never again would he see his son,
Sadly the last thing he said
Was, World, I will miss you, before he fell dead.

The trenches filled with awful makeshift beds,
Soldiers sitting on them as they painfully bled.
One man joined the deceased
Before his soul was released.

No more drinking,
No more wife,
No more thinking,
No more life.

If world leaders are rational
And have common sense
We will never fight in a war so intense
But we must remember people's family and friends,
But mostly those people who had their lives end.
By Oscar A

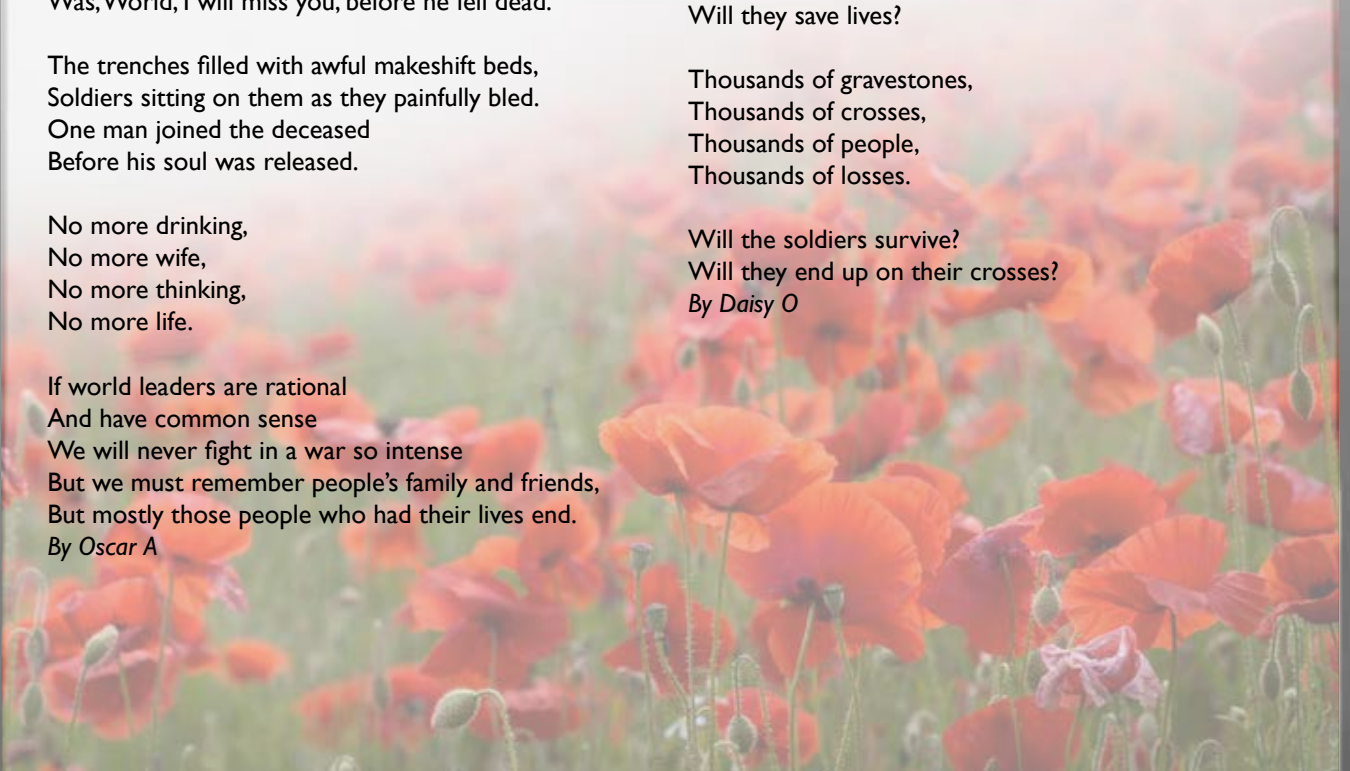
The war quickly started,
It felt like the real world had departed.
As the army started to fight,
Some soldiers would see a bright light.
Everyone had to be brave,
Although everyone felt imprisoned in a cage.

As the poppies slowly turned red,
The scared soldiers tried to help the dead.
People's hearts would beat fast,
As the deathly time crawled past.
What will happen?
Will we win?
Will we survive?
By Edith H

Soldiers old and soldiers cold,
Poppies bright, big and bold.
As the grass grows on the playing field,
Will they survive?
Will they save lives?

Thousands of gravestones,
Thousands of crosses,
Thousands of people,
Thousands of losses.

Will the soldiers survive?
Will they end up on their crosses?
By Daisy O





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

RUGBY

U11 v Richard Pate School Won 55 - 25

The U11 boys produced another stunning performance against Richard Pate School on Wednesday. It was a pleasure to watch the waves of attack with superb lines of running and fantastic passing and off-loading out of the tackle. Luke, Oscar A and Noah were prominent in this aspect of the game. We scored eleven tries in total with 4 from Finian, 3 from Jensen and 1 each from Noah, Andrew, George and Oscar H.

Another impressive facet of the game was our work in the maul. On several occasions we held up opposition players and either ripped the ball or gained a scrum. George and Finian were particularly effective in this area.

Well done boys for another excellent game.

U10B v Richard Pate School Won 13-1

What another superb performance from the U10B team. From the off they showed determination in the tackle and speed, balance and subtlety when running with the ball. Otto B returned to the B team and scored 8 tries... the opposition tacklers could not cope with his speed and agility. He was brilliantly supported by Jonathan B, Ethan A, Alex S and Rupert G in running and passing when in possession. The Richard Pate boys found it difficult to keep the ball because at the tackle the rucking of Harry W, Oli S and Archie LB won the ball for Berky nearly every time. They are a superb team who listen to guidance, support one another and, most importantly, really enjoy their rugby. Well done boys!

U10A v Richard Pate School Won 6-5

On Wednesday, the U10A boys travelled to Richard Pate. This was a very close game with tries being scored simultaneously by both teams. Both teams defended well and the match could have gone either way. Passing was fantastic, much improved from previous matches and the boys worked hard to get the ball out wide when they could. The try scorers were Jack, Lincoln, Seb, Max and Jonny so well done to these boys but without everyone on the team working together, the tries would not have been possible.

Well done to all the boys, you did well to play for just over 30 minutes in a physical match with no substitutes, and many thanks to our loyal supporters.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

HOCKEY

UIIA v Hatherop Castle

Won 6-0

What a great game! Playing on Hatherop's new astro turf our girls were on fire from the first whistle and Berky dominated the game. Superb spacing and great accurate passing gave Berky a 3-0 lead at the half way point. Hattie (for a change!) only had one save to make which of course she did with her usual powerful kick away from the goal. The goals in the first half were scored by Varnika, Millie and Bea. In the second half it was much the same story although the Hatherop girls definitely improved. Daisy was superb in defence, speedily and frequently turning defence into attack. Goals in the second half were scored by Varnika, Sophie and Anna. This was a really good game to watch and it was super to see the girls play with intelligence, excellent spacing and great supportive teamwork. Well done!

UIIA v Beaudesert

Won 1-0

What a great game the girls had. With fantastic strong passes coming through the middle from Daisy and Sophie in the first half, Daisy got the ball and made a great strike at goal; it was on target and she followed the strike up and ensured the goal went past the keeper. We went up 1-0. Varnika and Millie worked tirelessly on the wings in the first half collecting the ball, driving it up the wings and making some brilliant crosses into the attacking D. Our defence barely touched the ball in the first half but when they did Bea, Sim and Frankie made some great clears. Anna made some good tackles during the game and gained possession for us. Thankfully Hattie didn't have to work too hard but when she did she made some great clears forcing the ball out of our defending end; she is vocal and a great asset in goal. Sophie dropped back into defence in the second half and went in for some hard tackling, gaining possession for us. It was a great game and watching the determination on the girls' faces was a delight! Well done girls, a brilliant game.

UI10A v Beaudesert

Won 9-0

What a fantastic performance from the girls this afternoon! The pitch was on the small side and the girls knew they would be able to easily pass the ball to each other. Captained by Grace, we had first centre pass. From that moment Berky were in the ascendancy; it wasn't long before Joy had scored her trademark goal and was quickly followed by one from Isla. We rotated girls on and off the pitch, switching positions around seamlessly. Unfortunately it soon became apparent that we were too strong for the opposition and even with some tactical changes the goals were still flying in. Isla finished

with a hat trick, Issy secured another two, Joy added another to her total and both Grace and Becky gained one apiece. The defence had very little to do but when they were called upon they cleared the ball effectively and quickly passed it back up the pitch – I don't think Charlotte touched the ball once! The girls were all directing their passes and moving into spaces to receive; they played as a squad and it was a lovely display of teamwork and skill. Well done girls, another strong afternoon on the hockey pitch.

U9 Unicorns v Beaudesert

Won 2-1

A great game in which the players really held their positions and struck the ball well. Lucy was very dangerous playing centre forward and was always looking to pick up the through ball. Aurielle played strongly in the middle. Beatrice and Rosemary on the wings both made good runs. Rosemary held her position and battled excellently for the ball. At the back Elodie and Jennella were great stopping all the attacks. Hannah stopped a great goal with a lovely kick out. In the second half Holly came onto the wing and played some good balls through and Isabella came on at the back and made some good tackles. In the first half Rosemary and Aurielle linked up well to create the first goal. In the second half Beatrice hammered the ball through the Beaudesert defence to score a lovely goal. Beaudesert fought back and scored a breakaway goal. Berky held on and won the game.

U9A v Dean Close

Lost 3-2

Let me start by saying that the final score in this game does not reflect the match! Berky were most definitely the stronger side with the pressure being almost all Berky-led! In the first three-quarters of the match we battled fiercely against their defence with excellent pressure, numerous attempts at goal and success on two occasions (Lottie both times) with Dean Close never really looking like scoring. Our defence was strong (Uma, Jennella, Lucy and Anna) and our attacking play was superb with Lottie, Aurielle, Matilda E and Beatrice constantly driving the ball in the right direction. However, in the final quarter, we 'let the foot off the gas' and conversely the Dean Close girls were firing on all cylinders, scoring two goals in quick succession and a further one on the final whistle. This brought the final score to 3-2.

U9B v Dean Close

Lost 2-0

Just like the A team match just before, this was also a very well-played match and clearly showed how much the girls have progressed over the season. The final score also does not reflect the dominance which the Berky girls had over the ball...they just did not manage to capitalize upon it. A few lucky breaks by the Dean Close girls, however, did result in 'scores on the board'. Serena, Lucy, Lilah and Elodie worked exceptionally well together, backed up by a super team of Beatrice, Isabella and Holly. The girls now need to work hard on scoring those goals. We've got the attacking spirit but now we need to 'not be so nice' and make the final push!

U8 Red v St Edward's

Draw 1-1

The team made a steady start with some good movement at the attacking end. We took a few minutes to get into our stride at the defending end and unfortunately St Edward's were able to sneak the ball past us. Entering the second half 1-0 down, we went out strong and determined, with some great passing and movement. We drove hard down the wings and with some quick movement we managed a goal of our own. A really good game, well done girls.

