



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a week - a riot of colour and activity and busy-ness in the Pre-Prep as the Rainforest continues to take over! There have been so many stimulating activities and the children have finely honed their creative talents with music, sewing and dance – super fun and lots of learning.

All the children have contributed to our annual Harvest Service celebration – this is coming to you on the big screen today! It includes singing and playing from Pre-Prep and Readings from Prep and I hope you enjoy watching it via Teams.

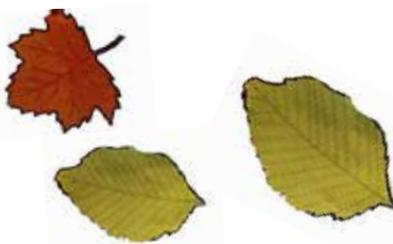
Open Morning was very successful with a good number of new families looking round and expressing keen interest. It wasn't quite the same as when the children were in school, but the staff were brilliant at showing parents around and explaining what makes Berky special. I expect to have a number of registrations from this, some for as far ahead as September 2022. We have another Early Years Open Morning in January (9th) so do please let anyone you know looking for a school place for next year.

Many of our brilliant Year 6 children are sitting the Grammar School entrance exam on Saturday – this test usually takes place early in September but this year it was delayed until the start of half term. 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 Mr Cole and Miss Evans. 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.

We are slowly and carefully increasing the after-school clubs. This morning we started the Berky Bows string group, and after half term a small Year 6 wind ensemble will start too. The games programme is going well and the pupils are enjoying a lot more training sessions. Their skills and fitness have improved significantly since the start of term. We will only start to consider competitive fixtures against other schools, though, when the COVID-19 infection rates are declining significantly.

I am excited that the PTA are arranging some COVID Compliant activities for the children and yourselves. I am sure that you will have been involved in a Lockdown Quiz or two so now is the time to take on the Berky Families! This, along with some Christmas events, is planned for after half term – please see the message below.

In addition, we hope to provide you with the opportunity to join a virtual Carol Service later in the term. Putting together videos and live-streaming events requires some tech equipment that we do not have at present. I am hoping that you will support the PTA in raising money for this equipment. It will mean we will be able to live-stream and record events such as Nativity Plays, Carol Services, Spring Concerts, Assemblies etc. for you and your close relations to see.



FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 2nd November
School Returns
Y6 ICT and Rivers Trip





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

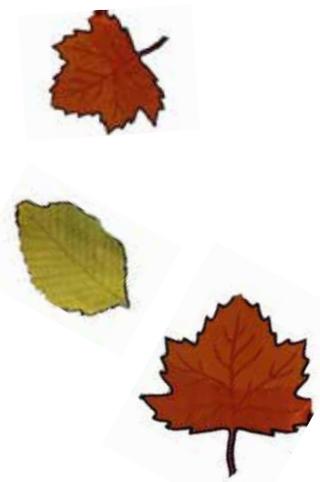
You will need no reminding that half term begins next week. I am so thrilled that we have got through the first half of term so well. There are still a few spaces on certain days in the Holiday Club should you wish your child to attend – information available from the School Website.

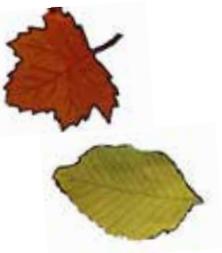
There is talk in the press of a possible extended half term 'circuit breaker' lockdown. I am keeping my fingers crossed that this won't be necessary, but we will be monitoring the government directives and will inform you if anything changes. We will, of course, provide you with the usual comprehensive Remote Learning programme if it is required.

Do enjoy the break and I look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to go on Monday 2nd November.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years

The Kindergarten children have all worked so hard this half term.

Looking at 'Being Imaginative,' we have been learning about the Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. The children remembered lots of facts about how he created imaginative portraits made entirely of objects such as fruits, vegetables and flowers. The children became inspired to create their own images using pictures, and then, using real fruit pieces, they made their own portraits; these faces were well thought out and really charming.

In Literacy we read the story 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. In the story, Handa collects different fruits to give to her friend Akeyo. After looking at the story pictures, the children were able to sequence the story and retell different parts to their friends.

In 'Exploring Media and Materials' we have been listening to some African music and trying to create a similar sound using musical instruments. These are the children's interpretations:

"A snake would make a slithery 'slidy' sound on the xylophone."

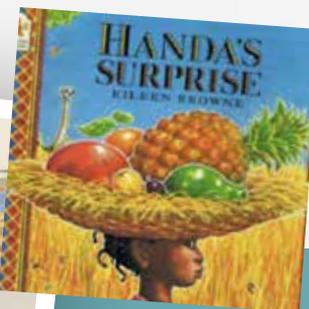
"An elephant would stomp, big banging on the drum."

"A lion would make a big roar and run really fast, quick shaking of the tambourine."

This week the Reception children have been learning all about houses around the world. This has included the igloos in Canada, the tree houses in the Philippines and the yurts in Mongolia. They have considered how they differ from their own homes and during literacy they have written a fact that they have learnt.

During Expressive Arts and Design, the children have made their shoe box rooms. They followed their designs from last week and used lots of different materials to decorate the room. There was different coloured fabrics, beads, sequins, lollypop sticks and lots more to choose from. Their finished products look fantastic!

Reception have enjoyed singing the harvest songs they have been learning in music with Mrs Sallis and are excited to be a part of the virtual Harvest Festival celebration. They have done a great job remembering the words and joining in with the actions to the songs. Their favourite is 'The Enormous Turnip!'



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten leaves: Nina C, Maddie LG, Amelia S, Adelaide RM, Jeremiah T, Esme W.

Reception leaves: Rocco B, Florence R, Annie W, Olivia B, Gaia G, Max T, Sebbie R, Ollie S.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

ELECTED...

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected School Council and Eco-Warrior reps:

School Council:

- 3M Ted L
- 3C Ara K
- 4E Floyd R
- 4T Choe H
- 5B Lucinda F
- 5K Ena M-L

Eco-Warriors:

- 3M Ben R
- 3C Ella H
- 4E Carly H
- 4T Nina C
- 5B Hannah D
- 5K Sam B

We are confident you will do a splendid job!

AMAZON SMILE

Ever shop at Amazon? Raise funds for Berky every time you do so!

It's that time of year when we all spend more money than we should, and chances are you'll spend some of it at Amazon. With Amazon Smile you can do your usual shopping and raise money for school at the same time, and the best thing is that it won't cost you a penny more!

Simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk and log-in using your usual Amazon account details. Select Berkhampstead School (Cheltenham) Trust Limited as your chosen charity and then every time you purchase something sold by Amazon itself, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price.

Raising funds for Berky is for life, not just for Christmas, so bookmark smile.amazon.co.uk and use it every time you shop at Amazon.



Please follow us...

Take a look at our Instagram and Twitter feeds for daily insights into Berky life. Follow us at [berkhampstead_school](https://www.instagram.com/berkhampstead_school) (Instagram) and [@BerkyCheltenham](https://twitter.com/BerkyCheltenham) (Twitter). Head of Pastoral Care, Mrs Bareham also hosts a Twitter feed: [@BerkyPastoral](https://twitter.com/BerkyPastoral)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...



PTA UPDATE!

Dear Parents,

Well, last school year didn't end how any of us had hoped and sadly we weren't able to enjoy any of the wonderful celebrations planned for the schools 75th year!

Clearly, with restrictions in place we are not able to run events in the way we would normally do at this time of year. However, we do feel it is important to have some events to bring the Berky community together and offer the children some of the things they most enjoy.

With this in mind we have decided to offer the following events this term to add a little joy!

Cake at Break 13th November– the cakes will be produced and served by the wonderful kitchen staff for the children to enjoy during their breaktime.

PTA Family Quiz Friday 27th November– the fabulous Mr Titley will be hosting a family quiz! The normal parents quiz at the beginning of the year is always a fiercely competitive and an extremely fun evening so we are adapting to bring the great event to the whole family virtually! Questions for all ages, so bring your family members (up to 6!) round to yours for drinks, snacks and a wonderful evening of fun and serious competition or login separately and compete against each other!

Father Christmas Visit– Father Christmas will be swinging by, socially distanced, to delight the children in Early Years and Pre-Prep! Each child will receive a small gift from Father Christmas, which he will have wrapped and isolated for the required length of time before they are handed to the children.

Christmas Gifts– All prep children will receive a small Christmas gift too but without the visit from Father Christmas. Again, these gifts will be wrapped and isolated for the required length of time before being handed out to the children.

Christmas Cards– Mrs Bareham has kindly offered to work with the children in producing designs for their own Christmas cards. These will be sent off to a company where parents will be able to view them online and purchase cards and other items of their children's design with a percentage of the sales going to the PTA.

CycleStars– It was agreed last year (but had to be delayed!) that the PTA will provide funding for each child currently in the school when they reach the Prep side to take part in the CycleStar's cycling scheme. The scheme will offer children the skills to ride their bike with confidence and learn about Road safety. Each child will be able to complete one level paid for by the PTA and will have the opportunity to progress further should they wish too. We will look to roll this out with further information after half term of the Spring Term once the evenings are a little lighter.

At this time of year, there are always wonderful events to look forward to including the end of term Carol Service, which the children and parents enjoy so much. As these types of events are not able to go ahead in the same format, the school are looking to purchase equipment in order to record and stream these events to parents and family so everyone can still watch and be involved.

This equipment can continue to be used after restrictions have been lifted to stream plays, assemblies, nativities, after school performances and much more for all the family to enjoy, especially if they are unable to attend personally on the day.

We will be looking to raise funds for this equipment in order that we can still enjoy all that the children do and bring the Berky Community together. We are therefore suggesting that a cost of £10 is added to all bills for the Spring Term and it will include the events listed above, except the Christmas Cards. If you wish to opt out of this, please email pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk so we can share this with the Finance Team.

We hope these events will enable the children to enjoy some of the things we normally do just in a slightly adapted way!

With warm wishes,

Joey Bowden
PTA Chair

pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk