



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Year 6 Geography field trip to Symonds Yat and Cannop Ponds

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

One of the highlights of life in school is the assemblies – and these are so varied and interesting. Just in the last few weeks we have enjoyed a lovely Year 1 assembly on the history and manufacturing of chocolate brilliantly presented by the Year 1 children. They spoke clearly and confidently about what they have learnt about the cacao plant and how it is grown and harvested. They also recalled their trip to Cadbury World and what they learnt about the chocolate manufacturing process. They finished the assembly with an Oompa Loompa dance – they have of course been reading Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – and Jacob skilfully delivered a box of Milk Tray to his mum in the appropriate way!

I am grateful to Rev Martin and Mrs Barron who deliver our weekly 'Open the Book' assemblies – this week they have been talking about the Last Supper in the build-up to the Easter Story. We also celebrate so much in assembly time. We have recently presented a Berky Badge to a second pupil in Year 6. This badge representing 1600 bonuses gained throughout the Prep is only reached by one or two pupils each year – so very well done to Sam P and Claire C. We have also recently been entertained by hearing the work of the winners of the 500-word Story competition and the winners for the RNLI poetry competition.

Well done to all involved.

I am thrilled with the developments that have been going on at the Day Nursery. Five years into this project the Day Nursery continues to be a great success with over 100 young Berky children frequenting the Nursery each week. Over recent weeks there has been some significant refurbishing of the Day Nursery with new wooden flooring and furniture. It looks lovely. Emily Collett, our Day Nursery Manager, has also updated the room names, continuing the Berky Bear theme further down the school. I am sure that you will love the new Bears appearing around the Nursery representing the different ages of the children there. The Day Nursery Newsletter is sent out regularly and if you would like to be included on this mailing list then please let us know.



On Wednesday, several staff and I attended the funeral of Mrs Sally Lee. Sally had worked in Years 1 and 2 at Berkhampstead for 10 years and prior to that at Bishop's Cleeve Primary. She was much loved by children and parents alike for her skills as a teacher and her boundless kindness. In tribute to her we have decided to create the 'Sally Lee Kindness Cup'. This will be awarded each half term to a child in Pre-Prep who has shown considerable kindness. Mrs Agg will award the Sally Lee Kindness Cup for the first time next week at the beginning of our Mother's Day Service. John Lee, Sally's husband, will be at the service and I do hope that you will be able to be there too.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Bear Cubs



Cuddly Bears



Fuzzy Bears



Teddy Bears



Wise Bears

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sat 18th March

9.30pm – U10 Netball Tournament at Richard Pate

Tue 21st March

Early Years 'Easter Party Day'
3.30pm – 4.30pm

Afternoon Spring Concert,
Pittville Pump Room

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Evening Spring Concert,
Pittville Pump Room

Wed 22nd March

Prep Assembly by Father Nick Bromfield from All Saints' Church
House Cross Country at Victoria Ground – parents invited to watch

Thu 23rd March

2.00pm – Year 6 trip to St Luke's Church

4.00pm – Netball U9A, U9B, U8A, U8B v St Edward's

Fri 24th March

2.30pm - Mother's Day Service,
All Saints' Church

END OF TERM

NO LATE OR SUPERLATE CLUB



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

RECEPTION

It has been very busy in Early Years this week. Lots of "secret" activities have been occurring to make Mother's Day a very special day for you. The children have loved creating and making cards for this special day and have so far been very secretive!

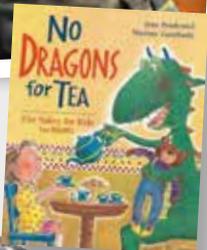
This week in literacy, the children received a book called "No Dragons for Tea" and a letter from the dragon. He asked the children to write some fire safety rules as he had been very silly when he went to tea with a little girl and he accidentally sneezed and a fire started. The children wrote some fantastic safety rules. During one of the carousel activities, they created a video of what they do if there is a fire drill in school.



We discussed firefighters and the important job they do in keeping us safe in our homes. A group of local fire fighters visited the school on Tuesday to teach our Reception children about fire safety and what they should do to prevent a fire. The children had a lovely morning learning about fire engines and even became trainee firemen using the hose!

YEAR 1 ASSEMBLY

Last week parents were treated to an extremely educational tutorial on chocolate as part of the Year 1 assembly. Every child in Year 1 took on the role of teacher to share all the exciting things they have learnt since January. The lesson started with an introduction from the children and the warning of a test!! In groups the children explained how chocolate is made and then went on to show a video (that they made themselves) about the history of chocolate. In the video we saw some Mayans, Christopher Columbus, a king and even some shots of the Cadbury brothers filmed on location at Cadbury World! The parents all listened so well that the children decided that they didn't need a test after all!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Congratulations...

To the winners of the
Scholastic Book Fair Raffle,
they all win a book!

They are:
Bertie L (R), Will J (Y2),
India R (Y4), Claire C (Y6)

News from around the school

CHAPATTIS AND DAHL!

One of the Year 4's last Geography lessons for the term ends up in the cookery room to make and sample chapattis and dahl. They have learnt during our Indian topic that chapattis and dahl are a popular staple diet of the Indian sub-continent which must be eaten with the hand of course! They soon made up the chapatti dough and were eager to try the unleavened bread. All the children tasted the dahl – some came back for more while some preferred to spread butter on the chapatti and eat it like toast and butter! A good time was had by all.



CHESS

It has proved an exciting week for Berkhampstead chess. On Tuesday, the school team went into its final league match of the season needing a win or a draw against a strong Holy Apostles to retain the district league championship. A slow start saw Berky fall behind but plenty of skill and determination helped our players turn one or two losing positions into victories. A 4-2 win saw Berky home. Many congratulations to our skipper Toby and his core team of Jack, James, George, Ollie and Sam for retaining the much sought after Harris Shield. Adam deserves a mention too. He replaced the unavailable Ollie in this week's match and played with real grit and composure. The 'B' team, captained again by Rhys – certainly a player for the future – lost 5-1 against a more experienced Holy Apostles 'B'.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

RNLI SEA POEMS COMPETITION

The winners of the RNLI Sea Poems Competition are:
Jonathan B Year 3, India R Year 4, Rosannah M Year 5,
Nic M Year 6

Runners up

Year 3 Viera M, Year 4 Euan M, Year 5 Florrie H,
Year 6 Katie L

The standard was exceptionally high, thank you to everyone who took part.

WHAT THE DORSET SEA MEANS TO ME - BY ROSANNAH

To the gorgeous Brownsea Island by boat,
To see the squirrel's winter coat.

The chain ferry chugs like a train on the move
And I get into the groove.

On the next ferry I get soaked,
Because I don't have a rain proof coat.

I love to play on Swanage sand,
With a game that I had planned.

I love to make sand and salt pies,
But I always hear the sea gulls cries

I always see them up in the skies,
They just love my sand and salt pies.

In Kimmeridge I caught a four legged crab,
He probably had a bit of a grab.

A sea gull pinched two of his legs,
While he was stuck in the ebbs.

Next I caught a tiny fish,
But it was too small for my dish.

So I threw him back in at the end of the day,
And got caught by the old sea spray.

LOOK AT THE SEA - BY INDIA R

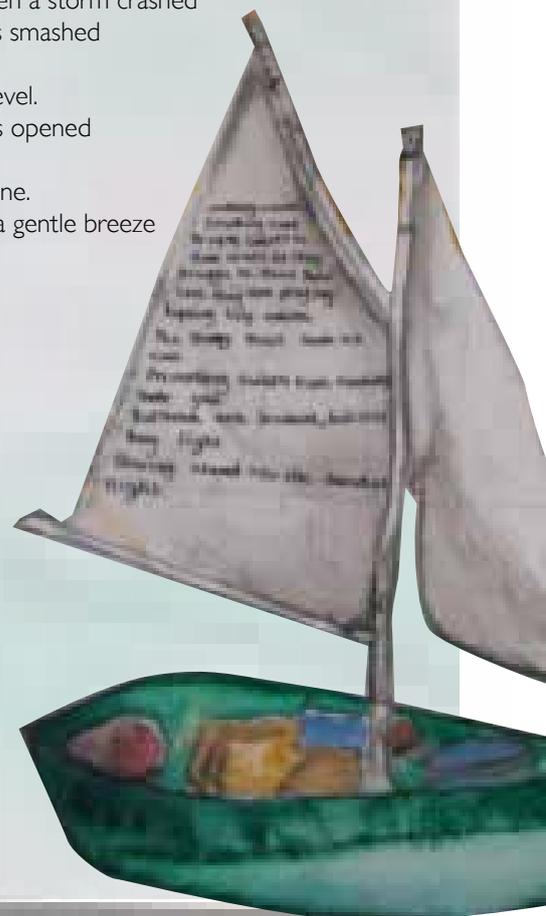
Look at the sea, see the sea,
The silent, sparkling
Smooth surface,
Stretching out before you.

Look at the waves,
See the waves,
Crashing and splashing
Against the cliffs and caves.

Look at the tide, see the tide,
Breathing and sucking,
And gliding across
The sparkling sand.

THE FROTHING SEA - BY JONATHAN B

The sea frothing and splashing like one hundred
Chanting voices, while seagulls cackle like
Witches over a
Watery cauldron. Then a storm crashed
Into action, big waves smashed
Into giant cliffs that
towered above sea level.
In the distance clouds opened
Revealing
Brilliant rays of sunshine.
The sea calmed and a gentle breeze
Crept in.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

FOOTBALL

UIIB v Beaudesert - Lost 4-2

A great opening move by Berky with great passing led to an opening score by Rhys. As ever, Ethan ran after every ball and battled constantly in the midfield. On the wings Rhys and Jack were making good runs getting past defenders and providing great support for Rumhann up front. At the back, Nic, Toby and Oli Armstrong were tackling all that came forward. Rex defended the goal wonderfully. However, two bits of individual brilliance on the part of Beaudesert led to two goals. One of their attackers managed to round two of our defenders and then fire home from short range and on another occasion a wonderful shot from a tight angle hit the top left hand corner of the goal leaving Rex no chance. In the second half James E made his presence felt with great tackling in defence and good running in support of others. Despite some good chances, a header by Jack that just went wide; a long range effort that just went over the bar by Ethan; and shots that were either saved or just went wide by Rhys, Jack and Rumhann; it was Beaudesert who scored twice, once again through great individual play. Rex was amazing in goal making several great saves and being incredibly brave pouncing on loose balls within the box. However, Berky's perseverance paid off. Another great team effort and wonderful passing saw the Beaudesert defence split once more and a great pass through led to Rumhann putting the ball to the left of the keeper. Berky again came close at the end of the match but the score remained at 4-2. A great exciting game, end to end action in which the boys showed great determination and team spirit.

UIIA v Beaudesert - Lost 3 - 0

Our final matches of the season saw the A team lose by three goals to nil against a very good Beaudesert team, who I know have had an unbeaten season. We played some great football and created many chances. Some excellent goalkeeping and their speed on the break was the difference between the teams. Once again Oli A, Harry and Sam had excellent games. The team worked hard for each other but on this occasion were beaten by the better team.

UIIB/C v Beaudesert - Won 5 - 0

The B/C team had a fantastic game, scoring a hatful of goals. Hugo scored two super goals, one of which came from a fantastic pass by Charlie M. Charlie also scored one of his own. Henry and Eliot also joined the party with two excellent goals. This was a great team performance and I was delighted to see the boys working so well together and really enjoying themselves. Well done, boys!

UIIC Beaudesert - Won 3 - 0

The UIIC have made such great progress this season and this was a superb way to round off the season. Some super skills were on display as the boys claimed a fine 3-0 victory. Goals were scored by Jasper, Ollie O and Archie. The boys played well as a unit and supported and encouraged each other throughout the game which is equally as important as the victory. A brilliant game, boys. Well done!

Girls' Football

Last Friday for the first time we were able to enter two teams in the Cheltenham Schools Girls' Football Tournament. All of the girls did us proud. The Berky Bears played three matches. They drew 0-0 against Leckhampton, beat Warden Hill B 1-0 and were victorious against Grangefield by 1 goal to nil. Our goals were scored by Izzy and Sarah. We then had to wait for the last game to see if we would progress to the semi-finals. It was a tense affair and with two minutes to go, Leckhampton scored the goal that took them through to the semis. We were level on points with them but they had scored one more goal than us. Nevertheless this was a fantastic performance.

The Berky Buffaloes were also on fine form. In their first match they lost 2-0 against a strong Warden Hill A team. Although we created several chances, we could not find the net. Next up was a 1-1 draw against Lakeside and a 2-0 victory against St John's. Evie was our sharp shooter in front of goal. All the girls performed with great energy and with a bit of luck could have gained more victories.

Both teams finished second in their group and played some excellent football. To have played six matches and lost only one is a very fine achievement. They were a delight to take and have been wonderful to teach throughout the term. Well done, girls!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

NETBALL

U10A v St Edward's - Won 19-11

The last Wednesday match of the season and the afternoon was glorious. With a 100% win record, the girls were feeling rather nervous about this match as they knew their opponents were a very good team. Molly was a super captain right from the start – she made sure the girls began with a positive attitude. After the first quarter it was tight. The teams were very evenly matched. Berky managed to pull away slightly in the second quarter, but it was still far from comfortable – even the parents were getting twitchy! I was really impressed with the girls' focus. They played the last two quarters with accuracy and competed for every single ball – they were not going to lose! It was another excellent team performance. Well done girls, you played with great heart today. Looking forward to the tournament on Saturday...

U10B v St Edward's - Won 14-0

With a 100% record to defend, the girls were under pressure. Emily took on the role of captain and was excellent. She encouraged the girls and spoke during the breaks about how to improve their play. The girls worked hard as a team responding to Emily's suggestions. After two quarters Berky were 6 - 0 up; Jemima and Zoe had hardly touched the ball! Isi and Rosannah worked hard in the D – they persevered despite shooting into the sun. Chiara, Sarah and Emily worked well to move the ball up the court – communicating and keeping the play wide. Once again Chiara made some timely interceptions. The entire team passed the ball with pace and accuracy. Well done, girls, you thoroughly deserve this win. Looking forward to the tournament on Saturday...

U10C v St Edward's - Won 14-3

It was great to be able to put out a third team so that everyone had the opportunity to play a full match. Daisy and Simran joined the Year 5s as GS and GA – they certainly played their part in the win! Kyla proved to be an excellent captain, guiding her team to a substantial win. One of the St Edward's teachers commented on the girls' speed and accuracy of passing – all that effort really has paid off, girls. After three quarters the girls were up by 11 goals and Miss Evans decided a change in positions was required. Catherine was ecstatic as she scored her first goal! Well done girls, you played with true Berky spirit and smiles on your faces - a super way to spend a sunny Wednesday afternoon.

U11 v St Edward's - As Won 11-7, Bs Won 5-4

This was the under 11's last netball match and I was always hopeful as both teams have been playing well over the last couple of weeks. I umpired half of each match so I cannot give a full detailed account but suffice to say both teams ended the netball season on a high. The B team's match was always very close with only 1 or 2 goals in it at any stage but Berky were never behind; 2-2 after the first quarter, 3-2 at half time with a final score of 5-4 to Berky. In the A match Berky always had the slight edge but were making heavy work of it. 6-3 at half time and then a very close 7-5 after three quarters of the match but Berky finally won by 11 goals to 7.

Well done to all the Year 6s for working hard throughout the term and ending the season with two wins against St Edward's. Super play girls and well done to the parents for great support as usual!

