



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 19TH MARCH  
SPRING TERM

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

*All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players.*

It has been **Shakespeare Week** at Berky and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Bard of Avon. In Year 2 the children have incorporated his work into their topic on the Tudors and studied some of his plays including *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The Prep have been studying his plays too with Year 3 creating comic books of *Romeo and Juliet*, Year 4 studying *Hamlet*, Year 5 *The Tempest* and Year 6 have been looking at three plays: *Richard III*, *Twelfth Night* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Apologies to the linguists out there but *there's a method to my madness...*

The children have taken to Shakespeare Week with a **swagger**. They have had **a heart of gold**, and in **one fell swoop** said **good riddance** to lockdown and **all of a sudden** are tackling reading assessments too. They can't have **too much of a good thing** and **all that glitters is not gold**, so settling back into routine, lessons and spending time together is **to come full circle** and to COVID... **send him packing!** **I wear my heart on my sleeve** to say it is great to be back in school.

Our Year 5 and 6 Quiz teams have been in action this week too – knowing their Shakespeare quotes no doubt! The annual National Quiz Club competition is taking place over Zoom this year and our two teams acquitted themselves very well against tough competition from around the UK. The Year 6 team came 29th and the Year 5 team 27th against over 50 schools. Well done to both teams – Rosemary, Patrick, Uma, Matilda E, Zoe B, Otto, Georgia and Reuben.

Today is Red Nose Day for Comic Relief and the younger children are thrilled to be able to come to school in pyjamas. They think that I probably sleep in a suit – and there have been occasions! Much laughter can be heard from the playground as I write this newsletter and I know they are all benefitting hugely from spending quality time together outside of the classroom.

Next week, a film crew will be coming into school - socially distanced - to make a promotional video for our website. We are very excited!

It is an absolute joy and a privilege to spend time with your children and I know all the staff agree. Next Monday is the anniversary of the first lockdown and a huge thank you to you all for your support of the school over the last very difficult twelve months.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster

## Diary dates

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Monday 22nd March

6.00pm Years 4/5 Future Schools Evening (on Teams)

#### Thursday 25th March

10.00am - Year 3 General Knowledge Quiz  
2.00pm - Year 4 General Knowledge Quiz

#### Monday 29th March

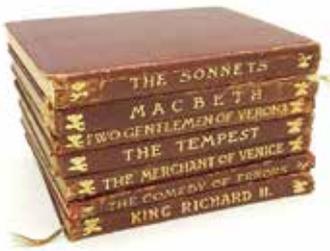
No after-school club or Tea-time Club

#### Tuesday 30th March

End of term - no after school or Tea-time Club

Monday 19th April  
School returns





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## News from Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep have been very busy since their return to school two weeks ago; all the staff and children are happy to be back together and have enjoyed returning to regular school life away from Teams!

Year 1 have had a lovely time investigating poetry. They have looked at different poetic features such as alliteration and similes. To fully immerse themselves in the unit, the children have taken part in some performance poetry and have worked in groups to present their work; the week concluded with some wonderful acrostic poems about Space. Another highlight of the week has been an ICT afternoon during which the children investigated coding using the iPads as well as programming Kubo to make different journeys.

Year 2 have been introduced to the works of the Bard as part of Shakespeare Week. The children have been comparing the comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet'. Through this work, the children have investigated the different themes by writing play reviews and making posters to advertise the plays. The week was rounded off with some mask-making and drama activities which have inspired some budding thespians; great fun was had by all! LL





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## News from around the school

### SUMMER HOLIDAY MUSIC COURSES

The ever popular Cotswold Music Tutors (led by Mr Jon Trim) are offering music courses for string, wind and brass players this year in a variety of ensembles for different levels. Berky musicians have often taken part and really enjoyed the courses with a performance at the end.

Please see more details on  
[www.cotswoldmusictutors.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldmusictutors.co.uk)



### PREP CHILDREN

School Council would like Prep children to take part in a fundraising day on the last Tuesday of term for the two charities we are supporting this year: Cheltenham Food Bank and the UN Refugee Agency. Prep children may come to school dressed in multi-coloured clothes or as an item of food! Please bring in £2 which will be split between the two charities.





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## Berky Brollies

These splendid Berky umbrellas are available from the School Office for £25.