



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

We had an extraordinarily successful Open Morning on Saturday with a significant number of visitors. Without exception they praised our super Year 5 & 6 tour guides for their enthusiasm – they did a marvellous job and thank you for allowing us to have them in school! Thanks too for the many others who enjoyed a morning of fun art, games and music! The school IS the pupils and so seeing it alive is important for prospective parents. We welcomed some former pupils who brought the next generation of Berky children round; it was great to hear how impressed they were with the shape that the School is in and of how the essence of Berky remains the same – providing creative teaching with excellent music, sport, art and the academic.

One of our enrichment activities is Mandarin Club. I saw some of the pictures on our Twitter Feed (@BerkyCheltenham) - see above - and it is great to see our keen linguists getting to grips with not just a new language but a new culture and script too. Well done to those who have signed up.

The outcome of a broad and inspiring curriculum is great academic success too. I am thrilled with the initial results of the Grammar School entrance tests and look forward to hearing news of entrance test results to Independent schools after half term. Our NEW Honours boards now display the honours and destinations for ALL the Year 6 children – our first of these is now on display in the Pre-Prep Hall. We are proud of all the children and it is only right that our 'old' boys and girls are able to return to Berky to see their names, and those of friends, displayed in perpetuity.

I have written to you separately with regard to our Strategic Development Plan. Please do read this as the Governors and I are keen that you are kept abreast of these ideas ... especially as you are very much part of where they originate from.

Prep pupils have also enjoyed a full range of fixtures – almost all the children played in a fixture on Wednesday against schools such as Dean Close, Cheltenham College, Richard Pate, Prior Park and Wycliffe. It was evident in the match I took that the boys are working well together, gaining skills all of the time and enjoying the reward of teamwork. Well done to the U10B team who convincingly beat Prior Park with all of the 7 players scoring tries and many with the build-up showing great teamwork. I was a very proud Headmaster and coach!

The half term holiday is coming up and the busy term means that there are lots of tired children; I hope that they enjoy the break. Our Holiday Club - 'Fun at Berky' - will be running as usual with autumn crafts and activities, cooking (see picture below) and outdoor play – there are still a few places, so do sign up today if you would like to book.

Have a great half-term.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEKS AHEAD

#### Half Term

Saturday 20th October - Sunday  
4th November

#### Mon 5 Nov

School returns  
Year 6 ICT and Geography Field  
trip

#### Tues 6 Nov

PTA Cake@Break

#### Wed 7 Nov

2.30pm Hockey U11, U10 v  
Hatherop (A)

2.30pm Rugby U11A, U11B v St  
Edward's (A)

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

#### Thu 8 Nov

3.50pm - Chess v St Gregory -  
A/B team (A)

4.00pm - Hockey U8A, U8B v St  
Edward's (A)

#### Fri 9 Nov

3.30pm - Hockey U9A, U9B v  
Dean Close (A)

5.30pm - PTA Family Firework  
Event



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**Good Luck ...**  
... to Miss Jewers  
who is getting married over half  
term. Have a wonderful Wedding.

## News from around the school...

In Early Years this week parents and grandparents were invited into school to see what the children have been getting up to. It was lovely to see so many.

Drawing inspiration from various autumnal scenes - including a New England calendar - Year 1 have created wonderful Harvest pictures in oil pastels. Well done, Year 1!



In our celebration assembly this morning Thea C (Year 3) came across from the Prep to present the Kindness Cup for the first time this year. Well done to Valentin D (Year 2) who has been extremely kind and caring to the children and staff this half-term.

**Missing...**  
Blazer  
named **ATAACK**  
Jumper  
named **CLELAND**  
Jumper  
named **HUNT**





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...

## PTA FIREWORKS FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

WELCOME BACK!

Family Fireworks Evening

Don't forget to sign up to the fabulous Family Fireworks event on Friday 9th November.

Amazing fireworks display, music, fun, food and drinks - a great evening out for all the family!



Book now to ensure your tickets. Tickets will not be available on the door.

PTA Chair  
[berkhampsteadpta@gmail.com](mailto:berkhampsteadpta@gmail.com)

Joey





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## Sports report...

### RUGBY

#### U8 Buffaloes V Cheltenham College. Won 1, Drew 1.

The Buffaloes had a lovely couple of games. There was plenty of running done by all. Barnaby in particular had a great weaving run through the middle of the opposition to score his first competitive try and Benjamin managed to score 6 tries in total. Almost all of the boys managed to score a try so this is a good sign of team work. There was good defensive play by both Jacob F and Jacob DT. Richie and Azlaan showed some good support by following our player with the ball. There are still a few things to work on (such as spreading out!) but there has been clear evidence of improvement throughout this half of term. Well played boys.

#### U8 Bisons v Cheltenham College. Won 1, Drew 1

On Wednesday, Berky took two U8 teams to Cheltenham College. The Bisons won one game 6-4 and drew one game 5-5. In an enthralling afternoon of tag rugby there were some magnificent weaving runs from both Maxes combined with some great passing from George and Arsalan. Eddie was not scared to tackle as Otto offered some great support play. Felix was also keen to win back possession and helped organise our attacking and defensive shape. The Year 3 boys are really improving their rugby with less mistakes creeping in and more accurate passes. We are looking forward to our fixtures after half-term!

#### U9 Dean Close Festival – Won 1 – Lost 2

Their first festival of the season at Dean Close saw the U9A's play three matches against some excellent opposition. Hatherop were first and we played a very similar match to last week's draw in an end to end match. Hatherop allowed us just to nudge ahead and we finished our first game with our unbeaten season's record still intact. We then faced an outstanding Kitebrook side; large and

fast they proceeded to cut through our defensive line with some searing runs which we could do little about. The boys rallied in the second half but we were too often driven back on to our try line with Kitebrook's tackling and we were defeated. Still licking our wounds we then faced a strong Dean Close side that had drawn with Kitebrook earlier on in the festival. We started well, tackled with determination and made good use of the ball when in possession; there were some outstanding try saving tackles as well as a couple of good tries but Dean Close on this occasion were too strong for us. Despite losing the boys showed a commendable spirit and determination throughout the festival and hopefully learnt from it. Well done boys.

#### U10A v Cricklade Manor Prep - Won 60 - 25

The U10A team produced another excellent attacking performance with a fine victory against Cricklade Manor. This was a tougher encounter than the score suggests, as our opponents had some strong and powerful runners. However the Berky defence was once again the difference between the teams. Alessio, Griff and Max were strong in this area and we looked like we were enjoying this aspect of the game.

Our team also contains many potent runners, so they are a difficult team to contain. We scored 12 tries in total from Will, Jonny (2), Seb (2), Jack, Lincoln (2), Max (2) and Otto (2). Our target for next term is to spread out and pass more in our attacking phases.

Well done boys, for another fine victory and many thanks to our loyal supporters.

#### U10B v Cricklade Manor Prep - Won 70 - 5

The U10B produced a superb display of defensive and attacking rugby. Top tackler was Jonathan, with Oli S and Harry W being determined in winning the ball in the rucks. We started with superb individual tries from Alex S, Oli S, Rupert G and Archie LB with some elusive running and skilful passing. Following a team talk we agreed that more passing

and team play was required and the boys responded brilliantly. At least two tries were scored with each of the boys having handled the ball in the build up to them. Despite trying to even up the game by taking players off, those left on stepped up and scored more tries. All the boys scored tries with Ethan A, Harry W, Alex S and captain Jonathan scoring the pick of the tries.

By the end of the game Jonathan was creating the break before passing to others to score when he could have scored himself. Unselfish team play was the winner ... by a convincing margin. Well done boys, for a fine victory.

#### U11 v Cricklade Manor Prep - Won 35 - 25

The U11 boys enjoyed another closely contested and entertaining game on Wednesday. We were against a fast and physical team who gave us a tough match. However the Berky boys' teamwork really shone through. All of them worked hard in attack and defence. There was always a support runner alongside the ball carrier and their commitment in the tackle was superb. Ed, Oscar A, Noah and Andrew worked tremendously hard in this area, making some big hits. Our tries came from Noah, Andrew,

George (3), and Oscar H (2). Some of our tries were stunning. One that stands out started with an amazing run by Jensen, from within our 22, covering 40 metres. He linked with Noah and Andrew, to complete a length of the field score.

Well done boys for a superb performance.





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## Sports report...

### HOCKEY

#### U8 Red v Cheltenham College Prep - Lost 2-1

How exciting the U8s first match and a really strong match to test out all that has been learnt this term! There was nervousness and excitement in equal amounts and all the girls equipped themselves really well. Berky had lots of children to swap on which will be a feature of their matches as there are 22 girls in the year group. It was a pretty even game with some great play from both sides. CCPS took the lead but Berky got the ball into our attacking D on lots of occasions. Finally the pressure paid off and Primmy scored the goal for Berky – fantastic! A draw would have been a fairer reflection of the game but CCPS managed to score another just before the end of the match. Well done, girls, in your first hockey match for Berky.

#### U9A v Cheltenham College Away - Won 6-1

Having beaten Cheltenham College in one of our matches at the tournament a week ago, the girls had high hopes for this match. And after a few minutes, it was clear that we were very much the better side and 2 goals had been scored. By half time, goals had been scored by Lottie, Matilda and Aurielle and we were 5-0 up. As a team, we decided that the game was too one-sided and was therefore not enjoyable, so very sportingly, the girls rotated positions so that defenders became attackers and vice versa! The second half was far more challenging with one goal apiece (scored by Beatrice N) and leading to a final score of 6-1. It is always good for the girls to play in different positions as it gives them a greater understanding of the game. I was very proud of them being so happy to adapt to the situation and play in the spirit of the game! It is always a good feeling to win, but far better to be fair and considerate AND still to win! Well done to all the girls.

#### U9B v Cheltenham College Lost 3-0

This match was not witnessed by any Berky staff, so unfortunately there is no official report on their match this week! However, I do know that Elodie had a phenomenal match and all the parents commented on how well she in particular, but all the girls, played against a stronger side.

#### U10A v Richard Pate School – Lost 6 – 0

After watching the B team's match, the girls knew it was going to be a tough match, especially as RPS had endless subs! Once again we were caught napping and within a blink of an eye we were four goals down! The girls then began to rally and started to put some great passes together. The pitch was incredibly fast and the girls' fitness was certainly tested, RPS subs were coming on every two minutes fresh as daisies! After a regrouping at half time the girls once again played their hearts out but were no match for the home advantage the RPS girls had. Charlie managed to save a few more attempts on goal and Isla worked tirelessly in the middle of the pitch, supported by Grace, Joy and Izzy (our captain) ran tirelessly up and down the wings but to no avail. Although the girls were disappointed, they had given everything.

#### U10B v Richard Pate School – Lost 2 – 0

The girls began the first half rather sluggishly and were immediately on the defence. Despite Kimora making a few good saves, we found ourselves two goals down in quick succession. We were grouping round the ball and the Richard Pate girls were using the space to great effect. After a good team chat at half time the girls came out with renewed energy. Darcey (as captain) set a great example, chasing down the balls and Cressie had some lovely runs down the wing. We played so much better in the second half, but just lacked that killer instinct in the goal! We have a few things to work on, girls, but it was good to see the Berky spirit in the second half!

#### U11A v Cheltenham College Prep - Lost 7-0

As always at the College this was a difficult and strong fixture. For much of the match Berky more than held their own and thwarted many an attack in our defending D. I am happy to report that the defensive marking was much better than last week, and it needed to be. At half time the score was a respectable 3-0. Well done to Georgie and Sophie who stepped up into the A team in what will probably be the strongest fixture of the season. Berky found it difficult to get the ball down into our attacking part of the pitch but there was an odd foray or two. The Cheltenham team were very strong and slotted home 3 quick goals at the very end of the match which was unfortunate. Our girls never let their heads drop and battled to the end but just occasionally you have to accept

that the opposition are a very good team and deserve to win the match. More movement and getting in front of the opposition are things to work on but well tried girls!

#### U11B v Cheltenham College Prep - Won 3-2

A really close game in which both teams were closely matched. Emma made some great runs with the ball in the centre. India was equally forceful in the attacking D and caused no end of problems for the opposing defence. On the left wing Lizzie made some great runs and passed well. On the left wing Edith not only attacked well but really covered the pitch well, coming back to defend.

At the back Frankie, Emily and Eloise defended well, with player of the match, Lorien, in goal.

The beginning of the game started brightly with a good passing move involving Lizzie, Emma and finally India who scored a great goal. The College came back strongly and scored an equaliser. In the second quarter the College were on top and we had some serious defending to do. Despite some last ditch tackles the College were pushing through. Their second goal was a cracker of a shot from the edge of the D that hammered into the back of our goal. At half time we were 2-1 down.

The second half proved to be a turning point. We were far more aggressive. India doubled her goals scored with a brilliant scrambled effort from inside the D. Despite two goals being disallowed, one for being hit after the whistle and the other for a kick of the ball, Berky continued to attack. Edith this time hit the ball sweetly from deep and scored another goal. The last quarter of the game was tough. The College brought on fresh legs. Our team battled magnificently and held out from a College onslaught. Every shot on goal was either turned away by the defence, or cleared by Lorien in goal, who must have had to make at least 6 goal line clearances. The game ended with a well fought 3-2 win.

