



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear parents

What a lovely sunny week to come back to! It has been a pleasure to see the smiling faces enjoying the fresh air and looking smart and cool in the summer uniform. Practices began at the lovely Victoria Ground this week and it was a real delight to see such talent at the beginning of the cricket and rounders season. We look forward to enjoying many matches and hope that as many of you as possible will come along and relax and enjoy the sport in the sun.

On arriving earlier in the week, I found the area outside Kindergarten looking much brighter with a beautiful garden area created by Miss Stevens with the help of the Kindergarten children and staff. In addition, the Kindergarten and Reception staff, with the help of our marketing team, have created a fabulous Early Years Values Tree. This shows all the attributes (Perseverance, Honesty, Politeness, Trust and Kindness) that we would like the children to aspire to. Leaves will appear on the tree when staff witness children exhibiting these values.

Be prepared...

The weather does mean that water bottles and school caps become more important. Please ensure that your child has these in school and that they have sunscreen applied before arrival.

...and named equipment please!

May I also remind you to name any uniform, games kit or equipment (cricket bats, pencil cases etc.) in school so that if mislaid they can be returned to the owner. The staff in Prep will focus this term on ensuring the children carry with them what they need in terms of pens, pencils, a ruler, an eraser and some coloured pencils. Please could you assist in ensuring the children bring their pencil cases into school.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

**FRIDAY 20TH APRIL
SUMMER TERM**

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sat 21st April

9.30am – 11.30am Chess 2nd Division Tournament at Berkys Pre-Prep

Tue 24th April

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

Wed 25th April

Year 1 Spring walk to Pittville Park

2.30pm – Cricket U11 and U10

v Prior Park (H)

2.30pm – Rounders U11 and U10

v Hatherop Castle (A)

Thu 26th April

2.15pm – Cheltenham College Science Afternoon
(six Year 6 pupils)

3.30pm – Chess Cup Final

v Richard Pate (H) 'A' team only

Fri 27th April

11.30am – Year 6 Athletics,
Prince of Wales Stadium.





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News from Early years...

WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone had a lovely holiday. The children have returned to school happy and eager to engage in all the exciting activities they have planned with staff. A special welcome to our new pupils in Kindergarten; we hope they will be happy in their new school. We also welcome Miss Henderson, who many of you already know as she has worked in our Day Nursery, as a member of the Kindergarten staff. She will be taking on the responsibility of a key person for Mrs Stoa's children to ensure our high standard of care and education for the children is continued.

Over the Easter holidays, the Early Years Values Tree has been erected in the Andrews reception area. One of our main targets for the Bristol Standards was to introduce a Values Tree in Early Years to reward children for 'living our values'. During Early Years Assembly on Wednesday, two children from each class will be awarded a certificate (in the form of a leaf) for 'living Berkys's values'. The children will put their leaves on the relevant branches (honesty, kindness, perseverance, trust, and politeness) of the tree; each term they will take the certificates home.

As the children will have a greater understanding of the school values they will become:

- More reflective on their behaviour*
- More self-aware and accepting of others*
- More considerate to others and less self-centred*
- More responsible for their own actions*
- More self-confident with higher self-esteem.*

We would like to thank Charlotte Kidner who designed this fantastic tree after consultation with the staff.

Reception children have already immersed themselves in the new topic 'It's a Bug's Life' and thought of rules for looking after minibeasts. The children wrote their rules and created a class poster.

The children then went on an exciting 'minibeast hunt' in the school wildlife garden. We looked for many different minibeasts - beetles, woodlice, spiders, worms, snails and even some tadpoles! The children explored under rocks, tree stumps, leaves, soil and even our school bug hotel!

It is hard to believe we are over half way through the school year and are already thinking of ways of making transition to Year 1 easy for the children. The staff are encouraging them to be more independent when working in class. We would be grateful for your support in the mornings when you and your child come into the Reception area to drop off their bags at the top of the stairs: please put them in the boxes provided for them and accompany your child out onto the playground. It is important for your children to go into the playground to play with their friends and line up alongside Years 1 and 2. For health and safety reasons, this will also ease the congestion in the Reception area. No child should be left in Reception without adult supervision.





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News from around the school...

MUSIC ENSEMBLES AND CLUBS

There will not be any rehearsals for regular music clubs this term, except for Chamber Ensemble who will continue until May 8th. This will allow time for Y6 ensembles to prepare for their Recital on June 21st and we will let you know when rehearsals for these groups start.

Congratulations to all those who took music exams last term. We were very pleased with the following results:

Prep Test

Cressida F (Violin), Isabel K (Piano)

Grade 1

Will C (Rockschool Guitar*), William S (Rockschool Guitar*), Emily G (Violin*), Eleri W (Piano*), Hazel C (Viola**), Rosemary B (Piano**)

Grade 2

George L (Clarinet), Kyla C (Flute), Alexa E (Saxophone**), Emily W (Saxophone**), Georgina J (Cornet**)

Grade 3

Andrew P (Cello), William P (Flute), George de B-T (Cello), Sarah D (Saxophone*), Griff L (Piano*), Jack E (Saxophone*)

Grade 4

Jonathan B (Recorder*)

Grade 7

Rhys L (Bassoon*)

Summer Music Courses

Jazz, String Starters and Orchestra (Grade 1-4 and 5-8)

Organised by Cotswold Music Tutors in Stroud, July 30th - Aug 3rd. Please see website www.cotswoldmusictutors.co.uk for details. These are very popular and an excellent way to have fun, make new (musical) friends and develop skills. PM

