



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see so many of you recently on screen on the School Cloud Parents' Evening system. It seems that this has been overwhelmingly popular amongst those I have spoken to. Of course, it isn't the same for you as meeting in person and coming into school but there are advantages in the convenience of not having to find a babysitter or the 'scrum' of getting your place in the queue. I think in the future we will continue to use this system whilst at the same time have opportunities for you to come into school to see the work the children are doing and to discuss broader educational topics.

One of the other things that came out of the recent meetings is that some of the children (and staff and parents!) are a little weary which is hardly surprising. I think that, with the enormity of returning to school this term following last term's home schooling, the restricted opportunities in school – no trips, visits, fixtures, PTA Christmas Fayre etc. – and with the additional lockdown restricting parties, playdates and visiting the wider family, the children will need a good break when it comes.

Over the coming three weeks, we will be breaking down the routine of the day on occasions to allow for some fun! The Christmas Productions include:

Kindergarten	A Wiggly Nativity
Reception	Whoops-a-Daisy Angel
Pre-Prep	A Berky Nativity... 2020 Edition

In Prep, Year 3 are performing 'Rats!' which they have been rehearsing for and will be produced by Mrs Agg, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Sallis and Mrs Rees.

The Prep are also putting together our traditional Carol Service. This will be rehearsed in school (in bubbles) and then performed in front of a camera in All Saints' Church. Sadly, the candle-lit procession will not have a live audience, but it will all be filmed.

All of these will be distributed to you over Teams and the children will watch them in school.



Everyone wore odd socks and jazzy tights to support Anti-Bullying Week - this year's theme was all about celebrating individuality.



FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 23 Nov

Reception - Year 6 -  
Flu Immunisation

Fri 27 Nov

7.00pm PTA Online Family Quiz





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In this difficult time, the children have been brilliant and have been thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves. We all feel so much better when we can give to others – and this is one of our 5 ways for well-being.

As you will read from the article below, the School Council have decided to help those children who may not be receiving gifts at Christmas by collecting toys for them – the Gloucestershire Christmas Toy Appeal; this idea was suggested by a member of the Pre-Prep School Council. In addition, Mrs Agg and Mr Edwards (Bursar) are looking at how we might be able to support the #FeedCheltenham appeal - charities, schools and churches working together to raise money to feed those in need in Cheltenham due to Covid-19.

We are also planning on delivering a copy of the Carol Service and Nativity plays to the local care homes we normally visit at this time of year. It must be very difficult for the residents not seeing their families and we hope that viewing our Christmas events may raise their spirits.

The final day of term is Friday 11th December. This will be a Christmas Jumper Day and will include our Christmas lunch. We will have a staggered finish to the afternoon with the following schedule.

2:30pm	Kindergarten and Reception pick up
2:40pm	Years 1 and 2 pick up
2:50pm	Years 3 and 4 pick up
3:00pm	Years 5 and 6 pick up

I hope you all have a good weekend.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## News from around the school...

### CHARITY NEWS

Children from the Prep School met with Mrs Bareham early in the week for a School Council meeting. Our Year 6 leaders led the meeting most ably, and top of their agenda was choosing charities to be supported this year. The class reps reported suggestions from their forms, and after discussion and a vote, Cheltenham Food Bank was chosen as our local charity and the UN Refugee Agency as our global charity. Next time the pupils meet, they will discuss fundraising ideas!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Children in Need cake sale - we raised £177.96 for this most worthy cause!



### GLOUCESTER QUAYS TOY APPEAL

The Pre-Prep School Council met this week consisting of Ollie, Felix, George, Isabella, Lucas and Allegra. They shared many wonderful ideas of how to make Berky even better. The thing they were most excited about was becoming involved in a project to give Christmas presents to children whose families would otherwise not be able to afford anything. Thank you to Jonah in Reception for thinking of this kind gesture! We are so incredibly proud of Jonah, and our School Council for wanting to help make a difference to other children's lives.

Did you know that up to four in 10 children in some parts of Gloucestershire are growing up in poverty, according to the End Child Poverty coalition. That's a lot of parents who will be struggling to buy Christmas presents for their little ones. We would like to help spread a little bit of Christmas magic by donating new toys to the Gloucester Quays Toy Appeal. The toys will be distributed by the Salvation Army and other local charities to families in need, including those referred to them from social services and family support centres.

The Toy Appeal are looking for a range of gifts for young people from newborns to the age of 16. This makes it easy for you to add an 'extra' little gift into your weekly shop or online orders. Last year, the Salvation Army delivered an amazing 425 Christmas parcels to families in need. This year, we are hoping to help them to do even better.

Please only donate brand new items to this appeal.

You could consider donating:

- A main toy that costs around £7 which may include: board games, Lego, dolls, Play-Doh, toy cars, educational toys etc
- Gifts for older children (over 13) such as wallets, bags, watches, scarves, hats, gloves, footballs
- A colouring in book and pens/pencils/crayons or a stationery set
- A reading book
- A soft toy for young children
- Nice toiletries for older children

The School Council will place boxes in the playground to collect new toy donations on **Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December**.

Thank you for your generosity.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



The diorama created by Miss Latham

## News from Pre-Prep

This week in Year 1, the children had their DT day and made some fantastic rainforest dioramas using shoe boxes. The children first had a look at some example dioramas, including one made by our very own Miss Latham. They then discussed some of the materials that were used, as well as what you might find in the rainforest. The children then made their own versions, carefully thinking about how and where they wanted certain animals and features of the rainforest positioned. Having an element that either spun or slid was very exciting for the children and they were all very proud to have animals in their rainforest actively moving. When asked what they would do next time they made a diorama, most of the children said they would make it bigger or have more features. I think you will agree that they look brilliant!

In English, and in preparation for Christmas, the children are learning about Lapland. They first discussed the difference in location between Lapland and the Amazon rainforest. Then the children wrote about the form of transportation they would use to get from the Amazon Rainforest to Lapland. The children also looked at some photos of Lapland to inspire them to think of some questions they could ask to help them find out more about the area. JM



**diorama** - noun  
a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures, either in miniature or as a large-scale museum exhibit.  
HISTORICAL- a scenic painting, viewed through a peephole, in which changes in colour and direction of illumination simulate changes in the weather, time of day, etc. A miniature film set used for special effects or animation.

ECO WARRIORS'

Top Tip  
of the Week...

Nina C in 4T suggests having different bins  
at home for recycling as many things as  
possible - paper, plastic, compost etc.



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**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE - REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE - REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

Y5 Eco Warriors Hannah D and Sam B have been sorting out last year's Christmas jumper donations, all of which have been appropriately quarantined. If you would like to buy one, email [ecowarrior@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk](mailto:ecowarrior@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk) stating your child's name and the number of the jumper you want and send the money into school to seal the deal. We will ensure that your child brings home the jumper as soon as possible. You can, of course, pay more than the amount suggested! All money raised will go to our Eco Fund.



Jumper 1  
Age 4 £2



Jumper/dress 2  
Age 4/5 £2



Jumper 3  
Age 6 £2



Jumper 4  
Age 10 £2.50



Jumper 5  
Age 7 £2.50



Jumper 6  
Age 6 £3



Jumper 7  
Age 9 £2.50



Jumper 8  
Age 6/7 £2



Jumper 9  
Age 4-5 £1



Jumper 10  
Age 2-3 £1



Jumper 11  
Age 6 £2



Jumper 12  
Age 7 £3



Jumper 13  
Age 4 £2