



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

The Year 6 Leavers' Recital last night at Cheltenham Ladies College Parabola Arts Centre was a delight. Year 6 performed wonderfully - ensembles, duets and soloists entertained the audience with a broad range of music. Ensembles included a Gospel Windband, 'Stringrhythms', Keyboard Orchestra, Jazz Combo, a saxophonist group, a guitar group – including audience participation in George Michael's 'Freedom' and the Year 6 choir. There were many excellent soloists and duets who showed great composure playing in front of an audience of family and staff. A special mention to Sarah D who played exquisitely on her recorder – and whose instrument I forgot to mention at the end of night! The evening finished with three of our talented musicians, Olly, Rhys and Leslie, playing solo pieces on Cello, Piano and Viola respectively, before Year 6 gave us an insight into their drama production by performing 'Singing all over the World' from Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies (performances on 4th and 5th July).

What impressed me most was how accomplished all the children were all evening – from serving canapés to their parents at the start, handing out programs, announcing performances and playing so confidently on a stage they are not used to – and being so supportive of each other. It was a dazzling display of talent, and a pleasure to see just how far every pupil has come musically during their time at Berk. An enormous thank you to our music staff too, for all their hard work over the years.

The PTA Midsummer Ball was an enormous success. Last Saturday 90+ parents, staff, governors and friends gathered at the Queen's Hotel for a wonderful evening of conviviality, wine, song... and a raffle and auction that staggeringly raised over £4,000. Everyone I have spoken to enjoyed the evening and certainly Angela and I did - despite not winning anything in the raffle! Thank you to Joey and her team who planned the event meticulously - can't wait until next year!

Don't forget it is the PTA Summer Fete tomorrow at 2pm – and don't worry if you think you might miss the football; there will be a TV and bar for all those football fans (Belgium v Tunisia)!

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE
SUMMER TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sat 23rd June

2.00pm – 4.00pm
PTA Summer Fete

Mon 25th June

9.15am Early Years Dress Rehearsal
2.30pm-3.15pm New to Reception session

Tue 26th June

Last Year 2 Hockey Club
9.00am Language Taster Morning at Malvern St James (11xY5 and Y6 pupils)
9.15am Early Years Concert
(Kindergarten/Pre-School parents invited to watch)

7.00pm New Kindergarten Parents' Introductory Evening

Wed 27th June

9.15am – Early Years Concert
(Reception parents invited to watch)
Year 1 trip to Weston Super Mare
2.15pm Cricket U10 v Hatherop (H)
2.30pm Cricket U9A and U9B v Beaudesert (A)
2.30pm Rounders U9 v Malvern St James (H)
2.30pm Rounders U11A, U11B and U10A, U10B v St Edward's (A)

Thu 28th June

Year 2 Orienteering at Pittville Park (after swimming)
1.00pm U11 Cheltenham Schools Cricket Knockout Trophy
7.00pm New Reception Parents' Introductory Evening

Fri 29th June

2.00pm - 3pm Kindergarten Open Afternoon
2.00pm Cricket U9A and U9B v King's Gloucester (H)
2.30pm Athletics U9 and U8 at Richard Pate (A)
3.00pm Cricket U8 v Richard Pate (H)





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I have witnessed a swarm of bees in Year 2, but parents please do not be concerned because I know that the staff are well trained in beekeeping. I eagerly anticipate the final performance of 'Bees' this afternoon. It is always a thrill to see the children in Year 1 and 2 performing on stage, singing and waggling too!

As you will know the Prep children have been working hard on their end of year exams in recent weeks and the staff are now marking their papers. The children have done well – taken the exams in their stride and performed well. The results will be sent out next Friday.

We have a week of introductory evenings ahead with parents new to Kindergarten and Reception next year joining us on Tuesday and Thursday evening for an introduction to life in the respective year groups. Next Friday we have a 'Kindergarten Open Afternoon' for any current or future parents to join us for a Kindergarten experience and refreshments.

Next year's staffing and classes are being finalised and I will be sending the details out to you next week – on Wednesday for Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1, and on Friday for Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5.

I appreciate it is a busy time for parents, children and staff in the last three weeks of the summer term and sometimes this can cause some anxiety or tension. Please do talk to staff if you are unsure of events or if your child could do with more TLC in school too.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around early years...

Excitement is building up in Early Years and there is much preparation behind the scenes for our Summer Concert 'The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf'. The children are enjoying singing the songs and learning their lines. Thank you for the lovely costumes you have provided for your child. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the concert next Tuesday and Wednesday.

In Kindergarten this week we have been discussing different environments: what we would see if we always looked up at the sky or down at the ground. The children realised that in order to be safe, they always looked in front of them whilst walking and so we decided to become investigators exploring the outside using mirrors and magnifying glasses. By holding a small mirror under their chin the children saw the world from a new perspective, noticing how clouds changed shape and moved in the sky, birds flying, leaves of different shapes and sizes that swayed in the breeze, chimney pots, roof tops and the high windows on the Pre-Prep building. While investigating ground level we found minibeasts hiding in long and short grass, sticks with unique features and our playground, made up of many different colours. Inside the Kindergarten our theme of environments continued with the children making their own maps; these have been so detailed and gave us a real insight into where the children like to spend their time.

During Circle Time we have been excited to find out about Andrew Bear's adventures whilst on his holiday. So far he has visited Tehran, capital of Iran, Boston USA and Clovelly in Devon. Who knows where he will go next week?

The sounds of the week next week will be 'U' and 'V'.

Reception are continuing to enjoy their topic 'Once upon A Castle'.

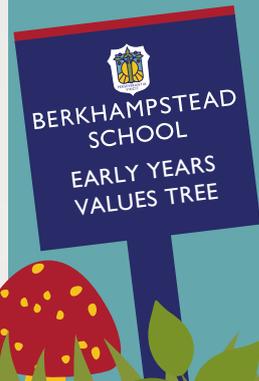
After viewing Tudor portraits in the Great Hall of Warwick Castle the children decided to turn themselves into members of the Royal Family by painting portraits of themselves. After painting their portraits, they decorated them with crowns and many jewels before deciding whether they had become a Prince, Princess, King or Queen.

The children found a trail of peas leading to a bed. They all agreed it must be from 'The Princess and the Pea'. The children enjoyed the story and wrote fantastic character descriptions on a chosen character from the story.

We have been exploring money this week and finding out how to make different amounts using 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p. The children received a letter from the King and Queen asking them to help them with their money as they were in a muddle with setting up a gift shop at their castle. The children set up a castle shop and role played being the shopkeeper and customers. They became experts with giving the correct coins and even had a go at giving change!



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



- Kindergarten
Edward S, Jack H,
Oliver B, Phoebe B
- Reception
Ella H, Mollie R, Owen P,
Alannah B, Olivia W,
Ted L, Kitty H, Ed L-B

Missing...
Missing Blazer
- named M Young



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

CORINIUM MUSEUM

The Y3 trip to Cirencester's Corinium Museum proved most informative and enjoyable. A fun educational workshop allowed the children to dress up in Roman costumes, investigate which food the Romans did (and didn't) enjoy, play Roman games and create colourful mosaics. Later, the children explored the museum and discovered all manner of interesting Roman artefacts and fabulous facts. A picnic lunch in the beautiful Abbey Grounds finished off a pleasant trip.



MUSIC NEWS

It would be most helpful if applications for instrumental lessons starting in September or later could be returned as soon as possible.

LEAVERS' RECITAL

What a fabulous evening of music and entertainment last night!

From the quietest note performed to the wonderful hosting and presenting by members of Y6, every pupil gave their best and they supported each other in a very special way. For the first time this annual event was held in the Parabola Arts Centre (CLC) where the theatre space felt exciting yet intimate. With a tech team on hand, the lights and sound system really enhanced the concert and all the pupils were 'in the spotlight'. Nerves were amazingly well-controlled to allow beautiful musical contributions of an exceptional standard. There was a great variety of different instruments and ensembles with every genre from a baroque recorder solo and classical items to '90s electronic dance style via film themes, rock and jazz. The evening began with a reception, hosted by pupils, and the concert was also stage managed by terrific teams of stage crew. Fabulous, Y6!

CHESS NEWS

Wednesday's annual Gloucester Schools v Cheltenham Schools chess match was a tense affair with Cheltenham just pipping their local rivals to regain the Peter Harrison Cup. Five Berky players were representing Cheltenham. George de B-T played Board One as captain while Jack P, James S, Edith H and Rupert G all recorded hard-fought wins. All the Cheltenham players received commemorative trophies at the end of proceedings.



FAMILY CONCERT

For the first time, as part of the Cheltenham Festival of Music, there is going to be a Family Concert featuring the BBC National Orchestra of Wales on Sunday 8th July, 1-2pm.

They are performing a great selection of pieces with a well known compère. Please see www.cheltenhamfestivals.com for details.

Programme includes:
Rossini William Tell Overture
Bizet Carmen Suite 2: Chanson du Toréador
Beethoven Symphony No 5, first movement
Lenny Sayers Plinky Plonk Polka
John Williams Main Theme from Star Wars
Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture
Plus a live audience vote!

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.cotswoldmusicutors.co.uk for details. These are very popular and an excellent way to have fun, make new friends and develop skills. PM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...



MIDSUMMER BALL

What a fantastic evening we had at this year's Midsummer Ball! Thank you to everyone that attended and made it such a an enjoyable event and huge success!

We have hopefully raised a good amount of money and will announce the total once all has been totted up!

A big thank you must go to our main Sponsors, Crowe Clark Whitehill, who have been extremely generous and to our other sponsors as well, including Fluid Pilates, Mini Marines, Bovis Homes, Neptune Rum, Cheltenham Town Football Club, Obsidian and everyone else who donated amazing prizes to both our raffle and auction.

Lastly a big thank you must go to the Midsummer Ball committee for doing such a wonderful job with the event; it couldn't have happened without them and they should be extremely proud of the outstanding event they put on.



PTA MEMBERSHIP

At the last PTA Meeting in May a discussion was had surrounding the idea of having a PTA Membership added to the school bill in September for the academic year which would give each child access to the events throughout the year to save parents paying for individual events.

It was felt this may reduce the amount of admin time spent paying for events for parents and also chasing payment for the PTA. It would potentially also give the PTA a lump sum of money up front at the beginning of the year in order to plan the events going forward.

We have looked at the figures and are proposing the following -

Reception - Year 6 Membership

£20 per child for the academic year

This would give access to the following events -

Fireworks - 1 child and 2 adults

Christmas Grotto - 1 child

Christmas Disco - 1 child

Movie Night - 1 child

This would be a saving of £8.50 across the year.

Kindergarten Membership

£15 per child for the academic year

This would give access to the following events -

Fireworks - 1 child and 2 adults

Christmas Grotto - 1 child

This would be a saving of £6 across the year

This amount would be automatically added to the school bill but parents could choose to 'opt out' of it should they wish to and then sign up to events later in the year if they wish to attend on an individual basis. However, it is hoped most would 'opt in' to the scheme from the beginning.

Other events may still be considered throughout the year and these would be added on an individual basis as and when they are planned.

The Parents' Quiz and Summer Ball would continue to be separate events as they have previously been.

We have already sought feedback from Class Reps and some parents through discussion in the playground etc. and have received positive feedback for the idea, with most feeling it would save a lot of time for both parties. However, we are keen to ensure parents are aware of what is being proposed and have the opportunity to respond should they wish to.

If the majority of the feedback is positive we will press ahead with the idea on a trial basis for the next academic year.

If you would like to share any thoughts on the proposed scheme please feel free to share them with the PTA at berkhampsteadpta@gmail.com.

**Many Thanks
PTA Committee**



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

CRICKET

U11A v Richard Pate School Won by 10 wickets

On another balmy afternoon at the Victoria Ground we were treated to a wonderful performance by the boys. We won the toss and elected to field. Against a fine batting side, we bowled our line and length with accuracy and our fielding was absolutely superb. 'Long barrier', backing up and accurate throwing was in evidence throughout the whole innings.

Olly got the breakthrough to dismiss one of their opening batters and wickets then followed from Rhys, Charlie and Fin. Rumhann, George and Andrew bowled extremely well, giving very little to the batsmen. Benji put his body on the line behind the stumps and will have a few bruises to show for his efforts. It was a superb performance in the field to restrict RPS to 107 for 4.

Adam and Luke then gave a masterclass in how to open the batting. They moved their feet well, put away the bad balls and realised that good cricket shots on a fast outfield was the order of the day. Adam retired on 40, having hit 8 fours and a 6. Luke finished on 20 and Charlton on 3 to bring us home with a stunning total of 108 for 0 wickets in just 11.3 overs.

What a game! Well done, boys!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

ROUNDERS

U11A v Cheltenham College

Won 11-8

Another great game! Berky fielded first and the College didn't know what had hit them. Many girls were stumped out at first and with tight fielding all around the pitch they were all out before the 27 balls. They scored 5 rounders. Berky came into bat and were thumping the ball hard but unfortunately always near to second post so scoring was slow. I must say here that the College were fielding brilliantly; their throws from the deep were exceptional. Then disaster struck with 4 'big hitters' being caught out in quick succession. I need not have worried, however, there is real depth in this team and the second half of the batting order stepped up to the plate in a big way; Emily scored 1 whole rounder, Ella scored an amazing 2 1/2 rounders and Alice 1 rounder. We had scored 6 1/2 rounders. More exceptional fielding from Berky in the second fielding innings kept the College's score to a total of 8 rounders. In our second batting innings three girls, Sarah, Ella and Eleanor scored 1 1/2 rounders to secure a victory of 11 rounders to 8. This was a super game played in the best of spirits with our batting power just out-doing the College girls. Well done, again!

U11B v Cheltenham College

Lost 7 1/2 -14

The wind whipped across the Cheltenham College rounders pitch in gusts as the Under 11B team took the strike having lost the toss. Leslie and Catherine both scored rounders and Mollie a half rounder in the opening innings but then CCPS had their turn and really hit the ball around. Berky were caught out on several occasions but acquitted themselves well and in the second innings Leslie, Lorian, Anna and Jemima all scored well. In this splendid match it was the final innings when Berky was fielding that produced the very best play. Jemima R bowled and caught not once but twice, just plucking the ball out of the air in spectacular fashion. There was also a splendid duo working between backstop and first post where Mollie and Georgia stumped out four of the CCPS team - super play, girls.

Overall the huge hitting of CCPS just won through. Darcy and Eloise fielded valiantly but could not withstand the strength of the opposition. All the same, a match played in excellent spirit. Well done, girls.

U10A v Cheltenham College

Won 9-7

Simran won the toss and cleverly opted to field first. The girls were really fired up and fielded well, only giving away 4 rounders. They managed to get three of the Cheltenham College players out and had rattled their opponents. Decisive fielding decisions and safe hands were evident. Millie's bowling was accurate. Our batting was steady and the girls were running intelligently, taking calculated risks. Beatrice and Daisy managed to gain full rounders and the girls stole a few rounders. After the first innings, we had a lead of one rounder. It was all to play for in the second innings. Hattie's bowling was excellent and we managed to get 4 players out in quite quick succession - India performed an amazing catch! Our fielding was so tight that even when the Cheltenham girls hit the ball, they were struggling to even get a rounder. It was our turn to bat and Sophie led from the front - she has become our secret weapon in scoring! We batted sensibly, notching up those important rounders. It was an excellent win and the girls thoroughly deserved this victory. I was proud of the team spirit and how they encouraged each other every moment of the match. Bravo girls!

U10B v Cheltenham College

Won 15 1/2 -7 1/2

What a fantastic game of rounders. The girls were simply brilliant. I have rarely watched a game where the team made no mistakes and made all the right calls both when batting and fielding. Due to lots of absentee players a lot of U9 girls had to step up and play against older girls. They played brilliantly, scoring lots of rounders and fielding excellently.

We were forced to bat first. Frankie, Joy and Bella all scored whole rounders, with Becky scoring 2. Grace and Isla both scored 2 half rounders. The College made few fielding mistakes but big hitting and clever running led to 8 1/2 rounders. The girls then had to field. Becky was kept very busy at second deep but fielded superbly, throwing always to the correct post. Frankie bowled well. Grace, making her debut as back stop, looked very comfortable in that position, throwing well to second or bowler as needed. Emma defended 2nd post well. Despite some great hits by the College they were restricted to 6 rounders.

In the second innings, Jasmine and Becky both scored whole rounders and Grace, Isla and Bella scored 2 halves each. It was another display of great, sensible running, taking the score when the opportunity arose. In the second innings, Joy and Becky both covered second deep making it harder for the College. Isabel and Isla were both forced to make good throws to stop rounders and did so brilliantly. Becky and Joy now worked together to great effect to the frustration of the College batters. Frankie continued to bowl well and give nothing away. The College were restricted to just 1 1/2 rounders. An amazing display of great fielding. Final score Berky 15 1/2 The College 7 1/2.

U9A v Richard Pate School

Won 11 - 8 1/2

This was an excellent match for the girls, played in fantastic spirit and perfect 'sportsmanship' was exhibited by both teams and it was therefore very well enjoyed by all - as it should be! Jasmine captained the side and she put us in to bat first - which we did very successfully - 6 1/2 scored. Our fielding was then put to the test with a very pleasing 6 of their 9 girls caught or stumped out, and we only allowed them to score one whole rounder and a few half rounders. The second innings was very much a repeat of the first and led to a final score of 11 to us and 8 1/2 to RPS. There was all round excellent play and decision-making from all of the U9A girls, showing how much their play has matured over the season.

U9B v Richard Pate School

Lost 7 1/2 - 5

Put into bat, Berky made a great start with the first three batters, Cressie, Eleanor and Viera scoring half a rounder each. Sadly, that was our only score of the innings so it was going to be a bit of a battle from then on. The U9s then fielded well and RPS scored 4 1/2 so Berky were still in touch. Viera took a super catch at backstop - well done! In their second innings Berky started to hit the ball and both Viera and Izzy scored a whole rounder each, with a further 3 half rounders, to give the grand total of 5 rounders. I sensed this was still going to be a bit short and indeed it was but only by a narrow margin. Running decisively and sensibly between the posts still needs some work but the fielding has much improved. Well done!