



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

Dear Parents,

The term is flying by and everyone seems happy and settled in their new classes. This week has been particularly momentous for Year 5 as they have been on their trip to Viney Hill. Early on Wednesday morning, I saw Mr Banks wheeling his suitcase along Pittville Circus Road and asked if he was all ready to go; it turned out that his suitcase was stuffed with all the important things like giant marshmallows for toasting on the campfire while his clothes were in a small plastic carrier bag. It is good to know that our staff have their priorities right! Now that they have all returned, we can report that the trip was a resounding success - a good time was had by all with activities such as bush craft, climbing, archery, night hiking and 'low ropes'. Huge thanks go to the staff - Mr Banks (trip leader), Mr Cross, Miss Walter and Miss Chamberlain - who willingly gave up their time to enable the children to have two nights away from home spent with their friends: such an important experience of independence.

Meanwhile, back at school, as ever - so much has been going on. I visited the Kindergarten and spent a happy hour listening to the children's Wow Certificates being celebrated, reading books with Ollie B in the new 'Book Nook' (complete with fairy lights) and watching the children printing with apples and playing with sand; the atmosphere was calm and relaxed and everyone was playing purposefully. When I visited Reception, they were hard at work with sequencing and missing numbers; they were already able to explain their reasoning too. Year 1 have been immersed in their Rainforest topic - their classrooms are a riot of colour - while in Year 2, the volcanoes are lying dormant while the children forge ahead with their work in preparation for a visit to the Docks next week. It is also the wonderful time of year when conkers roll out of pockets during Assembly and we get to sing the Harvest song 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' - as ever, the children are absolutely loving its jazzy rhythms!

In Prep, the Year 3 children have been looked after splendidly by their Year 6 buddies and are loving their increased independence as they move between classrooms. House photos have been taken, the various clubs are now under way and the first matches of the season have been played and celebrated in Assembly. Mrs Mitchell, Year 6 and I have been at a Body Percussion Workshop at Rendcomb today - more about that next week...

Gill

Gill Agg
Deputy Head



FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 26th Sept

Year 1 trip to West Midland Safari Park

Year 2 trip to Bristol Docks

6.00pm - Year 3 Parents' Evening

Wed 27th Sep

2.30pm - Hockey U9A, U9B v Beaudesert Park (A)

2.30pm - Rugby U11A, U10A v Hatherop (A)

2.45pm - Hockey U11A, U11B v The Richard Pate School (A)



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News from around the school

Monday 25th September - Music Clubs

Jazz Combo will be starting to rehearse in the Pre-Prep building from 4.00-4.45. Parents should collect from there.

Jazz Band will continue in the Prep building and end at 4.30.

Guitar Club for anyone wishing to play guitar (acoustic rather than electric) at 1.30 with Mrs Sallis and Mr Titley.

Jigsaw for beginner string players and keyboard players who have already been learning for 1 year - in the Prep Hall with Mrs Weeks from 4.00-4.30pm

Big String Day organised by Gloucestershire music on Saturday 15th October for string players of all levels and grades. This annual event is usually great fun and very worthwhile, giving an opportunity to meet and play with a large number of instrumentalists.

Please see the website and contact steve.legge@gloucestershire.gov.uk for more information.

Christmas Concerts in Cheltenham

There are wonderful opportunities for seeing live orchestral concerts on 22nd December at Cheltenham Town Hall this Christmas. Raymond Briggs' 'The Snowman' and 'Father Christmas' will be performed live with the films projected onto a large screen. Included in the concerts also are 'Peter and the Wolf' with Brian Blessed as narrator and the 'Carnival of the Animals.' Please see cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk for details and tickets.

Whole school competition

Create a picture of your favourite book character or scene from your favourite children's book to be framed for the newly refurbished Pre-Prep library.

The pictures can be in any media - pens, pencils, paint or collage - be as imaginative as possible! There will be 12 lucky winners. Please collect a piece of card from the school office. Entries by 4th October. Good luck!



Missing item...

Named - A. Hirani
Lost navy joggers.
Please return to office
if found.

Literary Festival...

5 tickets available for the sold out show 'Oi!' (a rhyming and live drawing adventure based on the bestselling books 'Oi Dog' and 'Oi Frog') at the Literary Festival on Saturday 7th October at 10am. £30 for all 5 or £6 per ticket. Please see Mrs Cole (Year 2) if you are interested.



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Please note...

There will be NO after school Rugby Club for boys on Thursday 5th October.
The Cross County event on Thursday 5th October will take place at Newlands (not Pittville Park).

Sports report...

RUGBY

U9B v Richard Pate

Won 9-6

The opening match of the season saw an encouraging performance from the Berky boys. They worked superbly together to gain an exciting victory. The win was built on some excellent tackling which restricted the Pate's boys' scoring opportunities. Ollie, Alex and Jonathan were excellent in this department. When we had the chance to attack we ran into space and supported the ball carrier. Rupert and Archie showed fine passing skills and made some excellent runs. Alessio in his first ever game of rugby tackled brilliantly and scored four tries. Griff ran hard and straight causing havoc in the Pate's defence, also scoring four tries. Alex S not only scored but produced one fantastic run and offload before the tackle to create our final try.

This was a wonderful start to the season and I was very proud of the boys. Well done to all of you!

Many thanks to our supporters who I know thoroughly enjoyed the game.

U11A v King's Worcester

Lost 25-5

This was a tough opening fixture for the boys against a strong King's team but one where they rose to the challenge in terms of commitment. Defensively we made it difficult for King's to break us down and put in some tremendous tackles. Adam, James S, George de B-T and Benji M were very strong in this area. We had moments of good interplay in attack and this resulted in a fine try for George de B-T, just before half time, leaving us 10-5 down.

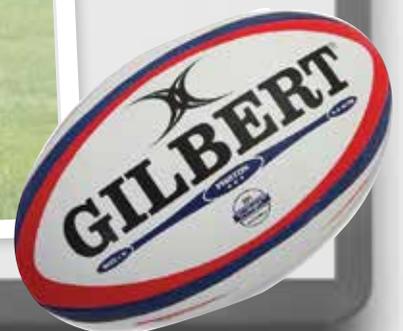
In the second half a combination of a few missed tackles and our speed at the breakdown gave King's more possession and this resulted in three more scores. We came close on a couple of occasions but could not manage to get over the line.

There were many positives from the game and the boys will have learned much from it. As always the boys worked tirelessly and I was pleased with the effort they put in. Well done to all of the team.

U11B v King's Worcester

Lost 45-25

A spirited and determined performance from Berkhampstead wasn't quite enough to claim the spoils from this very competitive and enjoyable rugby match. Berkhampstead defended keenly and attacked with plenty of pace and strength. The strong running of Eliot and Charlie, the pace and energy of George, the enthusiasm of Archie, the determination of Benji and Olly, the commitment of James and the level-headedness of William all caught spectators' eyes. Eliot (with four) and Charlie scored tries – some of them spectacular efforts from long range – but it was the performance of the team as a whole, supporting each other and never giving up, that should be the greatest cause for celebration.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

UIIA v The Croft

Lost 5-0

Our first match of the season, after last week's washout, was played in warm sunshine. Even before the match began, an injury during the warm up saw Isi side-lined and we were down to a squad of 8! The match was played on a wide grass pitch and the team was captained by Sarah. Within the first 5 minutes, the girls were up against it and The Croft had scored two goals in quick succession. Our girls were spending most of their time defending and were struggling to clear their half. There were glimpses of how they can play and they began to join up passes to create some attacking moves. Unfortunately the girls couldn't quite make the most of their possession and became frustrated when The Croft regained the ball, attacking in numbers and scoring a third just before half time. After a team chat, the girls began the second half with true Berky grit and determination. They were pouncing on every ball and linking up beautifully but they just couldn't get that final shot on goal. All the girls worked incredibly hard in that second half and should have been rewarded for their efforts, but it was just one of those days. Ella was voted girl of the match by The Croft girls as they recognised she had made some amazing saves. Moving forward, there is plenty to work on and the girls have realised that they need to be more proactive from the moment the whistle is blown.

UIIB v The Croft

Lost 2-1

A great close first game of the season. The Croft started brightly with lots of strong attacking moves. Berky were forced to defend, but both Chiara and Leslie made some strong tackles and Darcy made some great saves. On the wing both Hannah and Georgia made some valuable touches. On the other wing Rosannah made some brilliant runs and passed the ball through but we were not able to capitalise on this. Eleanor played the ball through nicely to our centre forward Kyla. Kyla shot several times but the Croft goalie proved to be a tough opponent and nothing could pass her.

The second half started brightly with Zoe playing on the right wing. Kyla pressurised their defence and forced them into making uncharacteristic errors. Eleanor and Rosannah ably supported her. The best move of the game came through Eleanor forcing the ball through to Kyla who passed the ball across the 'D' to Rosannah who slotted the ball home with a great strike. At the other end Leslie was making some great tackles and Chiara, who played magnificently, was storming forward with the ball and taking no prisoners. However, the Croft had some good strong players and were able to force the ball home on two occasions. Despite Berky having attacking chances we could not just force an equaliser. A draw would have been a fairer result but the girls can be pleased by the way they battled to the last and improved as the game went on.

