



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 23TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

This morning I was blown away by the thought and consideration of a Year 1 pupil. After listening to my assembly of a few weeks ago on the plastic pollution of our Oceans, Freddie has campaigned at home to reduce their use of plastics. He also ordered a book for me to read, entitled 'This Book is Not Rubbish' which details 50 ways to 'ditch plastic, reduce rubbish and save the world'. Thank you and well done Freddie... who, not surprisingly, is the IJ School Council Rep.

What a lovely, and very busy, week. The cold weather has reminded us that winter is just around the corner – can all children please remember to bring their coats, hats and gloves into school please. Very fresh in my mind as I write is the wonderful Firework Party that took place last Friday. The event was super - 450 of the Berky community gathered together and enjoyed a great display of fireworks, some delicious mulled wine and hot dogs and most importantly a get-together with friends. Lots of fun for all! An enormous thank you to the PTA committee and the firework team of Mr Myers Dickinson, Mr Parkin, Mr Perris and Mr Ayland. We are so lucky to have such a positive and supportive parent body, prepared to embrace events large and small. There's lots more in store from the PTA with the **Christmas Fayre (1st December) and Discos (7th December)** coming up... do add the dates to your calendar.

There were break-time treats galore earlier this week – well done to our fabulous Catering Team for organising another very interesting 'Try something new' Taster session. The treats that the children could try included

Wild mushroom soup, Roasted sweet potato veloute with chorizo crumb, Roasted sweet potato fries, Mushroom bruschetta, Roasted pumpkin and feta salad.

Wow... they were delicious and over 100 children queued to have a taste.

I enjoyed some time with Kindergarten this week helping them with baking some delicious biscuits. They all had a stir and I was given the task of breaking the eggs into the mix. Somehow all the biscuits were eaten without one finding its way to me!

The Berkhampstead Christmas Postal Delivery Service will be operational very soon. The judges are still deliberating over the entries (final entries to be in by Monday 26th November) and will decide next week. Elves will then produce the stamps and they will be available to buy from the school office from Friday 30th November. A real bargain at £1 for a sheet of 16 stamps. The money raised will all be going to the two charities chosen by the School Council this term: WaterAid and Acorn Children's Hospice.

Many children are coming to school in non-regulation winter clothing. Please could all children wear the regulation coats, hats, gloves and scarves; hats are available in the Second Hand Uniform Shop for only £2.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 26th Nov

2.00pm - Rugby U11 v Rendcomb (A)

Tue 27th Nov

9.00am – Reception to Year 5
Nasal Flu Immunisation

Wed 28th Nov

10.30am – Year 6 to watch
'The Lion, The Witch and The
Wardrobe' at Dean Close

2.00pm – U11 Rugby Festival
at Dean Close

2.30pm – Hockey U11A, U11B,
U110B, U9A, U9B v Wycliffe (A)

Thu 29th Nov

Year 4 visit to Chepstow Castle
ZooLab visiting Year 1

Fri 30th Nov

Year 4 visit to Chepstow Castle
ZooLab visiting Year 1

2.30pm – Rugby U8, U9 v King's
School, Gloucester (A)

2.30pm – Hockey U9 v King's
School, Gloucester (A)

Sat 1st Dec

11.00am - 2.00pm

PTA Christmas Fayre



Thank you...

To Mr Atkin, Georgia Y3
daddy - who kindly bought
some Road Signs ready to use
on our Road Safety Track.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years

All children and staff are practising for our Early Years Christmas Concert 'A Baby Is Born.' Reception children will be narrating, and have been busy learning their lines and Kindergarten will be participating through song and dance. The children are very excited about their parts and Mrs Sallis has been busy teaching us all the songs and actions! Please feel free to come and ask us if you have any questions regarding costumes etc.

We would be very grateful if you could support your child in learning their lines which have been sent home. Thank you for your continued support.

The Kindergarten children have amazed us this week as they have worked so hard during focussed activities and created some fantastic art work based on our topic: People who help us. They have developed a real understanding of occupations and have told us what they hope to be when they grow up. We have some budding professional footballers, ballerinas, doctors and a Queen of England in our school!

Our week-long adventures with Andrew Bear were a great success. Each day we went on a hunt around the school following a series of picture clues left by Andrew Bear. We eventually found him guarding some hot chocolate and our delicious snack. The children also listened to winter stories, made some winter crafts from salt dough and made biscuits with Mr Cross.

What a busy day Reception had at the 'Museum in the Park' last Wednesday! The children spent the morning playing traditional playground games, handling toys and going on a museum trail. After a quick stop for lunch, the children were given the task of making their own toy and had the opportunity to play with replica toys. The day ended with a story in the museum's pavilion. The children behaved impeccably, and asked and answered many questions; the Museum staff were very impressed with their behaviour and knowledge. A very successful day was had by everyone.

For Circle Time last week, the children were asked to bring in something from home that was special to them. We had many toys, photographs and objects that the children felt were special to them. The children took turns to tell the class about their special thing and why it was special to them. They have painted pictures of their special things and will be collaging them this week.

With only a few weeks left of the term, I hope these dates for Early Years will help you with your planning. Please feel free to come and ask any member of staff if you are unsure.

Thursday 29th November - All Christmas concert costumes to be handed in a named bag. Any problems please come and see the staff.

Monday 3rd December - 9.15 Early Years Dress Rehearsal, Pre-Prep to watch the concert. All Kindergarten children are invited to come in for the rehearsal. If your child does not attend the morning session, please collect your child after the concert at 10am.

Tuesday 4th December - 9.15 Early Years Christmas Concert. Kindergarten parents invited to watch the performance. All Kindergarten children to come in for the Concert. If your child does not attend the morning session, please collect your child after the concert at 10am. Coffee and mince pies served after the Concert.

Wednesday 5th December - 9.15am Early Years Christmas Concert. Reception parents invited. All Kindergarten children are invited to come in for the rehearsal. If your child does not attend the morning session, please collect your child after the concert at 10am. Coffee and mince pies served after the Concert.

Friday 7th December 10.00am. Kindergarten (only children attending Friday session are invited due to numbers) and Reception visit to the Everyman Theatre to see 'The Velveteen Rabbit'.

Monday 10th December - Early Years Party Day. All Kindergarten children are invited for the day. Details to follow.

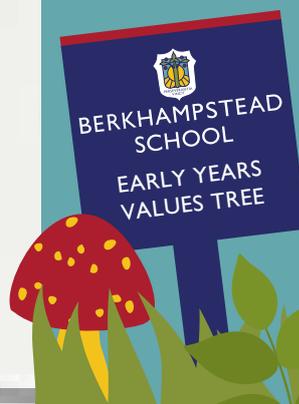
Wednesday 13th December - Term ends.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten
Ethan S, Arthur C,
Edward Sa

Reception
Bruno R, Jacob D,
Rishik R, Lucas, DCV
Lara C, Fergus G, Izzy B
Melba F





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Missing...
Duffle coat
and Red coat
named LENNON

News from around the school

CHESS NEWS

Berkhampstead retained an important piece of silverware last weekend, claiming the 'Top School' trophy at the annual Musketeers Club Congress. Congratulations to Edith H, Rupert G (who both won their individual sections), Oli S, Jonathan B, Henry R, Otto B and Beatrice N who all contributed to the school's success.

The school chess team marches on. A fourth consecutive win was achieved last Tuesday against a keen St. John's Primary side. The 5-1 winning margin was pleasing but the manner of the victory (our players were calm, thoughtful and incisive) proved especially welcome. Ethan A - a most promising player - made his debut for the school 'A' team and demonstrated impressive skills. The school's next match against a strong Richard Pate School could be pivotal in deciding the destination of the District League Shield that we have held for the past three years. MC



YEAR 3 AND THE 'MINPINS'

Inspired by their studies of Roald Dahl's 'Minpins,' Year 3 were tasked with writing a piece of descriptive prose, with an emphasis on the use of effective adjectives and a change of pace in the middle to create a dramatic effect. The results were most pleasing, and Mrs Agg was particularly impressed with Zoe's:

A Walk in the Forest of Sin

I found myself all alone in the deep, dark Forest of Sin. The light was dim, trees looming over me like a thick cage above my head. There was not a sound. Everything smelt damp, and that smell hovered around me. As I walked around, I was feeling a tiny bit scared but something inside me made me push on into the gloom of the deep, dark Forest of Sin. An echoey sound of twigs, snapping, and my feet squelching in the mud. I walked in the gloom for about twenty minutes...

Suddenly, there was a noise! It was big, huge, - no! - massive! Oh, the noise it made! It was like the beating of a horse's hooves galloping, a swan beating its wings as hard as it could, the snapping of a crocodile's jaws, and oh, that terrible noise became louder and louder until there was only one thing to do - RUN! But where to? My thoughts were rushing so I had to run off the path into the trees.

I ran faster than I ever had in my life. I ducked under huge roots of trees, jumping over low-hanging branches. In the end, I jumped onto a low-hanging branch and began to climb the tree. **Zoe S (Year 3)**

MUSIC NEWS

St Cecilia's Day - what a lovely Recital yesterday celebrating the patron saint of music! A wide variety of performances ranging through all the stringed instruments to flutes, drums, trombone, saxophone and pianists galore! All played with composure and we heard some lovely music performed expressively and confidently. Congratulations to all the players and thank you for a delightful concert.

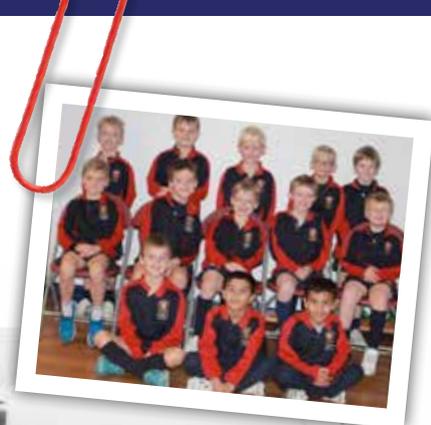
The Big String 2019

Sign up for places on this very popular music course held over 18-19th February. Email ad-min@gamusic.co.uk for details.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

RUGBY

U10A Rugby Festival at Dean Close

U10A v RGS, Worcester Lost 2-3

U10A v Dean Close Won 2-1

U10A v RPS Draw 2-2

U10A v Hatherop Won 4 - 1

On Wednesday, the U10A team travelled to Dean Close for a rugby festival. This was a good opportunity for the boys to play against different teams from around the county.

The first match was against RGS and the boys from RGS passed the ball superbly. This took our boys by surprise I think and unfortunately this match was a loss: 3-2 to RGS. The next match was against Dean Close and the boys worked hard to keep the pressure on Dean Close, attacking them at every opportunity and exposing any gaps in their defence. This was a narrow win of 2-1 to Berkhamstead. After this the boys played Richard Pate and this was always going to be a challenging match between two closely matched teams. It was a close match and the score was 2-2 which was a fair result. The final match was against Hatherop and the boys worked well together to earn a win. The match finished 4-1 to Berkhamstead and the boys passed the ball well in this match to get those tries. The try scorers were Max, Lincoln and Jonny but without the support of their team mates the tries would have been difficult to score.

Well done boys, a good afternoon of rugby and one which I know you all thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to our parents and friends who came along to support the boys.

U10B Festival at Dean Close

Lost 3-2 v St. Hugh's

Won 3-2 v Clifton College, Bristol

Won 6-2 v Magdalen College, Oxford

Won 6-3 v Bromsgrove College

I was very proud to take the U10B team to Dean Close this week for a Rugby Festival. It was a freezing cold afternoon and they not only had to battle the opposition but the weather too. They came up against some big and renowned schools and performed brilliantly. In the first game it was only at the final whistle that I realised the opposition had 8 players to our 7... so a loss of 3 to 2 was a great result. Superb wins against Clifton College, Magdalen College and Bromsgrove showed what a talented team they are with Otto, Jonathan and Ethan making all the running. Alex eventually had to come off, his hands being so cold he could not catch the ball. Oli stepped up, despite his injuries, and the defence efforts of Rupert, Archie and Harry ensured tight victories against Clifton and Bromsgrove. A great afternoon... and the hot dog and hot chocolate were well deserved. Thank you to the dedicated Berky supporters who also braved the cold... two supporters had travelled all the way from Plymouth to watch the games.

U9B v Dean Close

Lost 3-10

Last Friday the U9B team had a tough encounter against a fast and physical Dean Close team. Although the opposition had the majority of possession, our boys deserve much credit for their determination and commitment in defence. Robert, Luke, Charles and Hugo made some excellent tackles and prevented several potential tries.

When we had our chances, we made some strong runs into our opponent's territory but often couldn't find the final pass to go over the line. Some good link play by Harry and Will and strong running by Rufus, Mateo and Albie caused some problems for Dean Close and resulted in us scoring three fine tries.

I was very impressed by the positive attitude and typical Berky resilience that the boys showed. Well done boys for a super match.

U9 v Dean Close

Lost 12-6

We travelled to Dean Close on Friday for our first game after the half term break. Dean Close had beaten us previously in the season at a festival match so we knew we were in for a tough encounter; Dean Close proved our predictions correct. The first ten minutes were end to end before it began to settle with both teams organising their defences well. Our attacking line began to find some form and looked more organised with a number of searching runs into Dean Close territory; unfortunately our ball handling let us down and Dean Close crept ahead by two tries in the first half. The second half started just as frenzied as the first, with Dean Close making the most of a couple of larger boys to break through our defence. We remained strong and resolute, however, and scored a magnificent try after five phases of play. Dean Close edged further ahead in the latter part of the game but the boys' heads never went down. 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 game and hopefully learnt from it. Well done boys.

Hatherop Tag Rugby Festival

U8 Buffaloes Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 2

The Buffaloes had 4 fast, action-packed matches on a miserable, wet Wednesday afternoon. Despite the conditions the boys played really well and never let the weather get them down. There was the usual mixture of fast darting runs with the ball and good defensive tagging. Unfortunately we didn't really get used to the wider than normal pitches and attacking players were able to run around our sides easier than normal. Well played boys. Only one match left to play on Friday against King's Gloucester.

U8 Bisons Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 1

On Wednesday 21st November, we took an U8 team to brave the rain in the annual Tag Rugby Festival at Hatherop Castle. We played four matches; winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 1.

We started with a win against Windrush which set us up nicely for the rest of the afternoon. We scored 6 tries and conceded 4 in a game where the weather played a huge part.

By the time we played a powerful Pinewood team, the weather was improving and we needed to run fast, tag quickly and pass sharply to ensure we achieved a positive result. The final score was 5-5. We then competed against our hosts and home advantage counted as they went on to win 6-4. The game could have been different if it had not been for some avoidable errors for which we were penalised.

Our final match was against St Edward's where we went on to win 5-3.

It was a testing but enjoyable experience as the boys played four very different schools which will help with their match tactics as they get older. We have worked on our defensive line and I was very pleased to see a noticeable improvement in this area. There were some fantastic tries scored, following some weaving runs, but passing and support play will be a target for our training sessions throughout the rest of this term. The boys should be very pleased with themselves as we look forward to a match against The King's School, Gloucester.

U8 Buffaloes v Dean Close

Won 1, Draw 1

The Buffaloes had two very energetic games against 2 teams from Dean Close. Benjamin scored several times and Barnaby scored another great try straight from the whistle as he darted between the opposition. Azlaan and Richie both managed to score 2 each by using their pace to run past the opposition. The team have been working hard on their defensive line and it was great to see this in operation. Samuel, Jacob D-T and Jacob F showed a good understanding of their positioning through the game and got many of the opposition's tags. A great couple of games. Well done boys.

U8 Bisons v Dean Close

Won 2

Last Friday the Bisons travelled to Dean Close where they played two matches against two different teams. The boys played well and won both their games. They were excellent at tagging the opposition and made it clear when they had taken a tag. George, Max, Ed, Felix and Otto all scored tries but without the support of their team mates this would not have been possible.

Well done boys, two good wins and many thanks to our supporters for coming along to cheer on the boys.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

U9A v The Richard Pate School Lost 2-0

Right from the word go it was clear that the Richard Pate A team was a very strong and accomplished team with tremendously skilled players (6 out of the 7 playing at clubs) and some very tall girls too! It is very much to the credit of our girls that we defended so thoroughly and held them back so efficiently that they only scored 2 goals. Our forwards kept pushing and had many attempts at goal, but none were successful in crossing the line. Nevertheless, this was a great game for our girls who all agreed that they had been challenged, but that it had been thoroughly enjoyable.

U9B v The Richard Pate School Won 3-0

This was by far the best game for the B team of the season so far! The Berky Bs were on fire and played superb hockey from the off! Pressure was immediately applied and this paid off with two fantastic goals from Isabella and Anna. Anna scored a further goal in the second half and we saw several thrilling and attacking moments of play from all the girls up front! Defence was strong too and Richard Pate were prevented from getting on to the scoreboard. Wow! A great game which showed the tremendous progress made over the term.

