



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

As Mr Cross is away at the Head Teachers' Conference, it falls to me to write the newsletter this week. We have now settled back into our routines and are as busy as ever; we are really enjoying having proper Assemblies again - singing hymns together and hearing children's ideas and opinions - and being able to mix the children with children from other year groups. The current Year 3s missed out on swimming in both Year 1 and Year 2 thanks to the pandemic - the sounds of their excitement as they prepared to go for the very first time yesterday afternoon were entirely understandable!

A highlight for both Mr Cross and me this week was to visit Year 1 to talk about our childhood toys; you can read more about this later in the newsletter. The children had so many interesting questions to ask and, as ever, were really interested to find out more. I also enjoyed seeing the KG children preparing their honey sandwiches for a Teddy Bear's Picnic yesterday.

Many clubs are now starting up; it is so good to hear the various Prep music ensembles playing together. There are several more clubs starting up in Pre-Prep next week, including Gardening Club; some of the Year 2 children will be setting to work on the Pre-Prep wildlife garden, thanks to Mr and Mrs Taylor who created the garden and pond several years ago and who love to share their passion for gardening with the children.

The results of the elections for School Council and Eco Warrior Leaders and Representatives are now out! First, a word about the selection process. All the Year 6 children are made monitors at the beginning of the year and given special jobs and responsibilities; Year 6 children who wanted to be considered for the posts of House Captain, School Council Leader and/or Eco Leader submitted application letters earlier in the term. These were read by all the staff who then voted for the people they considered best suited to the roles - always a tough decision. A second House Captain for each house will be appointed next term; there will be therefore another opportunity for Year 6 to apply at this point. The younger children are chosen by their classmates, who are amazingly astute when it comes to picking suitable representatives for these important posts.

Committee	Leaders
School Council	Georgia A and Chloe E
Eco Warriors	Hannah D, Jacob F and Sam B

Class	School Council Rep	Eco Warrior Rep
5B	Emilia F	Yvie L / Frankie H
5K	Alba N	Ben A
4E	Estella L	Freddie L
4T	George E	Claudia C / Ben R
3C	Charlotte H	Lucas dCV
3M	Jasper W	Evie W / Annabelle A
2GS	Alanah F	Jacob H
2S	Iris M	Barnaby K
1KM	Ned D	Betty D
1G	Max T	Leo D

FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 28th September
5.30 - Year 3 online Parents' Evening

Wednesday 29th September
2.30pm - U8/U9/U10/U11
Hockey v Wycliffe (A)

Thursday 30th September
Year 1 visit to Museum in the Park, Stroud
7.30pm - PTA Meeting, Pre Prep Hall - all parents welcome

Friday 1st October
2.15 - U8/U9 Hockey v Rendcomb (A)
2.30 - U9A/B Rugby v St Ed's (A)





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The purpose of the committees will be explained to the Reception children over the next few weeks so that they can elect their representatives after half term. We can also announce the first four House Captains. They are:

House	House Captain
St. Andrew's	Katy P
St. David's	Zoe B
St. George's	Primmy P
St. Patrick's	Sophia E

Many congratulations to all these children. Enjoy what promises to be a sunny weekend!

Gill

Gill Agg
Deputy Head



Junior Choir



Razzamajazz



Berky Bows



Senior Chess Club



Chamber Ensemble



Year 3 Chess Club

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For further insight into your child's day at Berky, please follow us on Social Media. We would be really grateful if you could share stories too. Here are our Social Media handles:

Instagram:
berkhampstead_school
Facebook: Berkhampstead
Twitter: BerkyCheltenham





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Pre-Prep

The children in Year 1 have been enjoying their topic 'Toys'; this week we have been discussing the toys we enjoy playing with and how they are similar or different to the toys the teachers had when they were children. The definite highlight of this week was a visit from Mr Cross and Mrs Agg who both came to tell us about their favourite childhood toys.

Mr Cross brought in three of his favourite toys on Monday, some of which he still enjoys playing with today! A Rubik's cube, which he completed whilst talking to us, a sports sticker album from 1982 and a conker were shown to the children and Mr Cross explained why he had chosen them as his favourites. The children had a quick lesson about the game of conkers with Mr Cross showing them how to string a conker as well as giving some tips on how to get the strongest conker.

Mrs Agg came to visit us on Tuesday, bringing with her some of her favourite toys too!

We discovered a firm favourite from Mrs Agg's childhood was Noddy and the children were delighted that they were able to see the small Noddy car she had as a child, complete with Big Ears as a passenger.

Mrs Agg also brought in two very special toys, one of which originally belonged to her mummy! Barley the lamb was an impressive 95 years old; Mrs Agg explained that he wasn't very cuddly or soft as he had been filled with straw when he was made rather than the soft stuffing used today.

Barley had also been cuddled and loved so much that most of his fur had worn away. Little Ted was a mere spring chicken at only 65 years old and Mrs Agg told the children how he used to be her lucky mascot when she had tests or exams at school.

Next week, we are looking forward to our Year 1 trip to the Museum in the Park in Stroud where we will be finding out even more about Toys and Games from the past. JG





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school



TOP TIP... PLEASE CONTINUE TO RECYCLE

We save 18 million tonnes of CO₂ a year by recycling, the same environmental impact as 27 million of us going veggie.

BERKY GETS GREENER

This week Mrs Rees, one of the Prep School TAs, very kindly brought in 20 young house plants to be placed in classrooms around the school.

A note from Mrs Rees:

These plants are called Spider Plants. The small plants are known as 'pups' and have been taken from Mrs Rees' mother plant and propagated to create new plants. They may be small babies now, but they are well on their way to becoming fully grown plants of their own.

Spider plants are excellent air purifiers. They clean the air around us by extracting toxins that are commonly found in our homes and workspaces; even NASA are fans of this clever, clean plant!

Of course, our mental wellbeing can also really benefit from having plants and greenery within our environment. Plants are proven to reduce stress levels and enhance calm as well as providing us with a clean, oxygenated space.

PRE-PREP SCHOOL COUNCIL

Well done to our new Pre-Prep School Council members - Max, Ned, Iris and Alanah. They were thrilled to be elected by their peers and already have some fantastic ideas about things that they want to do this year. Our first meeting happened this week and the children's first task of the year is to review our Pre-Prep rewards and behaviour policy. They will gather their classmates' opinions and ideas, ready to share in our next meeting. Max, Ned, Iris and Alanah are all ready to take on the challenge and are keen to plan some exciting theme days. Watch this space. AS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...

NEWS FROM THE PTA

We hope you are all well and have enjoyed the start of the new term; it's lovely to be back to some form of normality.

A very warm welcome to any new parents and pupils; we hope you have settled in well.

Second hand Uniform Shop

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to Vanessa and Becky, who have run the second-hand uniform shop for a number of years - they have done a fabulous job, volunteering their time so freely, keeping the uniform shop running and well stocked with good quality uniform. Their efforts over the last few years have been tremendous and I would personally, and on behalf of the PTA, like to thank them for all their efforts.

We have four wonderful new volunteers taking over the shop this year: thank you to Bay, Emma, Samantha and Chris for stepping up and taking the helm! I am sure they will do a fantastic job!

Class Reps

It's that time of year again when we are looking for parents to volunteer to be Class Reps for the year. Class reps help share PTA news with their year group, organise teachers' gifts (if your year wishes to do this) and support some of the events throughout the year where individual year groups have stands etc.

If you would like to be a Class Rep or find out more information, please email PTA@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

PTA Meeting

30th September 7:30pm in the Pre-Prep Hall. All parents are welcome; whether you wish to become a member of the PTA or just wish to learn more about what we do, you are most welcome.

We will look to discuss ideas for events throughout the year and chat about fundraising goals.

PTA Committee

It is sadly my last year at the school, so we will be looking for a new committee for the PTA going forward, whether to take over this year, work with Steve and I throughout this year or ready to take over for the next academic year.

If you feel you would like to get involved, please do come along to the meeting next week or drop us an email; we would love to hear from you!

Warm wishes,

Joey

Joey
pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

Uniform Shop

PTA Uniform shop will be open
Wednesdays 3-4pm





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

HOCKEY

U10 (Group 1) v RPS

Lost 5-1

Another beautiful day and the first match since Y3 for our U10 girls! Carly had volunteered to be goalie for the first group of players and was also our captain. With no spare players, the girls knew they were fully committed to the whole match. Within a matter of minutes, we found ourselves two goals down. RPS were certainly taking advantage of playing at home! The surface is fast and initially our girls were not spreading out, so touches and long balls were not happening. In the second half, we began to find our feet and were using the width to pass the ball around; however, we were still struggling to pass the ball into the D. Despite some super saves from Carly, RPS scored their fifth goal. We did not give up, though, and in the final minute of the match with a strong team effort, Esi managed to push one past the RPS goalie. It was a tough first match and the girls agreed we need to work on match fitness - tracking back to retrieve the ball and maintaining positions rather than playing on top of each other.

U10 (Group 2) v RPS

Won 4-0

The second team on to play had the advantage of watching the first match and learnt some valuable tactics. Nina had volunteered to be goalie in this match and was also our captain. With only six players, we borrowed Chloe for the first 5 minutes and then Carly came on for the rest of the match. Right from the start, the girls were passing the ball around, maintaining positions and sending long passes through to each other. Soon they found themselves in the RPS D and Emilia scored. Confidence was high and a few more goals followed in quick succession from Esha and Emma. Our defence of Lettie, Emily and Nina had not been troubled at all in the first half! In the second half, the dream defence of Emily and Lettie completely protected Nina and sent long balls up the pitch for the girls to attack the D. Emma managed to score her second goal! A few things to work on, girls, but a super start to the season and some excellent teamwork was evident!

U-10 (Team 2) v St Edward's

Lost 4-2

The team consisted of Erin R, Georgia, Chloe M, Nina, Alba and Alina.

Erin R and Georgia were fantastic in defence, making some great tackles. Nina was playing midfield and supported the play well, defending and attacking. Chloe and Alina were great on the wing both making fantastic runs and interceptions. Alba was our striker and also made some great runs in supporting play and play making. Our support play was good as was our spatial awareness. In the first half, Berky were definitely fighting well in defence and battling in midfield. However, our best move was when Alba won the ball on the right wing, travelled into the D, passed the ball across the goal mouth and Alina slotted the ball into the back of the net. St Ed's were able to counterattack and gained an equaliser. In the second half, St Ed's were more dominant, taking several shots and scoring 3 more goals despite the gritty determination of the Berky girls. However, the Berky girls battled to the last and Alina was able to break away in the centre, scoring with a long-range shot. The Berky girls can be very proud of the effort they put into the game and the way that they fought to the end. Final score: St Ed's won 4-2.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

RUGBY

U9A Beaudesert Festival

Lost 3, Won 2

The U9As played five matches in their first festival of the season at Beaudesert on Wednesday. Our first match saw us pitched against Beaudesert, and we were caught cold from the start with two tries scored against us in the first 2 minutes. We were often starved of possession and played most of the game in our own half, having to defend countless Beaudesert attacks and losing eventually by several tries. The second game saw us pitched against The Downs, a school renowned for producing quality sides. We began to string passes together but unforced errors in attack saw us lose the ball and, despite scoring tries, we couldn't withhold a strong attacking side, losing 4-2. After a short gap to allow us to catch our breath, we played three very hard games against St John's, Cheltenham College and Clifton. Against St John's, we showed good defence and were able to run freely with the ball and score. However, lapses in concentration allowed St John's to run as freely and we were beaten narrowly 5-4. Our last two matches against Cheltenham and Clifton were our best. Two and often three passes out of defence saw us score some super tries and, despite having played 50 minutes of rugby, we maintained a good level of concentration and fitness to record wins in both matches. Player of the Festival for Berky was George E but all 9 boys upped their game after the first match and gave it their all.

Well done, boys!

U9B Beaudesert Festival

Won 3, Draw, 1, Lost 1

The B team played with a real enthusiasm, scoring plenty of eye-catching tries and defending with gusto. Owen P was awarded Player of the Tournament for his intelligent running and adherence to the team ethic although Jack F pushed him close with some aggressive running and an eye for the try line. The other players, Isaac R, Ben S, Freddie L, Dylan B, Hugo H and Louis MR, all contributed well, running hard and distributing the ball successfully. The team played three matches against Cheltenham College sides, and one each against Beaudesert and St John's on-the-Hill, winning three, drawing one and losing one. The lads can reflect with pride on a fine set of results.

U10A v Hatherop

Lost 12-9

On Wednesday, the U10A team had their first match against Hatherop. The boys played well; their defence was a little shaky to start with but this improved, and they tackled the Hatherop players confidently. In the second half the boys were quick, looked for space and scored lots more tries. Hatherop didn't give up, though, and kept coming at them - the match finished with a win for Hatherop, 12-9 to them.

Well done, boys - this was a good first match and there is lots to learn from for the rest of the season. Many thanks to the parents that came to support the boys.

U10B v Hatherop

Lost 15-10

On Wednesday, the U10B team played their first match against Hatherop. It was a good match and once the boys became more confident, they made better tackles and were braver when running with the ball. The boys exposed the space that Hatherop gave them, scoring lots of tries in the corners of the pitch and they passed the ball well. Hatherop got off to a very good start and, although our boys closed the gap, Hatherop won this match 15-10.

Well done, boys - a great first match.

