



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I am always delighted when the children approach me to ask a question or two. This week I was probed with questions such as, 'What do you do all day?' and a prospective parent asked 'What is the best part of your job - and the worst?' For me there is no question that the time I spend with the children in the classroom is the best part. We have such keen and interested boys and girls at Berky, eager to learn and to explore problems and challenges - they are a pleasure to teach and to spend time with.

This morning I was delighted to welcome Whaddney the Robin and coaches from Cheltenham Town Football Club to lead our Prep Assembly all about fair-play and the enjoyment that is gained through sport. Tomorrow over 130 pupils and parents are supporting Cheltenham Town when they play Macclesfield Town in the English Football League 2nd Division. Fingers crossed for a good game and a CTFC win.

While this was happening many parents had stayed on in the Pre-Prep for 'Taste the Menu', with the Kitchen staff offering tastes of food items on the school menu. They included the tomato and vegetable soup, the Spanish chicken and vegetarian bolognese as well as some cakes, bread and biscuits. All washed down with tea, coffee and orange juice. A lovely start to the morning and a big thank you to Amy (Catering Manager), Alex (Chef) and the other kitchen staff.

Last Saturday I thoroughly enjoyed being at the ninth annual Berky Chess Congress and it was another great success. Chess is a big part of life at Berkhampstead, so it was no surprise to see so many children turning up on a Saturday to 'do battle' with their friends. It was a real pleasure to see high quality chess being played with great sportsmanship and a tangible sense of fun. Children from age 6 played a series of games of chess - 7 in total - and after a couple of rounds they played opponents of a similar standard, acquiring little prizes as they progressed through the day.

The congress is part of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, a National competition involving tens of thousands of children across the country. The leading children from the Berky Congress will qualify for the Gloucestershire 'Megafinal' - and last year some of the best Berky players won through to represent Gloucestershire at the North of England 'Gigafinal' in the summer.

A big thank you to Mr Cole for organising the event and to those parents who helped out on the day.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



## FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY SPRING TERM

### Diary dates...

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

##### Tue 29th January

6.00pm - 3M Parents' Evening

##### Wed 30th January

2.30pm - Football U11

v Beaudesert (A)

2.30pm - Football U8, U9

v Hatherop (A)

2.30pm - Netball U11A, U11B

v Rendcomb (A)

2.30pm - Netball U10, U9, U8

v Hatherop (H)

##### Thu 31st January

Year 1 visit to All Saints' Church  
(pm - tbc)

6.00pm - 3C Parents' Evening

#### February 2019

##### Fri 1st February

8.40am - Visiting Head's Assembly  
Mr B Salisbury - Dean Close -

Parents invited to watch assembly  
and join Mr Salisbury for coffee in

Prep Foyer

2.30pm - Netball U9 v Rendcomb(H)

5.30pm - PTA Movie Night



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from Early Years...

Early Years children have been very busy over the past few weeks with lots of inspiring activities.

We have had so much fun with our topic 'Percy the Park Keeper' this week. The children have been making some of the animals from the story using all sorts of junk materials. Some of the creations were rather large but this led to us discussing the different sizes and shapes we find around us.

The children noticed the animals not only look different but that they have different personalities. We have been exploring how we are all unique and what our strengths and weaknesses might be.

The children's enthusiasm inspired us to make hedgehog cakes using Matchmaker mint sticks for spines, fairy cakes and chocolate icing. Yum!

The children took a trip into Space to find out about the solar system.

They loved looking up the names and which order the planets go in which is closest to the sun and which is furthest away. Great discussions took place regarding whether there is life on the other planets and could we survive on Mars! The children were challenged to put the planets in the correct place on a diagram of the solar system.

This week we used music as a prompt for art! The children listened to The Planets Suite by Holst and discussed the different music they heard for each of the planets. On a sheet of paper, they made their own marks to represent the different sounds they had heard.

The children came up with some interesting interpretations and shared their creations with each other! Everyone's creations were very individual and personal.

During Forest School this week the children had great fun creating pictures with MUD! They were asked to collect natural materials to use as 'paint brushes'; they collected mud and mixed it with water to create the 'paint'.

The children produced some fantastic individual paintings and discovered you don't always need paint to create a masterpiece!

### THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten  
Chloe W, Ellie K,  
Edward S, Gaia G, Seth L,  
Lyla US, Molly R, Immy C  
Reception  
Oliver B, Harry LS, Bruno  
R, Evie W, Miles H, Jasper  
W, Hughie B, Phoebe B





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school



### FRIENDS OF BERKHAMPSTEAD NINTH ANNUAL BERKY CHESS CONGRESS

The annual Berky Chess Congress was a great success last Saturday. About a quarter of the Prep pupils participated and played with enthusiasm and plenty of skill. Azlaan H and Griff L won the lower and upper school tournaments respectively; both lads proved to be models of consistency and focus. Several other children qualified for the Gloucestershire Megafinal (the second stage of the UK Chess Challenge) and they are also to be congratulated: George J, Isla R, Isabel G, Nancy B, Georgia A, William J, Henry R, Lottie A, Noah W and Edith H. Further details of the Megafinal will be announced in due course. Many thanks to Mrs Agg, Mr Cross and parents, Mr Simpson and Mr John for helping so willingly on the day and to Mrs de Burgh-Thomas for giving up her time to take photographs and 'broadcast' the event on various Berky media platforms. MC

### MUSIC NEWS

We have had a busy start of term in the music department with two trips organised for singers and players. On Friday 18th VoxBox visited The Theatre in Chipping Norton to see the pantomime 'Aladdin'. To see a show in this theatre is an extraordinary experience because the stage and auditorium have been created in an old Salvation Army building and it only seats about 200. The cast of professional actors were superb with a wonderful Dame and evil Uncle Abanazer. There was plenty of traditional audience participation ("Oh, yes there was!") and a song, which VoxBox entered into with enthusiasm!

On Friday 18th a group of Jazz musicians took part in a workshop at Cheltenham College run by members of the NYJO. These fabulous players led sectional rehearsals to develop improvisational pieces for a presentation at the end of the day. All our players participated with enthusiasm and considerable skills and several contributed solo parts in the final piece. They were the youngest musicians taking part in the workshops and I was proud of their positive approach and ability to participate so thoroughly. Well done.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## Sports report...

### FOOTBALL

#### U11 v Rendcomb Won 8-2

On a bright and crisp afternoon the U11 boys gave an impressive performance against Rendcomb. We had a solid platform at the back with Oscar A, Andrew and Noah giving very little freedom to the Rendcomb attackers. This enabled the midfield trio of George, Finian, and Oscar to surge forward and create havoc alongside Jensen up front. In the first half we scored 3 goals, through George (2) and Jensen.

In the second half Rendcomb scored an early goal and began to look a little more threatening. However our boys began to dominate possession and surged forward at every opportunity. Some excellent runs by Oscar H, Andrew and Fin had Rendcomb on the back foot and some lovely through balls found Luke in space. He scored a well taken hat trick. Oscar H also scored two super goals. It was a fantastic second half.

Well done boys for another excellent match and many thanks to our supporters.

#### U9A v St Edward's Won 2-1

The U9As took on St Edward's on Wednesday in a very competitive game with both sides playing enthusiastically. Berky started well and were organised in defence with Oli, Henry, Michael and Rufus keeping things in order despite a number of good moves from St Edward's. In attack, however, we were somewhat disorganised with little or no result despite great individual efforts from Will C, Patrick and Harry. A team talk at half time seemed to calm the nerves and we started to string some good passes together and more importantly keep possession. Patrick mesmerised the opposition's defence with a number of searching moves through the centre and was unlucky not to score, hitting the crossbar on one occasion. Will C finally found the back of the net which allowed the team to settle and show more confidence on the ball. Albie B and Harry worked seamlessly together on the right with Harry eventually slotting a lovely low shot into the bottom corner. A late goal by St Edward's was never going to be enough and we were comfortable winners. Well done boys!





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### NETBALL

#### UI0A v Richard Pate

##### Lost 15-1

It was a little chilly to say the least, but the girls were ready to go! There were 9 girls so we could have fresh legs every quarter. We started a little slowly, not marking our players tightly and letting them run away. The second quarter we made a few changes so some girls had to get into a flow; we were more energetic and sticking with our player much better. There was great movement around our attacking D, but we couldn't get it in the net. By the third quarter we were getting tired and not running onto the ball, which meant the RPS girls were intercepting our passes. The fourth quarter was our best by far: much better marking, sticking to our players and making some great interceptions. Some of us were running onto the ball and making some brilliant passes. Although we lost we had some good movement. We need to focus on running onto the ball in order to receive the pass.

#### UI0B v Richard Pate

##### Lost 6-1

It was a bitterly cold day and with a squad of 9, the girls were going to be rotated on and off across the quarters. The first two quarters were close but RPS were successful, scoring two goals. We were struggling to maintain our man marking and RPS were finding the space to move the ball around. Jasmine was working extremely hard as Centre but we just couldn't get the ball up to Bella to score. Finally in the third quarter Bella scored a goal and the girls began moving the ball around with renewed confidence. However the RPS GA and GS towered above our girls and were able to dominate play. Although we lost, there were some good passages of play. We need to now focus on marking the man rather than following the ball but the girls were all fully committed when they were on court.

