



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We seem to live in an increasingly digital age. This week was the introduction of the NHS COVID-19 App and also our new Parents' Evening Booking System. You will soon receive a letter regarding Parents' Evenings (if you haven't already) and this term we will be booking these via a website, and they will be held on video.

I suspect many of you are a little exasperated with Teams, Parent Portals, Doodle Apps etc. and I do appreciate the difficulty that these can bring – particularly with remembering passwords! You will be pleased to know that the Parents' Evening Booking System uses your iSAMS Parent Portal login details for access.

We are here to help so please do get back in touch if you are having problems – or have forgotten your Parent Portal Login details. Please also be patient with requests for help – we are not always able to return calls and emails immediately.

We are really pleased with the way the children have re-engaged with their learning this term and are keen to feed that back to you via the Parents' Evenings. They made much progress during lockdown and that is credit to you too for persevering with the remote learning. You will be able to see the comprehensive Remote Learning Provision with photos on our website soon.

Our Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed their two adventure-filled days at Viney Hill, taking part in all the physical challenges – crate stacking, low ropes, bridge and den building - and learning to work as a team: photos attached. Toasting marshmallows around the campfire was a definite hit with everyone. The staff, too, had an excellent time joining in with various activities; Mr Banks managed to stack 18 crates with Miss Evans very close behind with 17 (very impressive for a first attempt), while Miss Keegan and Mr Morphew did the best at archery!

I understand from the other independent schools in Cheltenham that Berky has the largest Reception Class. We continue to attract lots of enquiries, and I know the Day Nursery has a long waiting list. However, we do have some spaces further up the school and we will be holding our Autumn Open Morning on Saturday 10th October. I am afraid, though, that due to the current guidance, this will be by appointment only and we won't be having any of the children in school. I know that they enjoy coming into school for Open Morning – particularly Year 6 who usually act as guides. I am hoping that you will all be welcome to come to our Open Morning in the Spring Term.

If you know of any parents looking for the happy, supportive and individualised education that we offer, then do please ask them to get in touch.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 29th September

5.00pm - Year 3 On-Line Parents' Evening

Thur 1st October

Am - Reception walk of local area





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### NEWS FROM THE PRE-PREP

What a lovely start to term Year 2 have had! The children are fully immersed in our 'Rainforest' topic, and have already created an impressive array of rainforest art - pen and ink studies inspired by Amazonian Indian artist Nixiwaka Yawanawa and vibrant paintings of rainforest creatures and plants.

To the huge excitement of the children and staff, we have adopted two gorillas. 2L are the proud adoptive parents of Chimanuka and 2T of Mugaruka. They are a pair of rare eastern lowland gorillas and they live in the rainforests of Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Chimanuka is the leader of a harem of 20 female gorillas. Mugaruka was the victim of a poacher's snare, and as a result lost one of his hands. We are all very excited to learn more about gorillas, as well as other rainforest animals. KT



Mr Agg, our cello and double bass teacher, is cycling 300 miles this month in aid of Cancer Research UK. If you would like to read more about his story and/or make a donation in support of this worthy enterprise, please visit his page: [fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jamess-cycle-300-fundraising-page-276](https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jamess-cycle-300-fundraising-page-276)

### CHELTENHAM FOODBANK

Traditionally at this time of year, our Harvest Festival service takes place at All Saints' Church. It is always a super event, with the whole school community coming together just before the half term break. Unfortunately the church service won't be happening this year, although we will be celebrating at school instead. We are also hoping that people will still consider donating to the Cheltenham Foodbank to help local families in crisis...

[cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk](http://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk)

Your help will be hugely appreciated.



**Parking...**  
Could Parents PLEASE NOT park in the Day Nursery Car Park for drop-off or pick up. The car park is for Day Nursery Parents and School Minibuses and must be left free for this.