



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I sense that there is much more optimism now that we know that all the children are returning on 8th March. The letter containing the details for this has now also been sent to you and I know the staff will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the children are safe in school. I hope too that you are aware that the staff are tested twice a week which gives further reassurance of safety. I hope too that you will continue to follow the government roadmap for coming out of lockdown as this will help to ensure we do not have to close any bubbles when the children return.

We have had a busy week it seems - I am able to monitor what is happening via Teams. I started the week with an assembly on the Mars Rover 'Perseverance' and I know the children were interested and excited about looking at worlds beyond our atmosphere. In Year 2 they have also been travelling, studying various countries around the world and having lots of fun along the way... trying to eat Baked Beans with chop sticks being one activity.

Year 6 have published their second podcast... do have a listen using this link:  
<https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-6gdpc-fbbc2e>

The podcast includes a Year 6 review of Britain's Got Talent, an interview with a Year 4 pupil about the pros and cons of remote learning, a Year 6 reading of a bilingual book (Spanish and English) called 'Where is my crocodile?' and an interview with Mrs Agg in which Mr Banks asks her questions set by Y6. A big thank you to Mrs Langley, Mrs Toma and Mr Banks - and to all the staff for continuing to make home schooling creative, educational and such fun too.

We have added three extra days – two onto the end of this term and one onto the beginning of next with the aim of giving the children more time together – without a computer screen! There is a narrative in the press at the moment that children are losing out and falling behind, and that they need to catch up. These three days are not for 'catch up' and I disagree with the idea of 'lost learning'. What the children learn in life is so much more than what happens in the classroom and there is no doubt that they will have benefitted from the remote learning programme and all that you have done with them at home too. We continue to assess the children remotely and will ensure that where they need support moving forwards, they will get it – as we always do. I hope that our children won't feel they have lost anything from this difficult time. I know for a fact they haven't lost their love of learning.

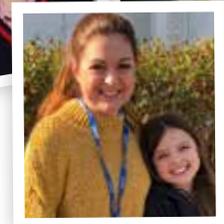


FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY  
SPRING TERM



### The Berky Podcast

Education





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

I am mindful, though, that with the increased use of computers for learning over the last twelve months that we must still ensure the children are not exposed to inappropriate content. May I remind you that social media and gaming websites such as Instagram, Twitter and TikTok are age rated at 13+ if not higher - WhatsApp is age rated at 16+. This includes YouTube - children need to be 13+ before having their own YouTube channel. Later in March, we will be inviting Year 4 and 5 parents to a meeting (on Teams) that will include an e-safety briefing for you. In the meantime, PC Fiona our local Schoolsbeat Officer has provided some very useful links to online safety advice and resources:

The NSPCC's online Net Aware service provides expert reviews and safety advice on all of the most popular social networks, apps and games young people are using:

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

CEOP's ThinkUKnow website contains resources and advice tailored by age, as well as specific tools for parents and professionals:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Also, below is the link to a Panorama episode which looked into how safe TikTok really is:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000p3p9/panorama-is-tiktok-safe>

*Richard*

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