



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We've nearly reached the end of term and this week has been a little like being on the set of a film! The Evenlode Films and Production Company have been in school filming aspects of school life for our virtual school tour video. The challenge always is to capture the Berky ethos and spirit but Catherine, one of the Founders of Evenlode Films, was a parent at Berky and so knows us well.

The film crew have spent time filming across the school and have also used drones to film above the school as well as the Rugby and Cricket grounds. The children and staff have been brilliant and been both confident and engaging in front of the camera. I am really looking forward to seeing the footage and the final film. As soon as it is available, we will put it up on the website for you to see.

The House matches have been eagerly contested again this year... following their postponement last year. The children have done so well adapting to year group Football and Hockey matches.

It was the turn of Year 3 and 4 to undertake the National Quiz heats this week and didn't they do well - please see Mr Cole's report for further details. We certainly have some knowledgeable pupils in our midst.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the staff for their hard work this term. We have missed so much of the normal Spring term – the trips and visits, Pancake Races, the weekly football and netball fixtures, chicks hatching out in Kindergarten, the Year 2 History Mystery (which we hope to put on next term), the Chess matches and, of course, the annual Spring Concert. However, the staff's input, time and energy in remote teaching and learning was phenomenal and the children responded brilliantly. We have a talented staff whose care and commitment to the children's needs means that each receives a first-class education.

It simply remains for me to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter break... fingers crossed for some warm weather and meeting up in gardens! May I remind you that the Summer term begins on **Monday 19th April** and that summer uniform may be worn from this date should the weather be kind enough.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Reminder...

Can I remind you that if anyone in your family takes a test then the household (all children and parents) should self-isolate until the result is known.

Thank you.



FRIDAY 26TH MARCH
SPRING TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 29th March

No after-school club
or Tea-time Club

Tue 30th March

End of term - no after school
or Tea-time club

Monday 19th April

Summer term begins



Reception...

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to speak to us about your child's progress



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News from Early Years

The Kindergarten children have loved all the excitement and drama of the film crew being around school this week. They enjoyed looking at all the different props and lights needed to create our promotional film; some pieces of equipment have been described as 'a giant sun' and an 'enormous family skateboard'. I am always proud of our children, but this week they have behaved particularly beautifully, following instructions and coping well with changes to their routine.

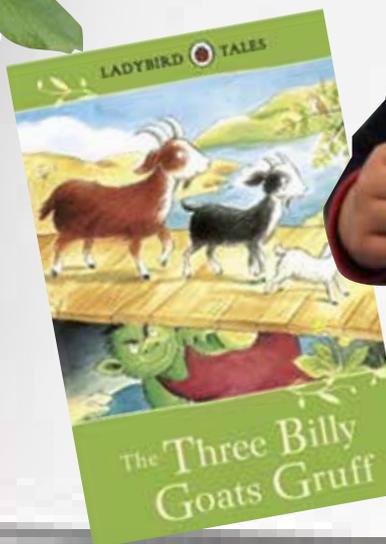
Spring really feels as if it is here and we have been enjoying lots of time in the outdoor classroom. We have been planting daffodils in our containers which has really brightened up the outdoor area. We have had fun using our senses to smell different scents and the children have planted sage and thyme to create a picking patch; we would like to plant more herbs so any cuttings you can donate would be gratefully appreciated.

The Reception children are continuing to enjoy their theme of "Traditional Tales". They have been very busy planting beans and sunflowers and have been very diligent gardeners, ensuring that their plants have plenty of water, warmth and light. The children have observed their plants very carefully and great excitement occurred this week as tiny shoots have sprung up in several pots! They are looking forward to taking their beans home and continuing to look after them.

During Literacy, the children have been "Trip Trapping" this week with our latest traditional tale "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". We discussed describing words to describe the Troll and they came up with words such as ugly, bad, naughty, frightening and scary. The children then created some 'Wanted!' posters to warn everyone about the Troll. They suggested that they built new strong bridges so the goats could cross the river safely away from the Troll!

The children have loved performing their choral speaking "Bunnies" for the Spring Service; both Mrs Gargan and myself have been proud of the way they have learned the lines and actions.

We are looking forward to the extra two days next week. On Monday, we are hosting a Stem Day on which the children will experience a series of science activities to encourage them to engage in science learning. The activities will be linked to our current topic "Traditional Tales". On Tuesday, we will be holding an Arts and Crafts day linked to Easter!





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Reminder...

Prep pupils are encouraged to dress up in multicolours or as a food item on the last Tuesday of term (next week) for the two charities we are supporting this year. The School Council will be collecting £2 donations at the school gates for Cheltenham Food Bank and UN Refugee Agency.

Quiz news...

It has been a busy week or so of general knowledge quizzing for some of our pupils. A qualifying quiz before Christmas helped select teams of four in each of the Prep year groups and these teams have now taken part in their area heats.

All four teams performed very well against much larger schools. The Y6 and Y5 teams finished in 28th position and 27th position respectively in their 50-strong fields. Yesterday, a very excited Y3 team came 13th out of 35 schools while a sharp-as-a-tack Y4 quartet ended up a splendid 4th and has a chance of qualifying for the national final.

Well done to all these children: Rosemary B, Patrick D, Uma C, Matilda E (Y6); Zoe B, Otto S, Reuben A, Georgia A (Y5); Joseph W, Harry H, Tom C-G, Bertie L (Y4); Freddie L, George J, Alastair M, Wilf M (Y3). MC

