



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Phew! What started as a relatively quiet week on Monday morning turned out to be especially busy with lots of activities and of course the visit of the team of six inspectors. Whilst it is important that the inspection team see us as we are (which is why there is 24 hours' notice of their visit) the staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that the team have received all the information they need to get a full picture of the school. The team have met with staff, the children and some parents. They have been in lessons, assemblies, clubs and on the games field (in the snow)! They have looked at policies, at children's work, in staff files, in subject handbooks and judged us against all the hundreds of government regulations and statutory guidance. Thank you very much too for taking the time to complete the questionnaire – and for being so overwhelmingly complimentary. The children have been magnificent and as usual embraced having other adults in their lessons.

The report must remain confidential at this stage but I can say that we are extremely pleased with the outcome. I will of course issue the full report to you, for the School and Day Nursery, when it comes – in about 6 to 8 weeks.

I am pleased to see the '5 ways to Wellbeing' signs up in the Prep Playground. Through assemblies and CWB lessons the children have gained a good understanding of the 5 ways...

Connect - There is strong evidence that indicates that feeling close to, and valued by, other people is a fundamental human need and one that contributes to functioning well in the world.

Be active - Regular physical activity is associated with lower rates of depression and anxiety across all age groups.

Take notice - Studies have shown that being aware of what is taking place in the present directly enhances your well-being and savouring 'the moment' can help to reaffirm your life priorities.

Learn - Continued learning through life enhances self-esteem and encourages social interaction and a more active life.

Give - Research into actions for promoting happiness has shown that committing an act of kindness once a week over a six-week period is associated with an increase in wellbeing.

There are now 5 places in the playground where children can go to 'try out' one of the 5 ways. We aim to provide the children with the tools for managing their own wellbeing both now and in the future. If you would like more information on the 5-ways for Wellbeing then please speak to Mrs Bareham or look on-line.

This week many of the clubs and activities started with the Yoga Clubs for Year 2 and Prep being very much enjoyed by the children. I also heard that the Mandarin Club was thoroughly enjoyed with children explaining what they had learnt to parents as they left. The lunchtime cricket clubs have started too – making use of the new cricket nets. Let's hope we get better cricket weather in coming weeks – the hail and snow was not anticipated!

As I'm sure you appreciate the work that the Highways Agency are undertaking hasn't been completed yet. I have been assured by Highways that the School Safety Zone including a raised crossing and 'wig-wag' lights etc. is still on the schedule – but they clearly missed the Easter break to complete this. I will keep you up-to-date on their progress with this.

Have a great Bank Holiday weekend and see you next week.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 28TH APRIL
SUMMER TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 1st May
**BANK HOLIDAY -
SCHOOL CLOSED**

Tue 2nd May – Sun 14th May
Cheltenham Festival of
Performing Arts

Wed 3rd May
Year 1 Pirate Cooking
10.30am-12.30pm Year 6 Trip to
SATIPS Cheltenham College Art
Exhibition

2.15pm – Cricket U11C v
Cheltenham College (A)
2.15pm – Rounders U11A, U11B
v Rendcomb College (A)
2.30pm – Cricket U11A, U11B
v Rendcomb College (A)

Fri 5th May, from 9.00am
Year 2 Verse Speaking, Town Hall
(individual times TBC)
2.30pm – Cricket U9 v Bredon (H)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

RECEPTION AT THE FARM PARK

Reception children enjoyed a trip to Cotswold Farm Park this week. This trip was for the children to gain hands on experience in a 'forest school' environment. The children didn't seem to notice the cold weather as they experienced a variety of activities ranging from seeing baby lambs, chicks, and rabbits chatting, meeting the animals, feeding the animals and the falconry display. All this, as well as a picnic left them and the staff feeling sleepy for the coach ride home. The children behaved impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

The Reception children have been enjoying listening to traditional stories so our topic this term is "Traditional Tales."

After reading the Gingerbread Man the children were shown a painting of a river and asked what could be built to help him cross this river. They were asked to work in pairs to construct a bridge for the Gingerbread Man to cross the river to escape from the fox! Lots of measuring and engineering took place and brilliant bridges were made. Some bridges had lots of traps designed just in case the fox tried to run after the Gingerbread Man! The children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and discussed what would have happened had there been a bridge.

During forest school the children were challenged to become detectives for the afternoon. Armed with magnifying glasses, they became detectives and used all their senses to find objects on their list within the wildlife garden. The children loved this type of detective work and discussed their findings with each other!

It is hard to believe we are over half way through the school year and are already thinking of ways of making transition to Year 1 easy for the children. The staff are encouraging them to be more independent when working in class. We would be grateful of your support in the mornings; when you and your child come into the Reception area to drop off their bags at the top of the stairs, please put them in the boxes provided for them and accompany your child out onto the playground. It is important for your child to go into the playground to play with their friends and line up alongside Years 1 and 2. For health and safety reasons this will also ease the congestion in the Reception area. No child should be left in Reception without adult supervision.

Y1 LATE SPRING WALK

Children in Y1 were undeterred by the rain last Thursday and enjoyed a late spring walk to Pittville Park to investigate changes since their last visit in March and previous visits throughout the year as part of their ongoing science learning about seasonal changes.

The loss of the crocus and daffodils was mourned but we recorded an abundance of different spring flowers. We took particular note of the flowers on the trees and were surprised to see flowering holly and horse chestnut trees which we most usually recognise by their fruits and berries. Those most observant among us also spotted a variety of minibeasts which they accurately recorded and drew.

The children were all very well behaved and the local volunteer group working in the park was very interested in the observations the children were making and were keen to forge links with the school.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations on a terrific set of results to all those who took music exams last term.

(*Denotes Pass with Merit, ** Pass with Distinction/Honours)

Prep Test Piano

Daisy O, Millie W, Rosemary B, Lorien S.

Grade 1

Vamika B (Flute), Georgina J (Cornet**),
Griff L (Trombone**)

Grade 2

Max S (Cornet), Archie M (Violin),
Katie L (Flute), Griff L
(Piano*), Daisy H (Singing*)

Grade 3

Evie G (Cornet*), James S (Cornet*),
Alice H (Piano*), Oli W (Cello**)

Grade 4

Sarah D (Recorder**)

Grade 5

Leslie M (Oboe**)

Grade 6

Rhys L (Piano)

Congratulations to Leslie More who has also achieved a place in the National Schools Symphony Orchestra as a viola player. She will be taking part on a music course in the summer holidays.

KEEP ON RUNNING!

We are so proud of Mrs Holland for completing the London Marathon last Sunday in an impressive 4.26 mins. Mr Cross was delighted to present her with her medal in assembly this week, after she had told the children about the wonderful sense of togetherness that she experienced from other runners, as well as the endless support from the crowds. Mrs Holland was raising money for the Neil Vines Trust, a charity which supports cancer sufferers and their families.

If you would like to donate, please visit
www.justgiving.com and search Jacqueline Holland.



CHESS

The Cheltenham and District Primary Schools' Chess Association's annual congress took place on the first Saturday of the Easter holidays. The Berky contingent represented the school wonderfully and played some superb chess. Oli S and Rupert G emerged as joint winners of the 'Top Y3' prize and were 8th overall. James S came 5th, while Toby M and Jack P ended the day 2nd with splendid 'P7 W6 L1' records.

Huge congratulations are due to George de B-T who, with a faultless 7 wins from 7 matches, is the new district champion – and only the fourth ever Berky player to win this competition. The Wheeler Cup which is awarded to the most successful school has also been retained by Berkhampstead.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

CRICKET

UII v RGS Springfield, Worcs

RGS - 34 for 6

Berky- 129 for 0



Our opening fixture of the season was a training game against RGS Springfield. Adapting to playing in bright sunshine, snow and cold temperatures the boys made a great start to the season. RGS batted first, including some of our players in their line up. Bertie batted nicely for them, scoring 7. All of our boys bowled, with wickets coming from Ollie R, Henry, Charlton, George and Rhys. Henry bowled particularly well, starting the season with a double wicket maiden. RGS concluded their innings on 34 for 6.

This was a good opportunity for all of the players to gain some experience in the middle and impressively every player scored. Adam (15) and Sam (14) were the stand out batsmen. There was also some stylish batting from Harry who scored a four with a classic off drive. Our final total was 129-0, winning by 94 runs and scoring 13 boundaries in the process.

Well done to all of the boys for adapting well in challenging conditions and for the excellent team spirit that was shown throughout. Many thanks to the parents for braving the cold to support the team.

