



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Another week has shot by - as ever, it has been full of hard work, successes and challenges. I find myself continually impressed by the resilience and resourcefulness of our community - parents, children and the Berky staff - adapting at a moment's notice to online learning. The staff are trying their hardest to offer both academic and emotional support to both children and parents and dealing with their own families and personal problems too; all the while, they have remained calm, cheerful and professional, listening to what parents suggest, and ready to adapt or even alter their plans when necessary. It is all as good as it can be in the circumstances and I sincerely believe that our Remote Learning package is - while by no means as enjoyable and effective as learning here in school - carefully considered and full of interest and variety; although there are bound to be people who would like things done differently, it is evident from the many emails and comments we have received that what we are doing suits the vast majority very well. Please continue to support us with your comments; they do so much to maintain morale when we are striving constantly to do our very best in these difficult times.

At this point, I would like to say a special thank you to the parents - many of them classed as Key Workers - who have continued to keep their children at home and supervise their education alongside doing their own work. Whether or not you are a key worker is irrelevant; it is extremely hard work juggling the two and trying to remain calm and purposeful. My own children and grandchildren fall into this category so I know the difficulties and frustrations of this arrangement all but first-hand! For those who are not classed as Key Workers, life is particularly difficult for you at the moment; your jobs and businesses are the ones currently classed as 'non-essential'. However, they are equally important and valuable to society; they are the 'icing on the cake'... and therefore in many ways the most special bit! Again, I have personal experience of this as my son - a musician - is currently wondering whether he will ever play a gig or do a recording again. It is heartbreaking.

This week has seen the launch of the Berky Podcast by the ever-enterprising Mr Banks. Several Year 6 children speak on a variety of subjects - there are tips on mindfulness, some very amusing jokes to cheer us all up and a more serious current affairs report. To access the Podcast, there is a link via Teams, or else search for 'The Berky Podcast' on the Podcast App available on Apple devices, it is well worth a listen!

Today and over the weekend is the Big Garden Birdwatch run by the RSPB. This is the world's largest wildlife survey and involves counting the birds you see in your garden over the course of an hour. You can also research the type of birds you can see there. For more information, go to www.rspb.org.uk. Mrs de Burgh-Thomas would love to see any photos of birds you manage to take; please send these to prmarketing@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

Mr Cross is much better and is gradually easing himself back into Berky life; we are all very relieved that he has recovered and delighted to welcome him back. Covid is a dreadful illness and we must continue to exercise the strictest of measures to ensure everyone's safety, especially here at school where more people are gathered together. You can be assured that we are maintaining rigorous health and safety procedures.

Next week, the whole school will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week – a focus which is particularly important this year when many children are suffering the effects of isolation from their friends. On Monday, we are hoping that everyone will 'Dress to Express', whether they are at home or in school; again, please send your pictures to pmarketing@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk; we would love to see them! You will have had a separate letter about other activities planned for the week.

It seems apposite to finish this letter with a reminder of our school motto - Perseverantia Vincit. Keep going, everyone - it is tough but we will get through this and emerge at the end all the more appreciative of normal school life.

Gill

Gill Agg
Deputy Head

