



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of another term. The last week usually contains some special events and this was certainly true this term: Year 2 finished off their Castle project with an exciting trip to Warwick Castle, the Prep children rehearsed for, and performed in, Wednesday's Spring Concert, the first meeting of the Prep eco-warrior team was held with great enthusiasm, the Prep held their annual House Cross Country event and - to round off the term - the school gathered together for their Mother's Day Service.

The long-awaited results of the Year 4, 5 and 6 500 Word Story Competition were announced on Tuesday and the winning stories were read out in Assembly. Bea-Bea was the Year 4 winner with her well-worded story 'The Audition'; runners-up were Harry M and Matilda E and highly commended were Jennella, Hannah H and Isabella E. Griff's exciting but sad story 'The Hunt' was the Year 5 winner with Alessio and Izzy K as the runners-up and Grace, Jonathan and Arabella highly commended. In Year 6, Frankie's story, 'Remorse,' set in the time of the Great Fire of London, was the winner with Sophie as runner-up and Finian, Lizzie and Noah highly commended.

Wednesday was the day of our two fantastic Spring Concerts in Pittville Pump Room, overseen by Mrs Mitchell; the day consisted of many rehearsals and much toing and froing in minibuses. The two Simons (our Estates team) spent much time over three days loading vans with equipment and transporting it up to the concert venue, where everything then had to be unpacked again; we are very grateful for their hard work and efficiency. As ever, the concerts displayed an astonishing variety and standard of music, performed by both beginners and more experienced players: the choirs sang superbly and the ensembles - jazz, chamber, string, keyboard, samba and percussion - were all brilliant. The Year 2 children made their first appearance at a Spring Concert, performing their 'Medieval Tale' with great poise and precision. The evening concert ended with an exuberant whole-school performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' which was thoroughly enjoyed by both audience and participants - a triumph!

Resilience and tenacity were in evidence yesterday when all the Prep children took part in the House Cross Country. We have many children who love running - eagerly assembling early every Friday morning for Running Club - but this is not everybody's favourite activity, so it is especially good to see the effort put in by every child for their House at this event, and to witness the many acts of kindness and words of support offered by the children to their friends. Everybody's effort counted towards their House total; the winning House was St. David's, no doubt helped by super-speedy Patrick who broke the existing Year 4 record.



FRIDAY 29TH MARCH  
SPRING TERM

*Diary dates...*

SUMMER TERM BEGINS  
Wed 24th April



Uniform shop...

Easter Opening -  
11th April from  
10.30am until 12.00 noon



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

Today - the last day of term - will end with our Mother's Day Service at All Saints' Church. I am looking forward to Year 2's telling of the story of Moses, Reception's singing and Year 1's display of pictures of their mums. Guitar Club will get their moment in the spotlight as they perform for the service and several Prep children will read poems and prayers confidently and clearly. What a lovely way to finish the term!

Sadly, we say goodbye to Azlaan and Arsalaan, who are heading off to India, and to Tess in Year 1; we wish them well in their new schools. Joining us next term are: Leo D, Isla E, Annabel W, Ralph A, Jocelyn A, Eleanor C and Jemima H-S in Kindergarten, Wilfred M in 1LK and Reuben A in 3C. We hope that they will all settle down happily and enjoy their time with us.

Over the holiday, the Estates team will be hard at work, as ever. Their most exciting jobs are the laying of a new surface incorporating a race track in front of Kindergarten and the installation of the new Storytelling chair, ready for next term; the race track is being funded by the PTA and the chair was a gift from last year's Year 6 Leavers.

I wish you a happy and restful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again next term.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



*Reminder...*

If you are having a Spring clean over Easter - please save any women's clothes - for a Fashion Recycling stall at the Summer Fete.



*Berky gets greener...*

A task from our eco-warriors is to please try to ditch clingfilm - Keep food fresh using alternative methods such as using Tupperware or putting a plate on top of the bowl before refrigerating leftover food.

Thank you!



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from Early Years...

Both Kindergarten and Reception Parents' Evenings went very well, and it was so positive to share with you the progress the children are making and what they have been learning. Please feel free to see staff at any time if you have questions or concerns about your child.

Our Early Years end of term party was yet another morning to remember for the children. The children and staff spent the morning playing traditional games such as Lotto and doing Spring colouring. The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the games and particularly enjoyed their special snack!

As part of the Bristol Standards procedure we are reviewing our classroom resources and are gradually replacing plastic for natural resources. Natural materials stimulate children's creativity and imagination as they can be used in play in many ways; They have a sensory benefit, they have different textures, sizes, colours and smells. They provide more tactile stimulation to children to help them improve their hand/finger awareness and coordination.

We would be most grateful if you are 'Spring Cleaning' this holiday for any donations of small world play toys, jigsaws and games for the children (preferably wooden). We would be very grateful for any donations.

What a fantastic term in Kindergarten! We have all enjoyed our topics; Percy the Park Keeper and Changes in Nature. The children's enthusiasm for learning and their ideas have led the activities; they decided to use different junk materials to create animals and make hedgehog cakes complete with mint sticks for spines.

Then the arrival of our ten chicks and watching the life cycle of a frog helped before our eyes in the nature garden was a delight.



To finish the term we were lucky enough to take some of the Kindergarten children to Redwood Outdoor Learning Centre where we looked for signs of spring. The children found new leaves and catkins on a hazel tree and a carpet of bluebells, celandine and primroses growing within the woodland areas. We made butterflies using natural materials found on the woodland floor, enjoyed our first outdoor picnic and finished by playing games in the meadow.

The Reception children have enjoyed their last week of 'Favourite Stories' They have already created mind maps for our next term's topic 'Stories from Long Ago' (Traditional Tales). There are many exciting activities already planned; everyone is looking forward to learning about those famous stories. The staff and children are looking forward to our trip to Fairy Tale Farm early in the Summer term.

As it was our last Forest School session this term, whilst they were enjoying each other's company, the children reflected upon what they have learnt this term and what they would like to learn next term.

The staff wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you at the beginning of the Summer term.



### THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

#### Kindergarten

Alex B, Seth L, Ellie K, Chloe W, Alanah F, Jacob H, Molly R, Toby M, George P.

#### Reception

Olly B, Izzy B, Olivia M, Lara C, Rosie E, Fergus G, Phoebe B, Lucas DCV.

BERKHAMPSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
VALUES TREE





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### WELLBEING POD UPDATE

The PTA worked tirelessly to raise an incredible £10,000 for a wellbeing pod for the Prep side of the road, and we are so grateful, as it will be truly beneficial to plenty of our pupils. It will provide a tranquil and private space for pupils who may need counselling. Some of our pupils may be suffering from anxiety, and others may have been bereaved. For some, it will provide a private space to talk about worries, while others may simply need a quiet space to escape the noise and bustle of the playground.

Our application is currently being considered, and the planning department have suggested that comments of support from staff and parents lodged on the application will be beneficial to support our case.

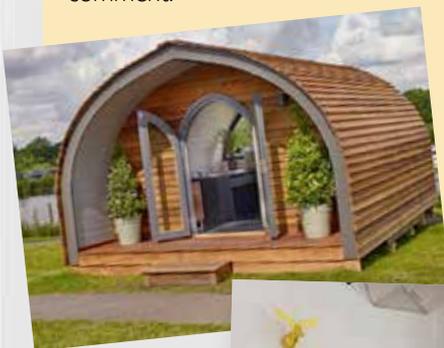
To do this, you will need to access the Public Access site and then use the planning application reference number which is **19/00388/FUL**.

Access the site by following:

<https://publicaccess.cheltenham.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Please state why you support the application, for example to provide a valuable resource, much needed facility etc.

There is an option to make a Public Comment and you will simply need to register and then you can post a comment.



### Reminder...

Please can we remind everyone to name all uniform and kit - including tupperware - that comes into school, as each term we collect a huge amount of lost property. Thank you

### CHESS REPORT

A tense District Cup Final ended in a narrow 4-2 defeat for Berky against the Richard Pate School. Our young team has enjoyed a wonderful season and can take great pride in their achievements. The cup final team was Griff L (captain), Rupert G, Oli S, Jonathan B, Ethan A, Harry W and Lottie A (reserve). All played with great determination and no little skill in the final but RPS's greater experience just told in the end. MC





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## Sports reports...

### NETBALL

**U9B v Dean Close  
Won 4-0**

What a great last game. There was movement, there was defending and there was some driving towards the ball! The girls worked so hard and kept fighting until the end. Serena and Lilah made some great interceptions after they found their feet. Holly and Aunielle worked well together creating opportunities for Holly, Isabella and Serena to have a shot. Isabella moved well around the D as GS in the first half, creating space for Holly to drive into. At half time the score was 2-0; we made some more changes and started strong. Hannah produced some good passes to help the team retain possession. Matilda kept with her player well causing Dean Close to lose the ball a few times. Serena worked well with Holly the D in as GS, creating good space around the D.

Well done girls, a great last game.

**U9A v Dean Close  
Lost 5-2**

Another excellent game from the Berky U9A girls for the final match of the season! The team, as always, worked brilliantly together and showed super netball skills even though the final score was not in our favour! We played this match on the indoor court, which was not only confusing with so many lines, but was also absolutely massive! Nevertheless, throughout the match there was wonderful attacking play (from Lottie, Rosemary, Uma and Matilda) allowing Rosemary and Matilda E to have plenty of shots at goal, although for some reason today, they were just not going in! The defenders (Beatrice, Jennella, Anna and Lucy) worked brilliantly to keep the Dean Close goals down to only 5.

I can't believe the netball season is over but I am very proud of what the girls achieved this season (a tally of 51 goals for and only 32 against!). All played with tremendous attitude and sportsmanship. Well done girls!

### FOOTBALL

**U9B v St Edward's  
Won 1-0**

In our 10th and last game of the season the Bs were looking to finish on a positive note. With a squad of 10 players the three reserves swapped seamlessly throughout the match. The one player who stayed in position was our goalkeeper Will S and what a great contribution he made, making a number of excellent saves using hands, knees and a nose!

An early goal from our attack led by Henry set the tone of the match and he was unlucky not to get us further ahead with an excellent effort hitting the crossbar late on in the first half. Will J, Mateo and Albie worked tirelessly in attack applying constant pressure to the St Edward's defence. Luke, Charles, Hugo and Harry swapping in and out of attack were all unlucky not to score and with St Edward's pressing our defence late on in the match and catching us several times on the counter it was left to our captain Robert to steady the ship, clear the ball out of defence and secure an excellent win for Berky. Well done boys!

