

Huge congratulations to Miss Chamberlain who is getting married tomorrow, and will return as Mrs Rees next week. We wish the couple much happiness.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

Dear Parents,

We have heard so much about the Year 5 children's exciting residential trip this week; the Year 6 children are now looking forward to the summer when they will be able to revisit Viney Hill for all sorts of new activities - such as canoeing and mountain biking - within a comfortably familiar environment.

The weather has been kind for all the Pre-Prep trips this week: Reception went on a walk around the local area looking at different types of houses, Year 1 visited the West Midland Safari Park in search of rainforest animals and the intrepid Year 2s climbed aboard ship at Bristol Docks. By all accounts, all these trips were great fun and the children - as ever - behaved beautifully.

Mr Cross celebrated his birthday on Tuesday...and how better to spend it than at school? He had a lovely time wearing the special birthday hat to read a story to the attentive Kindergarten children.

As promised in the last newsletter, a word about the Year 6 Body Percussion Workshop at Rendcomb College: this was great fun, although it was quite hard to succeed unless you were better coordinated than I proved to be! The children were full of enthusiasm, some slapping themselves so hard that they had bruised legs to show for it. We were so proud when Ella V contributed an excellent idea for a rhythm which was used in the final show. At the end of the day, we watched in awe as Oli the workshop leader (who has been a performer in the show 'Stomp') gave us an impressive display of his skills before the children showed their parents what they had learned.

Miss Evans has been very pleased by the standard of work submitted for the competition to find artwork with a book theme; the new Pre-Prep library - although both smart and beautiful - is crying out for children's work to hang on its walls! If your child is intending to enter this competition, please ensure that their picture has been submitted by Wednesday 4th October; we want our Library looking its best for Open Morning on Saturday 7th October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Barron and Mr Martin for their dedication to the 'Open the Book' assemblies which they organise for Pre-Prep children every Thursday morning. This involves taking the assembly and reading a Bible story while the children - in appropriate costumes - act out the story. Mrs Barron and Mr Martin are looking for parents to take over this important and enjoyable role so if any parents are interested, please speak to one of them, leave them a note in the Office or speak to me.

On a slightly grumbly note, we have an ever-growing mass of unnamed uniform here in school. Please ensure that your children's belongings are labelled with their name (not just initials) so that property can be returned promptly to its rightful owner. If items of uniform are missing, please remember that for safeguarding reasons, parents are not allowed in the Prep changing rooms; it is up to your child to go and search for lost things in those places.

Finally, we would all like to congratulate the Year 6 children for the care and consideration they have shown for the new Year 3s, not just at the beginning of term but ongoing; at the recent Year 3 Parents' Evening, we were overwhelmed with lovely comments about just how well the younger members of Prep had been looked after. Thank you, Year 6 - it is very much appreciated.

Gill Agg
Deputy Head

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 2nd October

Year 6 IT and Geography Trip

Wed 4th October

2.30pm - Rugby UIIB v RGS
Springfield (A)

2.30pm - Rugby UI0 v
Beauesert (A)

6.00pm - 4E Parents' Evening

Thu 5th October

4.00pm - Hockey U9A, U9B
v St Edward's (A)

4.00pm - Cross Country at
Pittville Park

6.00pm - 4T Parents' Evening

Fri 6th October

8.40am - Visiting Head' Assembly
- Mr David Morton, King's School,
Gloucester - Parents invited to
watch assembly and join
Mr Morton for coffee.

1.00pm - Year
5/6 Girls Football
Tournament

2.30pm -
Hockey U9 v
Rendcomb (H)
3.30pm - Rugby
U9A, U9B v
St Edward's (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school



Thank you for attending Kindergarten and Reception Introductory meetings; it was good to show and discuss with you what the children get up to during their busy day in Early Years! The staff are looking forward to sharing the children's progress with you during Parents' Evening. Reception Parents' Evening is on Thursday 12th October and Kindergarten is on Thursday 19th October.

KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten we have been continuing our topic on bears; the children have enjoyed making yummy bear food in our mud kitchen, learning to count up to 5, 10 or 20 and then using scissor skills to create a bed full of bears.

In our Letters and Sounds sessions we have been concentrating on sound lotto; the children listened to a series of sounds created by musical instruments and then found a picture that matched the sound. The children also played a singing game of 'Teddy is lost outside;' Teddy is hidden in our outdoor classroom and one child is chosen to rescue him. The other children sing loudly as the rescuer gets closer or quietly as the rescuer gets further away; fortunately we have all been practising singing the same song.

On Wednesday we sang Happy Birthday to Mr Cross and everyone enjoyed listening to him read Hugless Douglas (a bear story); he was so impressed with how the children listened and sat so beautifully throughout.

RECEPTION

Reception children have been very busy this week finding out about the days of the week and positional language. They illustrated their own diary and sequenced days of the week using the visual timetable pictures. Later, during the week they explored positional language playing "Simon Says". After reading "The ladybird moves home", the children were challenged to help the ladybird complete the garden obstacle course using positional language for her to find her perfect home!

In one of our carousel groups the children went out for a walk around the local area. Their task was to look at the different types of houses, road features, signs, shops etc. We took photographs as we walked and spotted lots of different types of houses. On return to school the photographs were printed off and a map was created of their walk. Do come and see the displays.

During Forest School this week, the children explored nature rubbings. The children went to explore different textures in the nature garden, using their crayons and paper to look at and create different textures. After such an exciting activity, they sat in the outdoor classroom to discuss the textures the children had observed. Some super rubbings were created!

It is so important that you check in your child's book bag every day after school as we may have put letters, invites and other important information inside it. Please can you also make sure that your child's reading words and reading record are

sent into school every day as we hear them read during the day. Please feel free to write a small comment in your child's reading record. Library books are changed every Friday and the children have a reading rest every Wednesday. No book bags will be sent home on Wednesdays. The children do not need to bring in their red shoe bags every day just on PE, Supa strikers and ballet days.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Polite reminder
Please do not pull into the front of the school to collect children from late club. This not only can put children in danger, but parked cars get in the way of minibuses returning to school.

News from around the school

YEAR 1 VISIT WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK

On Tuesday Year 1 put on their explorer's hats and set off to West Midland Safari Park in search of rainforest creatures. The day trip started with a wonderful tour around the Safari Park! Some of the highlights included a giraffe popping its head through the coach window, some very sleepy white tigers and lions, a very playful young elephant and a camel who wanted to stop the traffic.

After the safari we stopped for lunch and then had a walk around the park. Everyone loved watching the penguins playing and walking through the lorikeets area, some lucky individuals had some of the birds land on them! We walked through the dinosaur land - rather quickly - and then went on to our rainforest creature workshop. Everyone had the chance to handle creatures ranging from millipedes to corn snakes, although most of the adults chose not to participate.

After a long and exciting day we headed back to the coach and made our way home. A great day was had by all!

MUSIC NEWS

BODY PERCUSSION WORKSHOP

From the moment we stepped into the beautiful new performing arts building at Rendcomb College we were challenged to keep up with Oli Turner, our leader for some very exciting Body Percussion sessions. As he explained, Body Percussion is hitting yourself in time to a beat!

With 150 other Y6 pupils from various schools locally, Berky pupils showed great concentration and some very quick responses to learning various rhythmic riffs. As the patterns developed we were thrilled that a suggestion from Ella V was taken up for the group performance.

It was a tiring day of learning and activity and but Y6 demonstrated astonishing coordination, memory and rhythmic skills as they prepared for a terrific show at the end of the day.

Mrs Agg and I were left exhausted and awe-struck by the ability shown by so many!



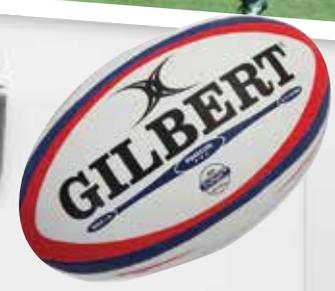
REMINDER

Please could all instrument cases be named clearly on the outside. Most children can identify their own case from attached ribbons and tags etc, but it is difficult for me and other staff to locate the correct owner, especially once the brown hire labels drop off!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

RUGBY

U8 v Richard Pate

On Friday we took the Under 8 Bison and Buffalo teams to the Richard Pate School for their first ever Rugby match for Berkhampstead. Richard Pate also has 2 teams. Each of our teams played a 10 minute game against both of their teams.

U8 Buffaloes v Richard Pate

I was very pleased with how the Buffaloes managed to keep their shape throughout the 2 games. In the first game we were able to start with the ball and both teams took it in turns to score. We managed to win 3 - 2. In the second game we started with the ball but were unable to keep the advantage and during the game we lost the ball to Richard Pate. That meant we were always chasing the game and lost 3 - 4. Had either of the games gone on for a minute longer they could have both been draws, so in the end the results were fair.

Tries were scored by Harry A, Patrick D, Will J and Henry R. Albie B-C and Leon R-W were both great in support, William S had some good strong runs and Freddie B captained well making some very good tags.

Great first games. More matches after half term. Well played boys!

Thank you to parents for their support.

U8 Bisons v Richard Pate

It was the first match of the season for the team. Harry M ably captained the side on his birthday. He made several strong runs, weaving around the opposing team before being tagged. Hugo supported the play very well being on hand to receive the ball. Luke made an amazing run from the half way line in the second match almost to score but unfortunately ran into touch. In the first match Michael, and Oliver M, Henry T all put their names on the score sheet crossing the line for great tries and Will C did so twice. They all made great runs bursting through the opposition and remaining elusive to the grappling hands of the Pate's players. The first match ended in a victory to Berky 5-3. The second match continued in a similar vein with great running, and great covering tackles, keeping the Pate's players from scoring. In return Henry T ran in two tries but Albie B really came to life and scored an amazing three. The final score in the second match was 5-2 to Berky. A great start to the season with great running and determination from all players.

U10 v Hatherop

Lost 9 -5

On Wednesday, the U10 boys travelled to Hatherop for their first rugby match of this half term. It was a physical match with both sides getting stuck in from the whistle. Hatherop started well and scored a try in the first minute or so. This took the boys by surprise I think and unfortunately they weren't quite organised enough to progress forward enough with the ball. There were some great tackles made by everyone but Oscar H stands out in this match because he tackled one of their bigger boys really well. As the match progressed there were some brilliant runs made which led to a series of tries scored by us. However, Hatherop had got off to a great start and the match finished 9-5 to them.

The try scorers in this match were George, Finian, Luke, Andrew and Oscar Hughes.

Well done to all the boys; despite the result this was a good match. Many thanks to the parents that came to support the boys.

U11A v Hatherop

Won 10-3

It was great to see how the boys had improved from last week's performance. The areas we had worked on in training were seen in abundance during the game. Our support play was superb, with several tries starting near our own try line and going through several pairs of hands before touching down. It was very exciting to watch. Our tries came from George (5), Eliot (2), Adam, Charlie and James S.

Also very pleasing was our defensive work. Our defensive line was well organised and we were much better in terms of technique as we executed our tackles. Benji and Jack had fine games in this area, making several excellent hits. I was also delighted with how the boys supported each other with encouragement, even when things didn't go to plan. The opposition coach mentioned this to me after the game which was very pleasing.

Well done boys for a fine performance and representing Berky so well. Many thanks to all of our loyal supporters.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

U9A v Beaudesert

Lost 2-0

On Wednesday, the U9As embarked on their first hockey match on the season. As we arrived at Beaudesert the weather was a little dull and there was certainly some moisture in the air, but braving the elements is all part and parcel of a hockey game. In the first quarter Beaudesert certainly tested the defensive line of Berky, and despite some excellent solid defence by Becky, Eleanor, and Grace, we conceded our first goal. Entering the second quarter, Berky demonstrated that they just needed a little time to warm up; they made some impressive attacks, travelling up the pitch as a whole pack and having several shots on goal. Come the final two quarters both teams continued to put up a good fight. Dulcie kept their goal keeper on her toes, making a few accurate shots on goal. Unfortunately Beaudesert managed to secure their lead, putting away a goal from a difficult angle, and despite Becky, and Pheobe in goal, getting a touch on it, the ball managed to find the far corner of the goal.

U9B v Beaudesert

Lost 3-2

Cheltenham was enjoying a spot of early autumn sunshine as we set off on Wednesday - Beaudesert was not! Drizzle, and later rain, greeted us for the U9B's first match of the season. However, the girls were on fine form with Cressie and Darcey making a fabulous pairing in attack leading to Darcey scoring after just 3 minutes! Beaudesert levelled just before the end of the first quarter. It was still even (2 all) at the end of the next quarter after another fantastic goal from Darcey. Super defence from both sides meant that no goals were scored in the third quarter, but Beaudesert did sneak one in towards the end of the game, giving a final score of 3:2 to Beaudesert. It was a great, evenly-matched game to watch and the Berky girls deserve to be very proud of their efforts! Well done to all!

U11A v Richard Pate

Won 2-1

Another close encounter with great play from both sides. Many of these girls play hockey out of school and it clearly showed. Ella had little to do in goal but slack marking in defence meant she had no chance to stop the Richard Pate's goal. Berky kept battling away with Alexa distributing the ball superbly to our super wings, Sarah and Florie and out to Emily in the centre forward position who also played a great game. Berky was playing great hockey and the pressure finally won through with goals from Emily and Sarah. A tremendous team performance from the whole squad. Well done!

U11B v Richard Pate

Won 1-0

This was a great team performance with everyone playing their part in a close match. Isi played her first match as goalkeeper and made a couple of crucial saves, with Chiara, Catherine and Zoe also playing well in front of her. Georgia and Hannah had their best game for Berky out on the wings making several good passes and runs down the side-lines. Eleanor battled away strongly at CH and there was also strong attacking play from Rosannah, Kyla and Darcy, playing out on the pitch for the first time for a long time. Kyla was voted 'man of the match' and deservedly so, having scored the only goal of the match and narrowly missing the goal on several other occasions. A fantastic result girls - well done!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...



PTA AGM AND QUIZ NIGHT

Last Friday saw the return of the annual PTA AGM and Quiz Night and what a fun, competitive evening it was!

Marc Titley tested our general knowledge well but in the end there could only be one winner and quite fittingly it was the 'Lost Cause' made up of several dedicated parents and our wonderful PTA Chair from last year, Steve Ackland; well done, team 'Lost Cause'!

A big thank you must go to Marc and Bethan for organising the fabulous questions and to Helen Ray for organising the food from the amazing Simpsons Fish & Chips; we were all well fed!

A good amount of money was raised on the night, which has started us off well for the fundraising efforts for the year ahead.

The fundraising project for this year has been suggested as a 'Wellbeing Pod' to be built on the Prep side of the school as a space for all children to visit, relax, reflect and take well-deserved time out as and when needed. The school are busy putting together different suggestions for the pod which will be discussed at the next PTA meeting.

The next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday 11th October at 8pm and all are welcome to attend.

Finally, the PTA Committee was voted for at the AGM on Friday evening and I am pleased to say we retained Graham and Francois from last year and we welcome two new members, Helen Ray and Harriet Pioli; a big thank you to everyone for their support.

Hope everyone has a great weekend.

Joey

