



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM**

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

The weather this week has ranged from icy to windy and very wet! Despite this our intrepid Year 4 scaled the ramparts at Chepstow Castle and we have had another bumper week of fixtures. I am looking forward to seeing the U9 boys and girls and U8 boys playing King's Gloucester this afternoon. As always, it is always lovely to see so many parents supporting and encouraging the children at our fixtures. As is consistent with our policy, every child has had the opportunity to represent the school in the last two weeks and they learn so much from this. On Wednesday afternoon all of the girls - U11, U10 and U9 played Wycliffe - and it made me think... I wonder how many fixtures we play. I did a quick tot up for this term and we have played an amazing 118 matches - my thanks to Charlotte Keegan and Pete McCreanor and all the games staff for all their efforts in managing the teams and arranging our comprehensive fixture list.

As I type, Christmas decorations are being put up around school and the children are finishing off backdrops for nativity plays, creating Christmas gifts for you (I couldn't possibly say what they are), rehearsing carols for services, putting decorations up around school as well as completing their academic work in all subjects. We look forward to the Christmas Fayre tomorrow and keep our fingers crossed that Father Christmas is able to get here on time.

We are a busy school - there is no doubt - and the children's experience is enhanced by this. They enjoy the trips, matches, visits and performances and just this term has been a staggering 25 trips and visits, 11 music events, plus weekly clubs in a range of areas, 15 other extra events - including 4 from our fabulous PTA. I know that these take a considerable amount of time to arrange and I regularly witness the extra time and effort that the Berky staff put in to ensuring these are not just educationally fulfilling but that the children are safe and have a wonderful experience. We wouldn't be able to fulfil these without the support of the children and yourselves. Thank you for all your support in every way - with prompting and preparing, with last minute costumes, games kit washing, accompanying the trips, and even getting the children to school on time! It is much appreciated and allows us to be the impressive school that we are.

I hope you have bought the necessary advent calendars... and have a lovely weekend.

*Richard*

**Richard Cross**  
Headmaster



## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Sat 1st Dec

11.00am-2.00pm PTA Christmas Fayre

#### Mon 3rd Dec

9.15am-Early Years Dress Rehearsal

9.30am-Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal

#### Tue 4th Dec

9.15am-Early Years Concert

(KG parents invited to watch)

9.30am-Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal

4.00pm-Carol Singing at Bay Tree Court (some Y3/4)

4.00pm-Chess v Richard Pate (A&B teams) (A)

#### Wed 5th Dec

9.15am-Early Years Concert

(Reception parents invited to watch)

9.30am-Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal

2.00pm-Hockey U11A, U11B v King's School, Gloucester (A)

2.30pm-Rugby U11, U10

v King's School, Gloucester (A)

2.30pm-Pre-Prep Nativity, All Saints' Church-parents welcome

3.45pm-4.30pm KG Wed Wander

#### Thur 6th Dec

Last swim for Y3 and Y2

4.15pm-VoxBox Carols at Waitrose

#### Fri 7th Dec

Year 6 trip to the Steam Museum

10.00am-Y1 & Y2 trip to watch 'Aladdin'

10.00am - Early Years trip to watch 'The Velveteen Rabbit'

5.00pm-6.30pm PTA Pre-Prep Disco at Cheltenham Football Club

7.00pm-8.30pm PTA Prep Disco at Cheltenham Football Club

7.00pm-8.30pm PTA Prep Disco at Cheltenham Football Club

#### Mon 10th Dec

Early Years Party Day

#### Tue 11th Dec

School Christmas Lunch - bring Christmas jumpers

#### Wed 12th Dec

NO LATE OR SUPERLATE CLUB

6.30pm - Prep Carol Service, All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church

**END OF TERM**

#### Thur 3rd Jan

Spring term begins

Missing...

Waterproof jacket  
M YOUNG  
Prep sweatshirt  
M CASS  
Blazer  
R FENTON



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## News from around the school

### DRAGON TOP TRUMPS!

Although he was knocked out all too quickly, Mr Cross was clearly delighted to join Year 2 for a game of Top Trumps. The imaginative pupils had had great fun inventing their very own dragons - naming them, describing them, and then giving each one a score for kindness, bravery, weight, fire power, strength and size. Good work, Year 2!



### CHRISTMAS STAMP COMPETITION

We were thrilled with this year's beautiful and imaginative stamp designs. Submitted by pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6, after much deliberation, we chose the following designs for the Berky Postal Service, 2018. Sheets of 16 are available from the School office at £1 a sheet. All proceeds to Water Aid and The Acorns Children's Hospice.

#### Christmas Stamp Competition Winners 2018:

Chloe W (Kindergarten), Hughie B (RG), Matilda S (RW), Mollie R (1J), Millie R (1LK), Sophia B (2C), William H (2O), Sydney W (3C), Alice S (3M), Bea Bea MD (4T), Rosemary B (4E), Eleri W (5K), Charlotte B (5B), Francesca R & Hattie S (6H), Emily G (6M)

### I'M A BERKY PUPIL, GET ME OUT OF HERE!

A brave Year 1 took part in their very own 'Bushtucker Trial' when they welcomed Zoolab to School yesterday morning. Housed in the comfort of the Pre-Prep library, rather than the challenging conditions of the Australian Rainforest, Dan from Zoolab invited the children to handle a Corn Snake, a Hissing Cockroach, Tarantula and, thank goodness for some, something a little more cuddly - a Guinea Pig! The visit had been planned to support this term's study of the classification of different species of animals in Science. Mrs Langley-King was very impressed with the children's interesting questions, their bravery and their good manners. Well done, Year 1!



### WELSH ADVENTURE

As part of their topic on Medieval times, Year 4 made the journey over the border to Chepstow Castle. The children were able to see how effective the castle defences were as they explored the various parts of the wonderful building.

The blood-thirsty lot enjoyed learning about the horrors of medicine in the Middle Ages -

some of the implements were quite shocking!  
A super day out for our young historians.

### MUSIC NEWS

We have had the final rehearsals for all music ensembles now except Chamber Ensemble players who will continue to rehearse - on Thursday next week. Carol Singing - Christmas hats/ headgear may be worn. This week a group of 20 Y3/4 will be going to Bay Tree Court to sing carols with the residents. We will return to school by 5.15pm. VoxBox singers will be meeting outside Waitrose at 4.15 on Thursday for their Carol Singing for about an hour. May we please ask parents not to gather for too long whilst they sing, since it can block the way for shoppers! Thank you.

The Big String 2019. Sign up for places on this very popular music course held over 18-19th February - email admin@gamusic.co.uk for details.

Thank You...

To everyone who donated  
to the Poppy Appeal this year  
- we made £108.13.



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### RUGBY

#### U11/10 v Rendcomb College

Won 60 - 20

On Monday a mixed Year 5 and 6 team took on Rendcomb College in a very entertaining match. Our boys played with great positive intent and attacked at every opportunity. Our fine handling skills and support play was once again in evidence and I was particularly pleased with how well the two year groups joined to make such an effective team.

Twelve Berky tries made for a fine spectacle to entertain our travelling supporters. Jonathan and Finian deserve a special mention for scoring four tries each. However the effort and skill shown by the rest of the team provided the opportunities for them.

Well done boys for another great victory.

#### U11 Festival at Dean Close

The U11 team played four tough fixtures on Wednesday and demonstrated the great progress they have made this term. Our opening fixture in a fierce wind, with driving rain, was a challenge, against a very strong Bromsgrove School. However our boys acquitted themselves superbly in a 3-1 loss.

Next up was Cheltenham College. This was a closely contested match which we drew 1-1. However we were in the ascendancy for much of the game and can feel a little aggrieved not to get the victory. This was soon forgotten with a convincing 3-0 victory against Beaudesert. The boys played some wonderful rugby in this game.

Our final game was a tough and physical match against Cricklade Manor. Our boys were committed and aggressive and played with much skill. Although we lost 2-0, it was another superb performance.

These boys deserve much praise for their effort and willingness to always give the maximum effort and for their cohesiveness as a team. I was very proud of all nine of them on Wednesday. They showed a typical Berky determination whilst having great fun playing the game. Well done to all of the Year 6 boys and many thanks to our supporters as always!





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## Sports report...

### HOCKEY

#### U8 v Richard Pate School

##### Yellow team Won 4-0

A fantastic display from us, capped with a hat-trick from Hetty, ensured we won the game 4-0. From the start, we showed endless energy and determination in the tackle to limit our opponents to very few chances. Nancy and Lucinda were the engine in the middle whilst both Ellies look promising going forward. Maisie helped to secure our defence, especially in the first half whilst Isabel assisted in the centre, spraying the ball out wide to our wingers. In the second half, we were fortunate enough to have Ena who showed great awareness with her positional play, often choosing the correct pass as we ventured forward. Lucinda managed to score our other goal in a very pleasing team performance. Well done, girls.

##### Blue team Won 3-0

Excited and nervous, the U8 blue team were in cracking form from the first whistle. The ball was most definitely more in our attacking half than our defending half, but our defence coped very well when the Richard Pate girls went on the attack. Here, I have to mention Sophia who made frequent and powerful hits out from our defending D, often to the half way line – well done! There is no doubt that the under 8's are really beginning to get the hang of playing like a team and moving the ball towards the goal with great determination. At half time the score was 2-0 to Berky and in the second half one more was added by an own goal. Well done to the whole team, a great end to the season!

##### Red team Lost 0-2

The girls took a little time to get into the rhythm of the game but after five minutes we started flow. There was some good movement around the pitch, with all girls holding their positions well. Hannah played well as a left wing, holding her space out wide. Katy and Georgia made some strong tackles during the first half and worked hard to try and push the ball up with some nice push passes. Primmy made some brilliant runs with the ball into our attacking D, we unfortunately couldn't hit the ball into the back of the goal. In defence Zoe and Ena made some great clears pushing the ball out wide, RPS made some great passes and managed to sneak one past us. Sydney was steady on the right wing and was out there for support. We started the second half 1-0 down; there were a few changes at half time and Isla and Vivienne came into the team. They made a great attacking pair and fought hard to help us keep possession. We kept fighting but another goal managed to get past us and we went 2-0 down. It was a good game and there was lots we have taken away from it to work on! Well done, girls.

#### U9A v Wycliffe

##### Won 2-1

After the most horrendous journey through the wind and rain on the M5 we arrived at Wycliffe in just drizzly conditions. However, by the time we were ready to play, the rain had ceased entirely and it was quite pleasant! Lucy captained the team, choosing the first pushback and we quickly capitalised on this, applying good pressure with a goal after just a few minutes from Lottie. The Wycliffe girls were also very strong in attack, but they could not get past our defenders (Uma and Anna) and even if they did have a shot at goal, Jennella was splendid kicking everything away! Sheer determination led to a further goal from Lottie in the second half and meant that the final score was 2-1. A super win for the girls on their final A-team match of the season.

#### U9B v Wycliffe

##### Lost 5-0

The B-team game was a little bit one-sided! Wycliffe only had 4 girls available for this match so they made up the numbers with girls who had just been playing for their A team, on a rotation. In fairness to the Berky girls, we played with energy and great team spirit, and had a couple of shots at goal, but the Wycliffe girls were just too strong for us.

#### U10A v Wycliffe

##### Draw 0-0

As the score suggests, this was a very close encounter and a draw was a fair result – we had our chances and so did they. Bella, Becky and Jasmine did a great job in defence and they certainly listened to the half time comments of 'you must clear away from the danger area to the sides of the pitch'. This was definitely happening on a more regular basis in the second half – well done! Charlotte didn't have much to do in goal, but she dealt with everything competently. Grace and Isla were super in the centre of the pitch with strong defending and attacking skills being on display. Joy and Izzy made some great runs down the wings, got themselves into excellent scoring positions and were unlucky not to score. This was an exciting and at times tense affair, but a draw was the correct result. Well done! I thoroughly enjoyed umpiring this game and some of you have improved hugely over the term.

#### U10B v Wycliffe

##### Drew 2-2

A well fought game that saw both teams on top at different times in the game. Wycliffe started brightly but it was Berky who scored first. Darcey was battling well on the right wing, with Poppy making some good runs on the left. However, the goal came through the middle with Viera providing the distraction in the

D while Hazel ran in and powered the ball into the back of the net. Despite excellent defending by Eleri and Eleanor, we failed to close down the opposition and they lifted the ball into the back of the net meaning at half time the score was 1-1. Cressie came on at half time and went up front. Viera dropped back to defend. Daisy, playing for the first time in goal was kept very busy at the start of the second half with Wycliffe storming forward and Berky having to scramble defence. Wycliffe scored a second and it looked as if the game had swung in their favour. However, Berky battled back using the width of the pitch. The equaliser came through the middle once more with a great run by Hazel and Cressie tapping in the goal. The game swung round again and it was anybody's for the win. However, the exciting game ended in a 2-2 draw which was a fair result.

#### U11A v Wycliffe

##### Won 1-0

Off we went in the rain to Wycliffe; we arrived ready to play! The team were strong from the start, pressing up and applying force to the Wycliffe defence straight away. The ball was in our attacking D for the first 5 minutes, I could tell this was going to be a good game! Millie and Bea did some great shadowing during the game that led us to gain the advantage numerous times. Lizzie had some great positioning at the start of the match. Varnika and Daisy made many outstanding runs down the pitch, with great ball control, and strong powerful passes; they were both a force to be reckoned with! Anna completed some good balls down the wing to allow us to get the ball into the attacking D. Simran made some good clears out wide to ensure the ball wasn't getting into our goal, Hattie was in the perfect place, ready to apply pressure to Wycliffe when they did get near her.

Starting the second half 0-0, I believed we could win; we were passing the ball well, attacking every ball and making great interceptions. The ball went out on the wing, Bea took the side line ball and produced a great pass, strong and direct, to Millie who was standing strong on the top of the D, Millie slipped the ball to Sophie who was nearer the post, Sophie hit the ball at goal, the goalie got her foot to it but Varnika came bounding in picked up the ball from the goalie's kick and hit the ball into the goal. We went 1-0 up. We continued to fight hard for the ball and had many more chances but just couldn't get the last touch on them. Thank you and well done to Hattie who made some brilliant saves and controlled the game from the back. Well done girls, the best game yet. Brilliant play.

