



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been one of those weeks which I have particularly enjoyed in my role as Headmaster. I talk often about how the creativity of our staff is a real asset to the school and how the children's positive 'can-do' attitude contributes; I would now just like to mention the third variable that affects your children – you, the parents. Your support and encouragement make a significant and daily difference to how your children see and value themselves and we have one of the most supportive and positive parent bodies that I have encountered in 20 years of teaching. Our parents regularly outnumber the opposing team's supporters at fixtures, we support our children and join in the fun - witness the crowds at the House Pancake Races on Tuesday. Our PTA events such as the Ball and Summer Fete are always a huge success for all ages of old boys and girls (and, of course, their parents). All of this means that Berky children know that they are valued and important, that their education and well-being matters and this makes a difference to them. I am proud that we have such a successful partnership in education with the whole of the Berky community – thank you.

Speaking of the pancake races, the Gloucestershire Echo photographer who came along to photograph our House Pancake Races was really impressed with the enthusiasm that all had for the event. I hope you saw the front page of the Gloucestershire Echo on Wednesday which featured one of our athletes competing for the most sought-after trophy of the year!

We had a super Celebration Prep assembly on Wednesday, to which Year 2 parents were invited to get a taste of what life will be like next year 'Across The Road!' The Year 3 children rose superbly to the occasion and proved to be enthusiastic and informative guides – keen to talk about life in the Prep and to show the very best of what the new Year 3 will enjoy.

These tours have been a good warm-up for our Open Morning on Saturday 11th March – in which our brilliant Year 6 will be the Tour Guides for prospective parents and yourselves. They conduct the tours with pride and I invariably get very positive feedback from prospective parents as to how they are our greatest asset. It would be great to have as many as possible to join us on Saturday morning so please do bring your children in if you can – you should already have received a letter about this. Take the opportunity to stay for a cup of tea and homemade cake, look round or steal an hour or so to yourself! Oh and of course, please do mention it to any friends and neighbours with children who might be interested in coming along.

This morning I was delighted to welcome back 5 old boys and girls from King's Gloucester. Lewis McConell, who left Berky nearly 7 years ago was back to witness a Berky assembly and have a good look around his old school. Lewis is a Captain of the 1st XV rugby team at King's and has been offered an unconditional place to read Engineering at Nottingham University next year. Harvey, the two Caitlins and Maddie, from Year 7 at King's, performed to the Prep children and it was an absolute pleasure to hear how they had progressed in their music. I am grateful to Mr Pennington (Director of Music), Mrs Bird (Registrar) and Mr Macnaughton (Headmaster) for taking precious time from their day to visit us and speak to the children and parents.

We have had some super feedback about our pupils' artwork and this week had the very high standard of Berkhampstead Art endorsed by Malvern St. James school. Congratulations go to Nancy B (Year 1) and Nic M (Year 6) who have won their categories at the MSJ Schools' Art Exhibition; Highly Commended certificates have been awarded to Sarah D (Year 5) and Emilia F (Reception). Very well done to all who entered; the standard was exceptionally high. Mrs Bareham is already making plans for our own Art Exhibition for the summer term.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 3RD MARCH
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sat 4th March

Malvern St James –
Schools Art Exhibition

Mon 6th March

SWAST - Ambulance to visit
Reception

10.00am – Year 4 visit to
St Edward's to watch 'In the Net'

Tue 7th March

'Cake at Break' - Years 1, 3 and 6
to supply cakes

10.00am - Vet visit Reception

6.00pm – 6MC Parents' Evening

Wed 8th March

9.00am - Year 1 Assembly, parents
invited to watch

2.00pm – U9 Football

Tournament at Hatherop Castle

2.30pm – Football U11 v Bredon (A)

2.30pm – Netball U11, U10, U9

v King's Gloucester (H)

Thu 9th March

3.30pm – 4.15pm – Book Fair,
Andrews Gym

4.15pm – Cross Country at
St Edward's

4.15pm – 5.15pm – Musical Recital,
Prep Hall

6.00pm – Kindergarten Parents'
Evening

6.00pm – 6H Parents' Evening

Fri 10th March

3.30pm – 4.15pm – Book Fair,
Andrews Gym

2.30pm – Football U9 v Bredon (H)

Sat 11th March

9.30am – 11.30am - Open Morning



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Cake at break...
 Don't forget your 50p on Tuesday 7th March for 'Cake at break'
 And as a reminder - Year 1, 3 and 6 are responsible for baking this time.



News from around the school

RECEPTION

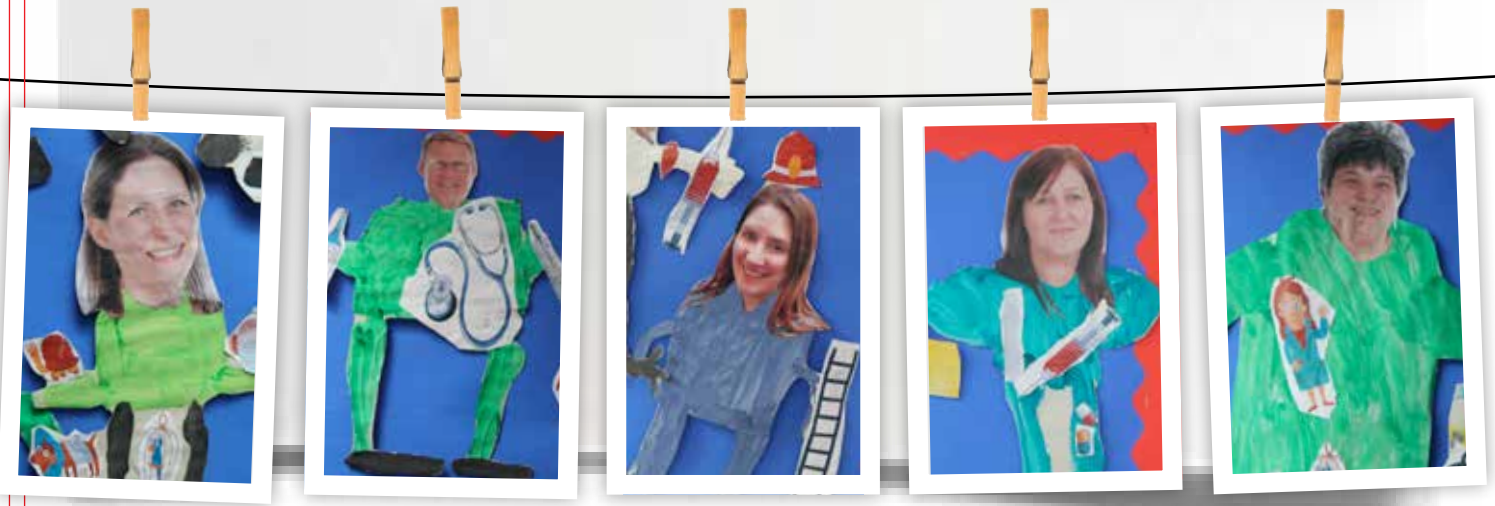
All children and staff have returned to school looking forward to the exciting activities planned for this term leading up to Easter.

The children found Missing Posters displayed around the Reception area last Monday. Someone was looking for a prize cow... upon further inspection the children realised the poster was from Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh from the story 'What the Ladybird Heard.' After reading the story, the children decided the poster was another of their sneaky plans so set about making 'Wanted' posters to capture the robbers. The children are very excited as their posters have been sent to Thames Valley Police to be displayed in the local stations.

Mrs Roddy - Watts' son who is a Detective Inspector is looking into the case of these robbers and hopefully there will be some news soon. We will keep everyone updated!

The children have been thinking about people who help us around the school. The children came up with a list of staff who help them every day. They were then challenged to decide which emergency job the staff might do if they gave up their teaching career! Please come and see this fantastic display. Some staff are now thinking of a career change!

Maths has been all about money this week; we talked about the different coins, what they looked like and their values. The children ordered coins and took rubbings, writing the coin values underneath. We then explored making amounts using just 2 or 3 coins. The children had to find the correct coins to make the different amounts to pay for pets and then write the number sentence underneath. Staff agree that there are budding accountants and bankers within Reception!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Multi Day...

There will be a whole school muffin day on 16th March. Wear something blue, and donate £1 for the RNLI. Thank you.

Entries for the Illustrated 'Sea Poem poetry' competition for RNLI need to be in by Monday please.



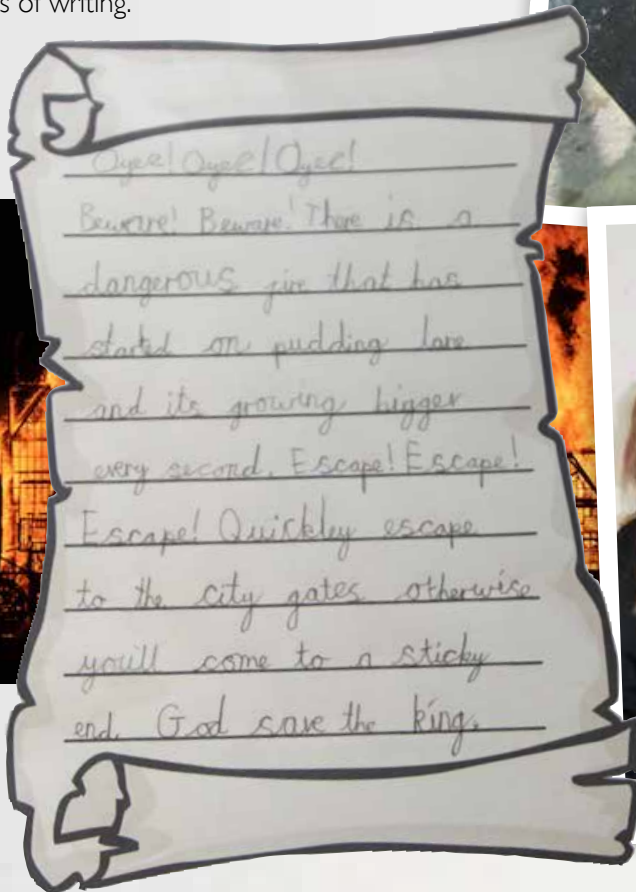
News from around the school

YEAR 2 - LONDON'S BURNING!

This week, Year 2 have been trying to answer the question, "Why did the Great Fire of London spread so quickly?" We looked at fire fighting equipment past and present and how the design of houses and streets has changed to ensure our cities are less flammable!

On Thursday we looked at just how quickly different materials burn and how catastrophic it was having very flammable houses so close together. With the help of Mr Taylor (and a fire extinguisher!) we were able to see fire spreading from house to house and how much of an impact the strong winds in 1666 would have had.

After really seeing it for themselves the children had a true appreciation of the event and went on to produce some wonderful informative pieces of writing.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U8 v Rendcomb - Won 2-0 and 3-0

For the last match of the season the Bisons played the first half against Rendcomb, winning 2-0, and the Buffaloes played the second half, winning 3-0. It has been clear to see the boys progress as they have played throughout the term and there was good evidence of this during the match. On many occasions we are still just chasing the ball and are like bees around a honey pot. At times however when we spread out, slow down a little and control the ball we have some impressive passages of play. All of the boys played well throughout the match and both teams thoroughly deserved their wins. A great match to end on. Well played everyone.

U9 v Beaudesert - Draw 0-0

On Wednesday, the U9 boys travelled to Beaudesert. This was a very exciting match to watch because the teams were pretty even which meant both had an equal number of chances at goal. Beaudesert hit the bar in the first half but apart from that we defended our goal really well. There were some excellent tackles made by Euan and Ed worked hard to clear the ball in defence, often playing it forward rather than clearing it away to the side. Andrew fed through some good balls to Luke up front and the boys have started to develop a good vision for the game, building up play together to give them a shot on goal. Despite both teams having shots at goal the match finished 0-0 which was a fair result. Well done boys, another excellent game. Thank you to the parents who came along to support the boys.

U9 v Richard Pate - Draw 2-2

On Friday, the U9 boys played against RPS at the Victoria Ground. The game got off to an interesting start because within 30 seconds of the whistle RPS had scored a goal. They quickly attacked our defence and scored a great goal. This was a bit of a bad start but the boys worked hard to defend against the pressure they were receiving. After the first ten minutes or so we found our football heads and managed to push forward and start attacking their goal. There were some excellent passes and Oscar had a very good game considering it was his first for the school. We were able to get a goal which was scored by Finian and the first

half finished 1-1. We started the second half positively and applied a lot of pressure to the RPS's goal. RPS hadn't given up yet though and were very good on the counter attack; they scored a second goal to make it 2-1. However our boys fought back quickly and scored a second goal to finish the match 2-2 which was a pretty fair result; both teams played well. Well done boys. Thank you to the parents who came along to support the boys.

U11A v St Edward's - Draw 0-0

This was a classic 0-0 draw with both sides playing some very good football but with neither able to break the deadlock. Both teams passed well and worked the ball into space. Our boys were solid in defence and our recent work on tackling and positional play really showed up. Our midfield of Ollie R, Harry, Benji and James worked well together and pressured the opposition whenever they had the ball. The boys were more assured in possession and our running off the ball enabled us to get forward quickly when our chances came. Bertie and Rumhann made some excellent runs in attack but couldn't quite connect as they would have liked. Sam was an assured presence in goal and a variety of combinations in defence limited St Edward's to only a few clear chances. Although there were no goals this was a very good performance and showed the progress that the boys have made. Well done to all of the team!

U11B v St Edward's - Lost 4-2

A really great game in which both teams went for the victory, with plenty of scoring opportunities. In the first half St Edward's started strongly, passing the ball well. Our defence of Toby, Max and Henry were often at full stretch trying to keep their attackers out. Rex in goal was often called upon to defend his goal and he made some fantastic saves. In the middle Ethan was often making the tackle and creating chances. Charlie had some good runs on the right wing and passed the ball through to our elusive attacker Hugo. Rhys also played really well on the right wing causing their defenders no end of problems. St Edward's opened the scoring with a good passing move leaving Rex no chance of stopping the ball. However, Berky replied with an absolutely fantastic goal. Ethan from the half way line hoofed the ball forward and it travelled sweetly towards the goal. The St Edward's team left it believing it would go over the bar. However, it hit the underside of the bar and the ball bounced into the goal. St Edward's came back strongly and scored again. In the second half, James E came on for Charlie on the left wing and Nic replaced Max at the back. Rex and Henry swapped positions. St Edward's again started strongly and Berky were forced to defend for the first few minutes of the half. Toby and Nic both put in goal saving tackles. Henry made some good saves. However, the pressure told and St Edward's scored once more.

Berky were not downhearted and came back fighting. Up front there was some great passing play between Ethan, Rhys, James and Hugo. Space was being created and Rhys was able to put a lovely shot into the goal. St Edward's scored again. Berky, however, were creating lots of chances themselves. However, St Edward's weathered the storm and came away victors. However, Berky should not be disappointed. They played well and their game had definitely improved since the start of the term.





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Sports report...

NETBALL

U9 v Rendcomb College - Won 7-1

This was a fantastic game to watch (and definitely the warmest of the season so far, in glorious Cotswolds sunshine!) and it was great to see how much the girls have matured in their play. Intelligent decisions were made and the Berky girls played exceptionally well with super pace, passing, defending and attacking. Bea, Simran and Varnika were phenomenal at getting the ball into the D, enabling Daisy to score 6 times (one was from the outer edge of the D – an amazing shot!) and Simran once. Millie was a wonderful captain (with excellent defending) and Daisy was voted player of the match.

U9A v Hatherop Castle School - Won 7-4

Another excellent game from the Berky Under 9A girls! The team worked brilliantly together and showed super netball skills leading to a 7-4 win. There was wonderful attacking play allowing Daisy and Simran to have plenty of shots at goal! Daisy was voted player of the match for the second match in a row and Emma was a superb captain.

U8/9 v Rendcomb - Lost 2-3

A really close game that could have gone either way. The game started briskly with Berky starting with the ball. Georgina passed quickly to India who returned the ball and with swift passes Berky had the opportunity to score but could not quite find the net. Rendcomb were quick too passing the ball quickly to the other end and managing to score. At the end of the first quarter the score was 1-0 to Rendcomb. In the second quarter Lorien and Kimora defended their area well at the back. Georgina continued to battle well in the centre. Daisy, who jointly captained the side, got herself into good positions and was able to receive and catch the ball very effectively despite being a lot smaller than her counterpart. Emily G really stuck to her player like glue and effectively kept her out of the game. At the attacking end India and Eleri both had chances and eventually India scored a goal. At the end of the first half the score was 1-1. In the third quarter Poppy replaced her sister and took on the captain's role. She again received and passed the ball well. Despite Kimora's best efforts Rendcomb scored again. Although we passed the ball well in the middle the final pass into the D and the final shot just let us down and we could not quite equalise. At the end of the third quarter the score was 2-1 to Rendcomb. In the last quarter Berky started strongly. Again some good linking passes between India and Georgina led to the second Berky goal scored by India. Berky had most of the play in the final quarter but could not quite capitalise on the advantage. In the final minute Rendcomb scored a good break away goal. The score ended 2-3 to Rendcomb. A great game in which the girls improved as the game continued and Eleri was voted player of the match.

U10B v Beadesert C - Won 10-3

On our previous meeting in January, it had been a close match and we were expecting a tight one. However, Berky (captained by Sarah) were on fire! After the first quarter the girls were 5-0 up. They were playing beautifully – finding space and passing the ball with speed and accuracy up the court and into the shooting D. Isi and Rosannah worked well together, shooting from a variety of angles. Darcy worked hard to prevent her opponent receiving the ball, marking really tightly. The next three quarters were closer with only a few goals scored in each quarter. Throughout the match, Sarah timed her jumps perfectly, constantly creating space and proving to be a nightmare for her opponent! Isi seemed inspired, shooting a goal from the edge of the D. Our Defence, as always, worked tirelessly to keep the ball out of our D. Well done girls, it certainly was an impressive team performance!

