



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents,

It has been a lovely week - the weather may have been cold and grey, but in school the children have made me feel warm and bright. I have seen two lovely Nativities from Kindergarten and Reception and the children performed brilliantly, despite the small audience. Kindergarten's Wiggly Nativity was full of action and singing from the children who clearly enjoyed performing to the camera! In Reception I saw the story of two 'Whoopsy-Daisy Angels' who guided us through the Nativity story. All the children took part in telling the story and Mrs Sallis was delighted with their singing and playing of many percussion instruments.

The videos of these performances are in 'post-production' and will become available to you next week via the Teams platform.

I have also seen some roving reporters from Year 2 around school reporting on sightings of a star, lots of sheep and even some wise men! They have been filming these and I think they too will be releasing their news report to you next week.

In an amazing coup, we have managed to get Father Christmas to come into school next week! I would like to reassure you that Father Christmas has been isolating for quite some time and will sanitise on arrival. In fact, I am fairly sure that he is on the priority list for the vaccine too! The PTA have been brilliant in providing gifts for the children and Chief Elf, Mrs Agg, is bouncing with excitement to help Father Christmas deliver these next week.

The Christmas Card Post Box in school is bulging and this will now be isolated ready for our School Council Postmen and Postwomen to deliver later next week.

Yesterday, a bubble of Year 5 children went to Bay Tree Court Old People's Home to sing carols. They stood outside the residents' lounge windows and sang beautifully. The residents were thrilled, and the feedback afterwards was lovely. We were also sent some lovely pictures of the residents at Abbeyfield opening the cards the children had made for them. The children are so enthusiastic about giving pleasure to others.

We have been really pleased that there have been no further cases of COVID in school following the case last week. All the children and staff isolating are well and will return to us next week. These children and staff have been busy working from home and I, and all in school, have enjoyed seeing them on screen during assemblies and some lessons.

Please can I ask that you continue to be vigilant next week, though. As we get closer to Christmas, it is vital we remain COVID-free so that the festivities can be fully enjoyed.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Mon 7th Dec**

Year 5 trip to The Living Rainforest

**Tue 8th Dec**

Prep Carol Service filming

**Wed 9th Dec**

KG Party Day

**Thur 10th Dec**

Reception Party Day

**Fri 11th Dec**

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch

**Reminder of pick-ups for Friday 11th Dec:**

2.30pm - Kindergarten

2.40pm - Year 1 and Year 2

2.50pm - Year 3 and Year 4

3.00pm - Year 5 and Year 6

No After-School or Tea-Time Club

**Tue 5th January 2021**

Spring Term begins



Abbeyfield's elderly residents were delighted to receive Christmas cards that pupils in the Prep department made for them.



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Christmas Jumper Day!

We are all looking forward to Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term (Friday 11th)! Your £1 donation will be given to the Cheltenham Food Bank.



## News from around the school...



### PRE-PREP SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are so incredibly proud of our Early Years and Pre-Prep School Council members. Their Christmas Toy Appeal has been a great success. Thank you SO MUCH to all of the children and parents who donated new toys. We were all absolutely overwhelmed with your generosity. These will be delivered to the Gloucester Quays Toy Appeal next week.

Their idea to bring the whole department together by creating a Christmas decoration, all to go onto the same tree in the school hall has come to life. Kindergarten's candy canes, Reception's baubles, Year 1's mini stick trees and Year 2's salt dough decorations have definitely helped to bring the Christmas spirit. They were made with eco ethos in mind and look fantastic. The children loved putting their own decorations up and are looking forward to bringing them home. AS

### MUSIC NEWS

A group of Y5 pupils visited the residents of Bay Tree Court in Prestbury yesterday to sing carols. We have been carol singing there for many years and it is always a lovely occasion as the children sing a variety of carols with the elderly people. Yesterday's trip was even more special because we sang outside to a lovely group of residents all sitting in the warm. They opened the windows a little and some of them were wrapped up in extra blankets. We all sang, waved and cheered each other. Afterwards the manager was very thrilled with our visit and told us that all the other groups who regularly sing there have cancelled this year, and we were the only singers they would be seeing!

### ECO WARRIORS' TOP TIP OF THE WEEK MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS MORE SUSTAINABLE

This time of year can be a period of excess, and our eco committee is keen that everyone thinks of more ways to be sustainable this Christmas. The World Wildlife Foundation has put together these useful tips:

- Cut down on the amount of material gifts you buy. Why not give experiences instead - including virtual ones!
- Buy responsibly. If you do buy a material gift, support local and ethical businesses. Every time you spend your money, you're casting a vote for the kind of world you want.
- Reduce waste. This covers all aspects of Christmas. From the food you eat, to the decorations you buy, the wrapping you use and even the plastic packaging products come in - only buy what you really need.
- Eat more plants. Eating more vegetables and less meat is good for you and the planet. This year, be more conscious of the amount of meat you're eating - why not try some festive meat-free alternatives?
- Think about your tree. Buying an artificial tree can contribute to waste. If you're not going to keep it for decades to come, a real tree has less impact. Make sure it's responsibly sourced and you know the best way to dispose of it.

And lastly, a tip from 'Recycle Now' - When recycling your glass bottles and jars, remember to put lids and caps back on. This reduces the chance of the lids and caps getting lost during the sorting process.



## Gets Greener Day

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Berkly Gets Greener Green Day - we made an impressive £201!



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## News from Pre-Prep

It's that time of year when rehearsals are in full swing for the Christmas production. As it has been a year like no other, the production has been aptly named, 'A Berky Nativity...2020 Edition'. The nativity is being filmed and will be 'released' before the end of term. Years 1 and 2 - as well as the Early Years children - have also been very busy making eco-friendly Christmas decorations for the Christmas tree. The children took great pride in placing their decoration on the tree on Green Day this week. KT

