



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I do hope that you have had a good break and that your children have returned to school rested, refreshed and ready for the challenges of the new term. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for all your support last term and for the cards and generous gifts that we received at the end of term.

WELCOME

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Olivia, Ava, Arturo and Immy who have joined Kindergarten and to Rose, Katy and Alina joining Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 respectively. Naturally there are likely to be a few nerves at the start, but I know that they will be made to feel a part of Berky very quickly.

We have got off to a great start and I have seen happy, smiling faces about the place and the children engaged in stimulating activities. In Pre-Prep there has been a frenzy of excitement as their topics have got underway - Superheroes for Year 1 and Castles for Year 2. Reception are heading into Space this term... the rocket launches next Tuesday when they head to Bristol's 'We the Curious'. It will all be a lot of fun whilst at the same time learning a huge amount.

Year 4 and Year 6 are heading to Gloucester's SkillZONE in the next week or so. SkillZONE is a state-of-the-art life-size village that includes a house, a shop, a railway crossing and electricity station as well as a court room and prison cell. It is a fully interactive learning environment to teach people of all ages how to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe. There are 16 zones, which will cover a range of scenarios including road, rail and water safety, an internet cafe, as well as opportunities to cover home and personal safety. The children benefit hugely from these visits.

STAFF CHANGES

Simon Willoughby joins us on Monday as Estates Manager. Simon was Estates Manager of a large independent girls' school in Dulwich - James Allen Girls School, which has around 1200 girls and 400 staff. Simon and his partner have relocated to Cheltenham and we look forward to his leadership and support in maintaining the Berky buildings and grounds.

In another change in staffing Hannah Powell has joined the Bursary staff (part-time) from her Office Administration position in the Day Nursery.

PARKING

As we start the new year I would be grateful if one of your resolutions could be to respect our neighbours, and the law, when parking around the school. I appreciate that there are times when finding a space is difficult but please do not obstruct driveways or park on double-yellow lines or near to junctions.

The priority is that cars **DO NOT** stop to drop off children on the zig-zag lines in front of the school.

Thank you.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7th January

2.20pm - Year 5/6 Cheltenham Town Football Coaching afternoon

Tue 8th Jan

Year 4 visit to SkillZone
Reception visit to We the Curious, Bristol

Wed 9th January

2.30pm - Football UI1, UI0B v Kitebrook (H)

Thu 10th January

Year 2 and Year 3 starting swimming

2.15pm Year 5 visit Cheltenham Minster

Fri 11th January

8.40am - Visiting Head's Assembly Mrs Clayfield - St Edward's - Parents invited to watch assembly and join Mrs Clayfield for coffee in Prep Foyer
Year 6 visit to SkillZone
VoxBox trip

Reminder...

In the morning please can parents leave their children in the playground and wait behind the railings so that staff on duty can supervise the children more easily.
Many thanks.