



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear parents,

It has been a lovely week with masses going on in school. The Reception children have been investigating and finding out all about butterflies – the children were very keen to show me the first caterpillar to start building its cocoon. There's been a flurry of gardening going on with Mrs Taylor; I was pleased to see that the strawberries (my favourite) are starting to come through!

Over in Prep, creative use of the iPads was in evidence as Year 4 have been creating their own computer game based on the game 'Crossy Road' – how things have changed in the time since Mrs Andrews set up her little school in Berkhampstead House. The tennis court stands in the same place, but PE lessons are rather different – have a look!

Music is still central – and I have been delighted to hand out the grade certificates to the pupils gaining awards on a variety of instruments. It is quite remarkable that I have handed out 3 Grade 7 certificates in the last 3 years and the latest, Grade 7 Bassoon to Rhys L was a pleasure. All our musicians work so hard towards these and all the lovely musical events through the year – good luck to our Chamber Orchestra next week in the Cheltenham Festival and to our Year 2 Verse Speakers too.

We had a great PTA meeting this week and are looking forward to the Midsummer Ball and Summer Fete. My thanks to Joey, who will be in touch with more details.

LAST TWO TABLES for the Midsummer Ball – please get in touch if you are keen to come.

UNIFORM

It is great to see the weather improving this weekend. Please would you ensure that the children wear either summer or winter uniform rather than a mixture of each. Girls' summer dresses should be worn with white socks (the blue tights are for use with pinafores), boys should wear either a buttoned grey shirt or the white summer shirt – with a tie for Prep boys (on really hot days we may allow the boys to take their ties off). If hats are worn, they should be either the boaters or boys' cap or, in Pre-Prep the red school legionnaire's hat, and in Prep, the school blue baseball caps. Whilst the weather is so changeable, the choice can be made on a daily basis to suit each child's comfort.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 4TH MAY
SUMMER TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7th May
BANK HOLIDAY -
SCHOOL CLOSED

Tue 8th May
2.00pm – Junior Ensemble Class
(X90), Cheltenham Festival

Wed 9th May
2.00pm – Cricket U11A v
Kitebrook (A)
2.15pm – U8 Cricket v Hatherop
Castle (H)
2.45pm – Rounders U10A and
U10B v Richard Pate (A)

Fri 11th May
From 9.00am – Year 2 Verse
Speaking, Town Hall
11.30am – Year 6 Athletics,
Prince of Wales Stadium
2.15pm – Cricket U9 v Rendcomb (H)





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RECEPTION

The Early Years have settled back into school life and have immersed themselves into their new topics.

Reception children are continuing to enjoy their minibeast theme and are being very vigilant observing the changes in our caterpillars.

As part of our 'It's a Bug's Life' topic, we decided to use 'The Snail' by Matisse as inspiration for some artwork. To introduce the children to the artist, we read the story 'Snail Trail' in which the children follow his silver trail through a selection of famous paintings by an exciting range of modern artists including Pollock, Dali, Picasso and Matisse in search of a piece of art that represents him. We talked about the colours used, the style and the technique used by the artist. The children then created their own works by cutting out coloured paper and arranging the pieces in the style of Matisse.

The children have been exploring rhyme this week in literacy after reading 'Snail Trail'. They created rhyming strings and helped find the missing rhyming words. After the fantastic visit from Zoo Lab the children created their own acrostic poem about minibeasts.

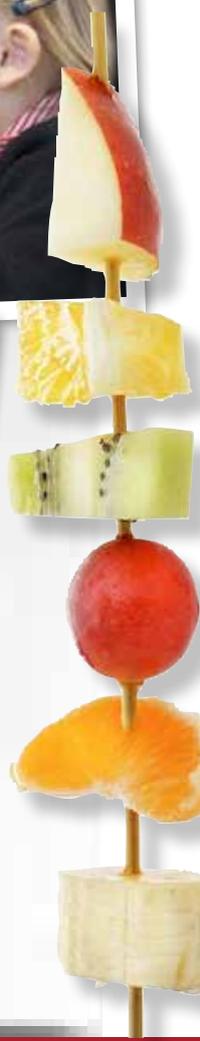
Staff and Reception children had a great experience in minibeasts handling when ZooLab came to visit. The children learned the importance of handling the minibeasts carefully, and found out lots of interesting facts. The children were relaxed and confident enough to want to hold and touch the variety of different minibeasts. They couldn't stop taking about what they had seen and a "zootastic" time was had by all!

KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten we have been studying the work of the Italian painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo who created portrait heads made from fruits, vegetables, fish and flowers. The children have created their own fantastic imaginative designs inspired by his work.

There's been so much fun continuing our topic 'On the farm'. The children have learned where fruits and vegetables grow, and what is needed to grow healthy produce. We then shared information about our favourite foods and what we must do to stay healthy. The children used vegetables and paint to make pictures and dipped carrots in to paint to mark-make and write their names.

During maths activities, we have been creating patterns and noticing pattern around us. We looked at different coloured fruits and learned how to make a pattern by pushing cut up pieces of fruit on to a skewer and make a fruit kebab, we especially enjoyed eating them afterwards.





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TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2.30-4.30PM YEAR 2 'MOVING UP SALE'

An opportunity specifically for Year 2 parents to buy the uniform and sports kit they need for the move to Prep in September.

20% off all second hand stock including brand new blazers (new badges available to buy for £5 each) **and new girls' striped blouses.**

Does not include new summer dresses.

All purchases over £25 receive a **FREE SCHOOL BAG** - while stocks last!

MONDAY 14TH MAY 3.00-4.00PM 'SUMMER SALE'

20% off all summer dresses including brand new ones, cricket kit, boys' white shirts, sun hats/caps, boys' grey shorts, white PE tops and blue PE shorts.





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Sports report...

ROUNDERS

UIIA v Richard Pate School Won 14-7

Under leaden skies with the threat of heavy rain the under 11A team took to the astro at RPS. It was quite an interesting experience as we had to play in and out of the tennis nets but at least we had a game of sorts. Berky won the toss and put RPS into bat. I felt there was a definite home advantage as the tennis net fielded a lot of balls and the narrow gap between the posts was not easy to negotiate. A short time into the match the heavens opened, down came the hail and there was a mad dash for the outside classroom. After an interlude of 10 minutes or so the game resumed, and the RPS girls put up a good performance and scored 6 ½ rounders. Berky took to the batting arena and quickly started to pile on the rounders. Whole rounders were scored by Emily, Isi, Alexa, Sarah, Eleanor and Ella, with a generous sprinkling of half rounders giving Berky a grand total of 13 rounders. For the second innings it was decided to have only 1 bat each and Berky were on fire with their fielding. Only 1 person from RPS scored a half rounder, all the other 8 children were either stumped or caught out! Fantastic! Berky then added a further 3 rounders to their total and the final score was 14 rounders to 7. A great start to the season. Well done to the Berky UIIA team – super play!

UIIB v Richard Pate School

Lost 11-9

Due to the weather the game had to be played on the Astro court with tennis nets too. The match had it all, hail storm, rain, puddles. What with the water and the tennis net, the game looked more like that of water polo. However, it was good to play a game. Berky were forced to bat first, the innings being interrupted by a rather fierce hail storm. Although Hannah, Zoe, Chiara, Leslie and Georgia hit the ball, we were unable to score many rounders as the RPS second post collected the ball too successfully and denied us the all important half rounders, Kyla and Mollie were able to score whole rounders, and Jemima, Darcy and Catherine scored half rounders. RPS proved good at being able to hit the ball and our fielding needed to be a bit sharper. Despite Darcy running two players out and great bowling by Kyla and Jemima, we lost the game by just 2 runs.

