



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I have shown six different sets of prospective parents around this week and all have been so positive about the range of interesting lessons and activities they have seen. The children in Kindergarten were drawing wonderful pictures of Gruffaloes – with bright orange eyes. Reception were sharing equally a variety of snacks for a Teddy Bears' picnic. Year 1 have created amazing videos of themselves as Pirates ... complete with a "Shiver me timbers!". Year 2 have been practising hard for their Verse Speaking in the Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival. Year 3 were creating time-lapse videos and Year 4 clay figure animations on iPads in Computing. There were 24 Year 5 and 6 girls in the Cricket nets on Thursday lunchtime and Year 6 have been seen getting into character for their Production this term ... 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Something to look forward to!

Berkhampstead days are really busy; the children achieve super things and clearly enjoy doing so.

Very well done to our Chamber Ensemble who won the '12 years and under Junior Ensemble' at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Mrs Mitchell reports that they played beautifully and were suitably awarded a wonderful old trophy – it dates back to 1929. This will be proudly displayed in the Prep.

Children from as young as Kindergarten through to Year 6 have entered individual classes and the whole of Year 2 performed today. It is quite an achievement simply to take part in these events and it is splendid to keep hearing of how well our pupils have done.

In the Prep our reward system of 'bonuses' and the bonus badges have been updated somewhat. The children gain bonuses for good work, for effort and for being kind and polite. As the children collect more and more bonuses they receive certain badges. We have added two new badges into this system now, including a new Berky Badge, and for your information the list is attached. It is always a pleasure when someone (usually in Year 6) receives the top Berky Badge and I am delighted that, so far this year, I have handed out two – to Sam P and Claire C.

Last week I explained about how we have introduced the '5 ways to wellbeing' for the children and I was delighted to see Alice H take to the 'Keep Learning' table outside and start a knitting group. Well done to Alice and her group, and to Mrs Taylor for her expertise too.

It could be that summer is approaching - it has been cold but the sun is always strong. Games practices have been a delight down at the Victoria Ground and it's super to see so many children choosing to come along. Please ensure that your child brings in a school hat and water bottle every day and that they have sunscreen applied when the forecast necessitates.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 5TH MAY
SUMMER TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 8th May

4.00pm – Year 6 Parents Viney Hill Trip talk

Tue 9th May

9.00am – Form and Year 6 Leavers' Photographs

Wed 10th May

2.30pm – Cricket U11 v Bredon (A)

2.45pm – Rounders U10A, U10B v Richard Pate School (A)

Thu 11th May

2.00pm – Year 2 Choral Speaking, Town Hall

Sat 13th May

PTA Ball, Pittville Pump Room

PTA May Ball

Please remember to submit your booking forms, menu choices and payment to the school office by the end of the day today. In the event that you cannot meet this deadline but still want to attend then please email the PTA Chair, steve.ackland@me.com to advise him if your requirements.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

KINDERGARTEN

Everyone who I have had the pleasure to meet at Berkhampstead has made me feel so welcome; I am very fortunate to be able to teach such lovely children and work alongside such a great team. Thank you for your warm welcome.

We have had a very busy week in Kindergarten with lots of Gruffalo activities going on. The children have loved dressing up as the different characters and playing in our new 'Gruffalo cave' role play area. We have been drawing the Gruffalo and describing what he means to us, and we have learned The Gruffalo Song where lots of growling is expected!!

We have planted our bedding plants outside the Kindergarten; there were many helpers who have promised to help water and care for the plants over the coming months.

During adult led sessions the children have enjoyed learning about 2D shapes, now recognising shape names and using mathematical language to describe shapes. We had shapes everywhere - in the sand, water, printing, gluing, puzzles - as well as finding shapes within the environment. For Letters and Sounds we have been investigating different instrumental sounds, having fun with rhyme and alliteration and segmenting sounds to read simple words.

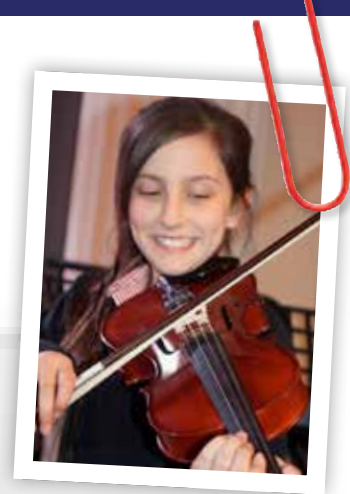
We are so fortunate to have such a lovely outside space to use, so one sunny afternoon Miss Curl played parachute games with the children. This provided opportunities for collaboration and developed imagination, inventiveness and physicality. Our free flow between in and outdoors has been really popular; everyone has enjoyed the social and physical aspects. After playing in our water tray the children decided to paint the play house using paintbrushes and water.

Within a few minutes most of the children were taking part; we now have a very clean outdoor space! We have been writing with chalks on chalk boards and the playground floor to practise letter formation as well as playing on bikes and scooters.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Vamika B - Grade 1 Flute with Merit

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL WINNERS

On Tuesday the Chamber Ensemble performed a programme of pieces in the Junior Ensemble class (U12). Ably led by Leslie M they had to listen, follow and play together without their usual director, Mr Trim. This is a great challenge, particularly to young players and they had worked very hard to achieve a cohesive performance. Their programme, which many of you will have heard at the Spring Concerts, required a wide range of dynamic and expressive qualities and we were delighted with their performance. The Adjudicator described them as a 'very accomplished group of young musicians' and praised each player and section individually. Many congratulations to Leslie M, Sarah D, Sam P, Naomi F, Flora H, Claire C, Oli W and Rhys L.

AB MUSIC EXAM ENTRIES

The final entry date is Friday 12th May for exams this term. I am asking for an exam session at school on Saturday 8th July and should be able to confirm this in a couple of weeks. Please check with music teachers if you have a query about taking an exam this term.

MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

This popular event will take place on Friday 26th May from 2-3.45pm. All Y2-5 pupils will be attending the initial demonstrations by our team of music teachers. Afterwards, pupils in Y3-5 who are already settled and learning an instrument will be supervised elsewhere in school to allow those who are genuinely interested in starting an instrument to attend 'Try out sessions' with the music teachers. Parents of Y3-5 pupils are welcome to attend, especially if your child is interested in starting to learn. Any Y2 pupils who are interested in starting an instrument need to be accompanied to the Try-out session by an adult; otherwise they will be supervised in the Pre-Prep until 3.30pm.



Ensemble rehearsals

Following the Spring Concerts we have now finished all rehearsals for ensembles to allow time for other activities in the summer term. We will begin our programme of ensemble rehearsals again in September with new groups and a variety of opportunities, depending on the instruments and levels reached by pupils.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

BERKY BONUS BADGES

BONUS BADGES ARE GIVEN FOR PUPILS REACHING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF BONUSSES DURING THEIR TIME AT BERKHAMPSTEAD - YEAR 3 TO 6.



CREAM BADGE
100 BONUSSES



ORANGE BADGE
850 BONUSSES



BROWN BADGE
250 BONUSSES



PINK BADGE
1000 BONUSSES



BLUE BADGE
400 BONUSSES



GREEN BADGE
1200 BONUSSES



YELLOW BADGE
550 BONUSSES



PURPLE BADGE
1400 BONUSSES



'BERKY' BADGE 1
700 BONUSSES



'BERKY' BADGE
1600 BONUSSES



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

CRICKET

U11c v Cheltenham College Junior School

Draw 303 runs each

There is nothing like cricket on a warm sunny afternoon. This game was nothing like cricket on a warm sunny afternoon. The players were in danger of catching frostbite as a sharp wind added to the coolness of the temperature. Perhaps it was the frostbite that led to the rather large amount of wides and no balls that were bowled. CCJS batted first. Edwin, the captain, opened the batting, and on his very first ball achieved a run out. Jasper, Nick, Max, George L, Archie, James E, Benji and Eliot all bowled, some with more success than others. Edwin ended his bowling spell on 2 for 17. Jasper and James E also got wickets through catches by Nick and Ollie O. CCJS ended their innings on 303 runs.

Berky came into bat. Jasper and Nick came into bat first, Jasper scoring 9 runs. However, some rather optimistic running led to two run outs. Edwin and Nick were our second pair. They batted very safely and managed not to be out. James C G and Archie were our third pair. They also scored good singles but again were caught out with very keen running between the wickets. James E and Benji also scored, Benji hitting the ball very sweetly and scoring twice with long shots that almost reached the boundary. Our most successful pair were Ollie O and Peter. Peter was magnificent in front of the wicket and connected with the ball most emphatically. In one over he scored 3 4's. He ended up being the top scorer on 13. Eliot and George ended the innings both scoring singles and fortunately were not run out on a rather reckless call. The score ended on 303, a draw. It was then back to the school for a well deserved tea in the lovely warmth of the dining room, only to find out that the tea was served outside!



ROUNDERS

U11A v Rendcomb College

Lost 9½ - 7½

Up on the top pitches at the College it was far from rounders weather, in fact it was more like winter! The wind was blowing against the batters so making scoring particularly difficult. Potentially, I have I believe one of the best under 11 Berky rounders teams ever; they can all bat, throw and catch well. It was a nice first game of the season but we didn't really get into our stride and Rendcomb always had that slight advantage. At the half way point it was 4 ½ to Rendcomb and 4 to Berky - all to play for. The fielding was pretty accurate and the bowlers from both sides were superb with no half rounders being given away at all from the bowling square. Well done to Evie! The difference was in the whole rounders scored. The Rendcomb girls scored 6 whole rounders and whilst Berky were hitting the ball reasonably well, only Helena scored a complete rounder. Unfortunately, we kept hitting the ball near to the second post so half rounders were the only outcome, and we scored many of those! A good first effort but I am expecting much more. This was a win to Rendcomb by 9½ rounders to 7½.

U11B v Rendcomb College

Lost 11-8

This was a wonderful first match to kick off the U11B's rounders season, despite the very unseasonal weather: very cold and very windy! The final score was 11-8 to Rendcomb although it was actually a very close match. 7 ½ of their rounders were scored by one player, but apart from their secret weapon, we were by far the better side with super fielding, getting 6 of their 8 girls out in the first innings, and one or two excellent hits, notably from Daisy and Claire, leading to super rounders! Rowan was voted Player of the Match for her very accurate bowling and fielding. So, a good start made and well done, girls!

