



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! In many ways it has been a glorious week – the weather has been bright, crisp and cold and I love autumn days like this. The children too seem bright and cheerful and have enjoyed time outside – all wrapped up against the cold weather. This half term the boys are playing some football as well as rugby and the girls are continuing to mix hockey with netball. We will have some interesting house matches at the end of term!

Congratulations to all those Year 6 children who, at the start of half term, sat the Grammar School entrance tests. These are challenging tests and - whatever the outcome - they should be proud of all the hard work they put into the preparation for these. Many of the others are now preparing for entrance tests for other senior schools and, due to COVID, these are largely being done at school and the results sent across to the appropriate senior school. Best of luck to them too.

Thank you so much for picking up the extra precautions of mask wearing. There do seem to be more cases of COVID-19 in Gloucestershire although we are still one of the better counties. I hope that with lockdown and additional precautions we can keep the school community healthy over the coming weeks. PLEASE do let us know if your child or one of your household has symptoms or tests positive.

As you may have seen from my Instagram feed yesterday, I awarded a new trophy for the first time. For many years in Pre-Prep, we have awarded the Sally Lee Kindness Cup to a child who has shown much kindness to others. The children aspire to this award and each half term they are thrilled to learn of the new recipient and applaud them unequivocally. For many years I have felt we should have one in Prep too and this was the right time to create the Gill Agg Kindness Cup. As you will all know Gill has been at the school for many years – even gaining work experience here in the 1970s! She has taught here for over 25 years and her children were pupils here – and in fact her son James still teaches music at Berky. Throughout her time at Berky she has always been kind and caring to the pupils, staff and parents.

Yesterday I awarded the Gill Agg Kindness Cup for the first time and the recipient was Mateo in Year 6. Mateo is reliably and consistently polite and kind to others – whether they be staff or other pupils. He has received regular Kindness Commendations this half term and is taking his role as School Council Leader very seriously.

‘Superb Manners... standing back on the stairs to let people pass’

‘Being unfallingly polite, really helpful and courteous in Science’

Next week is Children in Need and the PTA have organised Cake at Break for the Friday – please bring in £1 (to put in a collection box for isolation!) next Friday.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 10th Nov

4.30pm - KG Online

Parents' Evening

5.30pm - 5B Online

Parents' Evening

Wed 11th Nov

5.30pm - 5K Online

Parents' Evening

6.00pm - Reception

Online Parents' Evening

Thu 12th Nov

4.30pm - Reception

Online Parents' Evening

Fri 13th Nov

Cake @Break





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

BOOK NEWS!

Some members of our community have been busy writing books:

'Cuthbert The Croc' is a wonderful mathematical adventure book by Year 3 parent, Mrs Lunt. It is all about a crocodile who loves numbers and dreams of finding the end of the endless number line. It is full of beautiful illustrations, and - in a really fun way - it helps children with adding and doubling. To find out more about Mrs Lunt's super e-book, visit www.cuthbertthecroc.co.uk

'Three Bears in Lockdown' is a book all about three teddies and what they got up to during lockdown, and is a charming record - with sweet photographs of the teddy trio - of how we all lived during this unprecedented time. It is written by the parent of a girl who was at Berkhamstead in the 80s, and costs £8 with all proceeds going to the National Deaf Children's Society. Should you wish to order, please email threebears@talktalk.net

Lesley Sainty is a Year 1 parent, and her novel **'Taking the Waters'** is historical fiction set in Regency Cheltenham. Listen out for Lesley next week on Radio Gloucestershire when she will be talking all about her book. It is available on Amazon.

MUSIC NEWS

Mr Trim led a Violin Workshop for Y2 on Wednesday this week. Each child had an instrument to play along with pizzicato and bowed notes joining in with some songs and chants. Mr Trim got everyone singing and stamping to accompany the violinists and the children demonstrated good concentration and obviously enjoyed the experience.

ENSEMBLES REHEARSING

Jazz Combo and Percussion Ensemble will be starting their rehearsals next week, joining Chamber Ensemble and Berkly Bows. Please remember your own instruments for rehearsals.



Academy Sports

Shop Opening Times During
November Lockdown
Mon - CLOSED; Tues - 2pm till 5pm
Weds - CLOSED; Thurs - 2pm till 5pm
Fri - 2pm till 5pm; Sat - CLOSED
Sun - CLOSED

Back open as usual on Dec 3rd
Open for online orders and also click and
collect from the shop.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Pre-Prep

It has been lovely to be back in school after an interesting half term. Year 2 have hit the ground running and have been very busy with their work. As part of our English lessons, the children have been studying the features of information books as well as using the books and iPads to research the rainforest; from this, the children have made their own information pages.

There has been great excitement about the election of School Council members and Eco Warriors; the children are already sharing fantastic ideas that they would like to implement. Christmas has landed in the department with the designing of Christmas cards as part of the PTA Christmas fundraising; we have lots more exciting activities lined up between now and the end of term. LL



School Council reps
and Eco Warriors from
Reception, Years 1 and 2
and a school council meeting
taking place with Mrs Toma





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...



PTA NEWS

Dear Parents,

Just a quick reminder about some exciting events coming up over the next couple of weeks we shared with you before half term.

Cake at Break 13th November – the cakes will be produced and served by the wonderful kitchen staff for the children to enjoy during their breaktime.

PTA Family Quiz Friday 27th November – the fabulous Mr Tittley will be hosting a family quiz! The usual parents' quiz at the beginning of the year is always a fiercely competitive and an extremely fun evening so we are adapting to bring the great event to the whole family virtually! Questions for all ages, so get your family members together for a wonderful evening of fun and serious competition!

Father Christmas Visit – Father Christmas will be swinging by, socially distanced, to delight the children in Early Years and Pre-Prep! Each child will receive a small gift from Father Christmas, which he will have wrapped and isolated for the required length of time before handing it over.

Christmas Gifts – All Prep children will receive a small Christmas gift too but without the visit from Father Christmas. Again, these gifts will be isolated for the required length of time before being handed out to the children.

Christmas Cards – Mrs Bareham and all the children have been hard at work producing designs for their very own Christmas cards. These will be sent off to a company where parents will be able to view them online and purchase cards and other items of their children's design with a percentage of the sales going to the PTA.

CycleStars – It was agreed last year (but had to be delayed!) that the PTA will provide funding for each child currently in the school when they reach the Prep side to take part in the CycleStar's cycling scheme. The scheme will offer children the skills to ride their bike with confidence and learn about Road Safety. Each child will be able to complete one level paid for by the PTA and will have the opportunity to progress further should they wish to. We will look to roll this out with further information after half term of the Spring Term once the evenings are a little lighter.

At this time of year, there are always wonderful events to look forward to including the end of term Carol Service, which the children and parents enjoy so much. As these types of events are not able to go ahead in the same format, the school are looking to purchase equipment in order to record and stream these events to parents and family so everyone can still watch and be involved.

This equipment can continue to be used after restrictions have been lifted to stream plays, assemblies, nativities, after-school performances and much more for all the family to enjoy, especially if they are unable to attend personally on the day.

We will be looking to raise funds for this equipment in order that we can still enjoy all that the children do and bring the Berky community together. We are therefore suggesting that a cost of £10 is added to all bills for the Spring Term and it will include the events listed above, except the Christmas cards. If you wish to opt out of this, please email pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk so we can share this with the Finance Team.

We hope these events will enable the children (and parents!) to enjoy some of the things we normally do but in a slightly adapted way!

With warm wishes,

Joey

Joey Bowden
PTA Chair

PTA@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

