



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting and busy week that has really put us all in a festive mood at Berky!

I was delighted to attend this week the Early Years' Nativity play, A Baby is Born - it was a wonderful event. Our youngest children have such confidence in performing and it was a joy to see. Well done to them all. Pre-Prep's Nativity, It's a Baby at All Saints' Church was also a real treat. The children performed with confidence and sang beautifully - and the instrumentalists played superbly. Colourful and creative costumes added sparkle to the performance and well-learned lines made it a special afternoon - well done, parents and children! With such lively and vibrant performances, the children have let us all know that the Festive Season is well and truly underway!

Last Saturday saw a super range of stalls at the Friends of Berkhampstead's Christmas Fayre. Hand-made decorations, cards and lovely gifts, games, tattoos and nail painting were sampled by many. The turkey rolls and hot dogs went down very well as did the (rather strong) but delicious mulled wine! The Andrews centre gym was transformed into an amazing grotto and Father Christmas, assisted by Elf Agg and Elf McInnes, was very busy - seeing well over 120 excited children in three hours and giving them a specially chosen and wrapped present each. The raffle was a sight to behold - amazing prizes generously donated by parents and assembled into luxury hampers. It was a very busy morning and a great deal of work went into making it such a success. Enormous thanks to Joey and her PTA team.

The carol singing at Bay Tree Court home for the Elderly was super. It is a real treat to hear how very much the residents enjoy the carols and then the subsequent opportunity to chat to our pupils. As always, they acquitted themselves wonderfully and brought a great deal of pleasure. As did the older children outside Waitrose last night. The singing was beautiful and many shoppers stopped for a while to listen.

It was amazing to see our Year 6s this morning transported back to the 1940s - dressed as evacuees. They are spending the day at the Steam Museum in Swindon and will learn much about what it was like being a child in World War 2. Meanwhile the Pre-Prep and Early Years children are at the Everyman Theatre this morning ... and I am very jealous not to be with them. Year 1 and 2 are seeing the pantomime, Aladdin and the Early Years are watching The Velveteen Rabbit. What a treat!

It's been a pleasure to be able to chat with so many parents, grandparents and friends after the concerts and performances - and to partake of the freshly baked mince pies served afterwards. My thanks to the catering staff. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Carol Service next Wednesday which, as always, is a fitting end to a busy term.

Richard
Headmaster

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 10th Dec

Early Years Party Day

Tue 11th Dec

School Christmas Lunch

Wed 12th Dec

NO LATE OR SUPERLATE CLUB

6.30pm - Prep Carol Service,
All Saints' Church

END OF TERM

Thur 3rd Jan

Spring term begins



Thank you...

To Mrs Breach for
the kitchen and theatre/shop
she has kindly donated.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

This week has been a very busy but productive week for Early Years children and staff.

We welcome Mrs Stoat back from maternity leave to Kindergarten. Mrs Stoat will be working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. She will be returning on Tuesday 11th December.

On Tuesday and Wednesday it was the Early Years Christmas Concert 'A Baby Is Born' which proved to be a huge success. The children did a fantastic job on narrating and singing the lovely songs which retold the traditional Christmas story.

Kindergarten children made wonderful shepherds accompanied by their lambs, regal kings and their very bouncy camels and graceful angels! They remembered all their actions and words.

Reception children undertook the narration very well and all spoke in clear voices and learnt their lines by heart. Parents and staff were very proud of them. It was good to observe how each child knew what was expected of them and staff sat back and let the children take charge of their performance!

A big 'well done' to all the children involved for such wonderful performances, as well as a big 'Thank You' for the parental help with costumes which once again were fabulous.

Kindergarten 'Wednesday Wander' was very successful and the children loved showing their families all the activities which they had been learning throughout the term. It was lovely to observe the children being the 'proud teachers' as they led their family around the kindergarten's learning environment.

The visit on Friday 7th December to the Everyman Theatre was a great adventure for the children, from travelling by coach, to being part of the audience.

The production was held in the studio of the theatre which is aimed at the younger children, who might find full-on pantomime overwhelming. The children enjoyed watching 'The Velveteen Rabbit.' We have all wondered if toys have a life of their own.

One Christmas, one child does just that when they receive a cuddly rabbit made from soft velvet. A wonderful friendship grows between them, and the child teaches the rabbit about their world, and learns to love it enough to make him real. The children experienced this beautiful story played out with live music and song, and opportunities for them to join in too.

Early Years party day is next Monday. All Kindergarten children are invited for the day. The children can come in Christmas pyjamas but suitable for outdoor play! We are sure it will be another day to remember for the children. During the morning the children will be playing traditional games such as Christmas Lotto and Pin the Star on the Christmas tree. After a special picnic with lots of party food, a very special visitor will be parking his sleigh and coming to see the children.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten
Max S M, Chloe W,
Milo R, Alex P
Reception
Flo P, Toby R,
Allegra S, Isaac S





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Missing...

SKORT TRACKSUIT BOTTOMS - named EDWARDS
PE JUMPER, BLAZER, HAT, GLOVES, TIE, BLUE SHORTS
all above items named HIRANI

Thank You...

Thank you to everyone who donated to Harvest Festival this year. We are delighted that we raised £516.95 which was split between Cheltenham Foodbank and the Indonesia Disaster Appeal.

News from around the school

BERKY ALUMNI

We are always thrilled to hear what Berky alumni are up to - many of them keep in touch and it is always lovely to hear their news. Old boy - James Koons - who was a pupil for a couple of years in the early 70s contacted us via Twitter. He is now an actor and musician based in LA, and he sent us some lovely pictures taken in 1971. Shown is the Headmaster at the time, Mr Sparks, as well as James and the Pre-Prep building.



BERKY STOCKING FILLER

An ideal stocking filler for every Berky pupil, these dear little stationery packs - containing a smart Berky branded pencil and notepad - come in a cellophane pack, and cost £2 each. Proceeds will be split between the PTA and this year's charities, Water Aid and Acorns Children's Hospice. They are available from the school office.

CHESS NEWS

Two very strong chess teams met this week in a fixture that could well decide the destination of the District League Shield. Berkhampstead has held the trophy for the past three years but, last Tuesday, faced a much-fancied and talented Richard Pate team which was desperate to claim this important piece of silverware. Amid the tensest of atmospheres, Richard Pate appeared well-placed after early exchanges but, as events unfolded, determined and focused matchplay from the Berky woodpushers saw our players make subtle inroads. A thrilling finale to the match saw Berkhampstead claim two late wins on Boards 2 and 3 and sneak a breathtaking 3.5-2.5 victory. The quality of play from both teams caught the eye. For Berkhampstead to compete at that level was splendid; to emerge victorious was remarkable and testament to our young players' nerve, skill, maturity and experience. A draw or a win against Holy Apostles will deliver the District Shield to Berky for the fourth year in a row. I am so proud of our wonderful team: Captain Edith H, Rupert G, Oli S, Griff L, Finian C and Jonathan B.

Two strong 'B' teams did battle at the same time. The final score was Richard Pate 3.5 - Berkhampstead 2.5. Our 'B' players did themselves justice and showed great spirit in a well-matched encounter. MC





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

RUGBY

U8 Buffaloes v King's Gloucester

Draw 5-5

Won 9-8

The Buffaloes enjoyed their last matches against King's, Gloucester. The first game was on a very muddy pitch which slowed the game down. We managed to keep our play going well with scoring a few tries and taking as many tags as possible. The second game was a lot more mud-free and therefore higher scoring. Samuel, Richie, Jacob D-T, Benjamin and Barnaby all managed to score tries. Jacob F came very close to scoring but was tagged at the last minute. Well played, boys. Football next term!

U9A&B v King's Gloucester

A Won 4-0

A/B 1 Won 2-0

A/B 2 Draw 0-0

Bs Lost 4-2

On Friday afternoon, in excellent conditions for rugby, the As and Bs travelled to King's, Gloucester. With King's fielding only an A side we split the fixture into four 8 minute quarters with the As playing first, two mixed sides in the second and third game and the B's playing last. The As got off to a typically frenetic start and wasted no time in stringing together excellent phases of play and making some crucial tackles; the boys ran out comfortable winners by four clear tries. The second and third games saw mixed sides play. It was extremely encouraging to see a number of Bs rise to the challenge and I was particularly impressed with the tackling and defensive organisation. The first mixed group won 2-0 and the second a very competitive draw. The Bs played the last fixture with a huge amount of enthusiasm and spirit. Despite losing 4-2 they showed just how much they've improved this term putting together a number of good attacking phases and defending bravely. Well done boys.

U10 v King's Gloucester

On Wednesday, the U10 boys played their last match of the season against King's, Gloucester. King's only had one team so we put out two teams and each team played a half each. Both teams played well with the passing improving as the match progressed. It was a physical match with both teams tackling well and tries came from both sides. It was very close, but Berky came away victorious by one try. I was impressed with how well they all played, and it was a great way to end the season. Well done, boys!

Many thanks to our parents and friends who came along to support the boys on a wet afternoon.

U11 v King's Gloucester

The U11 team produced a wonderful exhibition of running rugby to end the season with a fine victory against King's. The opening stages were quite closely contested but gradually our high energy game wore down the opponents. In tricky conditions our handling was outstanding and King's struggled to contain our skilful runners.

At the breakdown we were very much in the ascendency and deprived King's of ball for much of the match. When we were required to defend, we were well organised and aggressive in our approach and tackled in numbers.

We scored 8 tries by Noah(2), Andrew, George, Oscar H, Luke (2) and Finian to seal a comprehensive victory and to finish a very successful season on a high. Well done once again boys for a brilliant performance and many thanks to our supporters for braving the conditions. It is much appreciated.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

U8 Yellow team v Richard Pate Won 4-0

A fantastic display from us, capped with a hat-trick from Hettie, ensured we won the game 4-0. From the start, we showed endless energy and determination in the tackle to limit our opponents to very few chances. Nancy and Lucinda were the engine in the middle whilst both Ellies looked promising going forward. Maisie helped to secure our defence, especially in the first half whilst Isobel assisted in the centre, spraying the ball out wide to our wingers. In the second half, we were fortunate enough to have Ena who showed great awareness with her positional play, often choosing the correct pass as we ventured forward. Lucinda managed to score our other goal in a very pleasing team performance. Well done, girls.

U9 v King's Gloucester Won 5-1

A mixed A and B squad of 10 girls went over to Plock Court last Friday to play King's for our final match of the season. And what a match! Goodness, the pace and explosiveness from the Berky girls was fantastic and within minutes we were putting repeated pressure on the King's defence. This paid off and Lucy scored a superb goal. This was followed by 3 more by Beatrice N. We looked so strong that a few strategic changes were made and so in the second half girls who normally play in defence were moved to the attacking positions and vice versa AND a further goal was scored by Isabella! Super teamwork. The final score was 5-1.

A great end to the season. Well done girls.

U11A v King's Gloucester Won 2-1

What a last game the U11 As had! We had wind, we had rain and we had own goals, thankfully not ours! They started off strong with some good movement around the pitch and brilliant teamwork, supporting each other wherever needed. There was some great work in defence with the goalie making some fine saves. Well done girls, you have worked well this term.

U11B v King's Gloucester Won 3-0

A great game in which Berky were definitely on top, and played well. In the first third it was a closely fought contest with neither side able to break the deadlock. Kings went close with a couple of chances, but Frankie and Eloise were there to close down the attack. Lorian was rarely troubled in goal but defended well. In the centre Emma made some good passing moves and Georgie was on hand to try and finish the attack. On either wing Lizzie and Emily made some good runs and tackled well.

In the second third the deadlock was broken with Edith coming onto the right wing. She tackled ferociously and caused Kings no end of trouble. She broke through their defence time and time again and although Kings defended bravely she finally struck the ball sweetly into the corner of the goal. Immediately after Kings took their centre, Georgie pounced onto the ball and dribbled it through the centre and struck a sweet second.

In the third quarter, Eloise took over attacking duties, Lizzie moved into the centre and Georgie defended. Once more Edith proved an attacking threat. Lizzie dominated the central area. Emily once more made some good passes. Elodie was getting opportunities to score and did so with a magnificently placed shot. In the last few minutes Kings stormed forward and Georgie and Frankie were called on, to defend. They did so with gusto. In the dying minutes of the game the team had to defend two short corners. They did so and they claimed a clean sheet. The game was played in a great spirit and they can be proud of the way in which they played.

U11B v Wycliffe Won 2-0

The U11 B team played Wycliffe on Wednesday 28th. As the match started it was clear that both teams were evenly matched and the game could go either way. Our girls played superbly as a team, working together to bring the ball down to our attacking circle throughout the game. It was particularly impressive to see them using the breadth of the pitch, keeping to their positions and looking for the spaces. We had the upper hand and after numerous close attempts our first goal was scored. Our defence were strong and let very little action enter the defending circle. However, when it did our goalie was on hand to deflect any shots on goal. We finished the game with a 2-0 win. The girls played some excellent hockey and played wonderfully as a team. Well done.

