



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It is always interesting to see the school from the point of view of a prospective parent... or a prospective pupil. On Tuesday when a five year old and his parents were being shown round, there was so much of interest for them to observe. PC Silsby, an ex-parent of the school was visiting Year 1 with his assistant Lorelei, an ex-pupil. Some of Year 2 were out on the MUGA with Miss Keegan learning how to play tag rugby while the rest were learning about Hanukkah; we also stopped off in the Den to look at their beautiful clay castles drying out ready for firing in the kiln. Down in the Lab, Mr Morphew and Year 3 were experimenting to find out the absorbency of different materials and, as we emerged from the basement and peered through to see what was going on in the kitchen, chocolate crunch was promptly offered for sampling! There was much going on in the Prep too, the highlight being the Year 5 I.T. lesson in which the children were programming a set of Spheros – mini App-enabled robots which look a little like headless BB8s (from Star Wars) - in the hall with Mr Banks. At the end of the tour, when asked if he had any questions, our little visitor promptly replied, "How long is your waiting list?" For me, though, the best thing about taking people round the school is seeing how confident, friendly and polite our children always are towards visitors - they showed genuine interest in the little boy and involved him in what they were doing. Education is not just about academic learning.

Yesterday there was another excellent example of the older pupils sharing their learning with the younger ones. Mr Banks and a class of Year 6 children took the Spheros over to share them with the Reception children - a very satisfactory session all round! Next week, the Spheros will be continuing their tour around the school; the rest of Year 6 will be visiting Kindergarten and Years 1 and 2 will also have a chance to take their turn.

There was one particularly notable achievement this week. Mrs Holland took a team of four Year 6 children to compete in the UK Maths Challenge at Cheltenham College; there were about twenty schools from Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire and the challenges were tough. However, the team of India, Sophie, Oscar A and Noah were true to the Berkhampstead motto - 'Perseverantia vincit' - and emerged the runaway winners of the event. See Mrs Holland's report later in this letter for more details.

Finally, I am delighted to let you know that I have appointed Ben Edwards to the role of Bursar from the 8th April. Ben is currently Assistant Bursar (Finance and Operations) at Concord College in Shrewsbury. He was previously in the RAF and was Estate Manager at Brize Norton. Ben is relocating from Shrewsbury in the coming months and will be in school next Friday 15th February with his wife and two children - Amelia (Reception) and Isla (aged 3). I hope you will get to meet him soon.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues 12 February

4.00pm - Chess 'A' and 'B' team
v Holy Apostles (Home)

Weds 13 February

2.00pm - U9A, U9B Football
Festival at Beaudesert
2.30pm - U11A, U11B, U10A, U10B,
U9 v Wycliffe Netball (Away)
2.30pm - U11, U10A, U10B,
v Hatherop Football (Home)

Thurs 14 February

Year 1 Mock Wedding
4.15pm - Cross Country at CCPS

Fri 15 February

Year 2 Cooking

HALF TERM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years...

A group of local fire fighters visited the School on Monday to teach Early Years children about fire safety and what they should do to prevent a fire. The children had a lovely morning learning about fire engines and even became trainee firemen using the hose!

There was great excitement in Kindergarten this week when we had a visit from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service; two firefighters talked with the children about their job and answered questions the children had thought

of earlier:

How do you put fires out?
Charlie

How do you drive really quickly? Ellis

How does the nee naw work? Milo

Do you have to do lots of paper work? Seth

When do you eat lunch?
Arthur

The children learned about the importance of smoke alarms, practising for our school fire drill and 3 rules...

**Get Out,
Stay Out
Call The Fire Service Out!**

Next all the children tried on a firefighter's helmet whilst sitting in the fire engine and then held the hose to wash the school windows and mini-buses. Finally we stood well back whilst the horn and siren were sounded: what a noise!! I was enormously proud of the children as they behaved beautifully, and the firefighters commented on how sensible and lovely our children are.

The children listened to the story 'Katie and the Starry Night' where Katie goes to see an exhibition of Van Gogh paintings. She climbs into the Starry Night painting and begins her adventure! The children were so enthralled with the story they created their own Starry Night pictures using a similar technique to Van Gogh. Van Gogh would have been so proud of the children's interpretations of his Starry Night painting! Please come and visit our art gallery along the corridor!

The children listened to the story 'How to Catch a Star'. They sequenced the story using a time line - beginning, middle and end. They made a story map to share with their talk partners to help retell the story.

The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and the children have decided our next topic will be 'Our Favourite Stories'. They will be asked to choose their favourite stories and what they would like to find out and learn about the topic.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten
Ava, Alex P, Charlie,
Eddie H, Gracie, Ethan,
Arthur, Ellis.

Reception
Rishik R, Olivia M, Isaac
SR, Izzy B, Toby R, Rosie E
Claudia H, Oliver B.

BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

BERKY GOLD FOR YEAR 6 MATHS COMPETITION!

On Tuesday, a team of four Year 6 children (India, Sophie, Oscar A and Noah) took part in a maths challenge hosted by Cheltenham College. There were about 20 other schools present and the competition uses resources from the UK Maths Trust. The questions are incredibly challenging and the children have to use all their skills of problem solving and reasoning, as well as their mathematical knowledge. There are a series of rounds requiring them to work in pairs, and as a team of four.

I was so impressed with the attitude of our four. They demonstrated excellent skills and persevered on those aspects which were not obvious. The buzz in the room from all these young mathematicians was electric. We knew we had done well but the children's faces were a picture when it was announced that they had achieved first place! They thoroughly deserved their victory, but I think the overall champion of the day was maths – seeing so many happy faces working through challenging problems was a sight to behold! JH

UNIFORM SHOP

From Monday 25th February the uniform shop will be taking the following items only.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING IN ANY OTHER STOCK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
THANK YOU.

Prep Sports Kit

Skins, hockey tops, rugby tops, cricket kit, skorts, hoodies, joggers.

Prep coats - new style only

Blue overalls

Red bags

Summer dresses

Jumpers

Pre Prep Joggers - only sizes 3-4, 7-8 and 9-10

Pre Prep Hoodies - only sizes 3-4, 5-6 and 9-10

Many thanks

Becky and Vanessa



Missing...

Prep tracksuit bottoms
named Martin



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

U10A v King's, Gloucester Lost 0-1

On Wednesday, the U10A team played King's, Gloucester at the Victoria Ground. This was a tight match and the teams were evenly matched. The boys had to work hard to defend their goal and Alessio made some fantastic saves, at one point leaping up to tip the ball over the bar. Our boys counter-attacked well and there was a great shot from Lincoln which narrowly missed the goal and another from Will which went wide. King's scored the only goal in this match but I was impressed with the respect that both teams showed each other. They were open and honest and demonstrated great sportsmanship.

Well done boys, you kept your heads up and worked hard for the whole match. Thanks to the parents and friends that came to support the boys.

U10B v King's, Gloucester Draw 3-3

On Wednesday, the U10B team played a very enjoyable game against King's School, Gloucester. We started brightly and soon went 1-0 up thanks to a well taken goal from Harry. However, King's grew into the game and were soon creating chances and causing our defence problems. Then, shortly before half-time, a long range effort and powerful drive put them 2-1 up going into the break.

The second half didn't start as we would have hoped and were 3-1 down with ten minutes to play; these happened to be the most explosive 10 minutes of the match! Ethan was busy in goal, keeping the score down and Jonathan looked prolific up front and soon got the goal he deserved with a neat finish into the bottom corner. Archie and Rupert pushed forward on the flanks, meaning our opposition could not throw players forward to restore their 2 goal lead. Griff was solid in defence as he looked to spray balls forward to create further chances. Alex also kept us secure at the back whilst Oli played a blinder, doing everything a coach would have wanted from him!

As stoppage time approached and King's had smacked the post, a long ball was played forward with Archie and Jonathan looking to capitalise, their 'keeper rushed out and a monumental goal mouth scramble occurred. With bodies from both teams on the floor, the ball trickled into the net, probably off one of their defenders, allowing us to come back and claim a 3-3 draw. A great fighting spirit from the boys, well done.

U11 v King's, Gloucester Lost 1-2

The U11 boys had a great battle with King's last Wednesday on home soil. The teams were evenly matched and produced a fiercely competitive first half where lots of chances were created by both sides but no goals were scored. However this was all to change in the second half when Berky took the lead through Oscar H, after a lovely sequence of passes involving Finian and Jensen. King's struck back almost immediately with a fine strike. It was then end to end excitement with both teams having their fair share of opportunities. However, it was King's who broke the deadlock with a late winner to gain the victory.

The boys again showed how much they have developed over the last few weeks with some excellent passing, better control and as always some determined defending. Well done boys for another super performance! Many thanks as always to our loyal supporters.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

NETBALL

U9A v Hatherop

Won 13-2

This was our second match of the season and our second home match so we were all very excited and full of nervous energy. After just a few minutes, it became clear that we were very much the better side and 2 goals had been scored. By the end of the first quarter 4 goals had been scored by Uma and we were 4-0 up. We had a bit of a switch around, putting Uma into defence to try to even up the sides. In the second quarter, 5 goals were scored (Aurielle and Rosemary) and the teamwork with Lottie, Rosemary and Aurielle getting the ball into attack was phenomenal. Our defence (Beatrice, Lucy and Jennella) was also incredibly tight, allowing them to score only one goal. As a team, we decided that the game was too one-sided and was therefore not enjoyable, so very sportingly, the girls rotated positions so that all the defenders became attackers and vice versa! Even so, the Berky girls played skilfully and still managed to get the ball to the D with Beatrice scoring 4 times leading to a final score of 13-2. It is always good for the girls to play in different positions as it gives them a greater understanding of the game. I was very proud of them being so happy to adapt to the situation and play in the spirit of the game! It is always a good feeling to win, but far better to be fair and considerate AND still to win! Well done to all the girls.

U10A v Cheltenham College

Lost 9-1

Wow! This match was played at a ridiculous pace! Both sides were telling the girls to slow down and spread out, but all the girls were playing with a real intensity. After the first quarter, it was 3-1 to Cheltenham. Grace had managed to score one for us. By half time, it was 4-1 and all was still to play for. The girls were matching the College and the ball was being passed from end to end. Becky was intercepting the ball beautifully and Berky's footwork was impressive. However, the College began to play with more confidence in the third quarter and the long balls were finding their mark. The College pulled ahead to 8-1. We didn't give up and played our hearts out until the final whistle, with a few more shots on goal. The main difference between the two teams was the length of the passes –

the College were effective with the long balls, whereas Berky played with shorter passes. I don't think the score was a true reflection of the match. Our girls held their own on court but it just wasn't our day for scoring.

U10B v Cheltenham College

Lost 10-0

We played inside the sports hall and the match was played at pace. Before we knew it, Cheltenham had scored 3 goals. They moved the ball around quickly and we were struggling to keep up with the marking. We tried to put a few passes together but the College were determined and their passing was more accurate than ours. By half time, we were 7 goals down. Despite feeling a little despondent, the girls dug deep and tried their utmost to stay in the match. The College only scored 3 more in the second half due to some gritty defending from Berky. It was a tough match but the girls remained committed until the final whistle.

U9A v Cheltenham College

Won 7-6

The final score-line of this fixture would indicate at first glance that it was a well balanced, even match. This was not the case! In fact it started with the Berky U9A girls in a bit of a flap! CCJS very quickly got the better of our defenders and scored in the first minute (and then would have scored 3 more times in quick succession if their shooter had been more accurate). CCJS were excellent at intercepting and getting the ball to their D but seemed unable to capitalise! However, at the end of the first half, the score was 2-1 to us and Rosemary and Uma had scored a goal apiece after some excellent attacking play led from the centre by Lottie. Furthermore, Aurielle, Lucy, Anna and Jennella had realised that they had work to do and rose to the challenge, preventing many further goal-scoring opportunities by CCJS. After a bit of a swap around at the half-way point across both Berky teams, Matilda E made an appearance and scored 4 goals in the third quarter bringing the tally to 6 with a lead of 5. We entered the final quarter with high hopes of a resounding win. However, the CCJS shooter found her form, scoring goal after goal and increasing their confidence, whilst decreasing ours. Nevertheless, Matilda scored 2 more and the match ended happily for Berky at 7-6.

Matilda was voted player of the match for her ability to shoot so consistently! This was a super game and Berky U9As can be very pleased with themselves to gain a win against CCJS. Well done girls.

U9B v Cheltenham College

Won 7-6

A great game in which the children showed how they had improved since the last match. In the first half, Berky really made most of the attacking opportunities. Once the ball was in the attacking half the passes really worked well and Berky put 6 into the net. Matilda E and Beatrice were really on form. The College managed to pull 2 back. In the second half the College came back and scored 4 goals in quick succession bringing the match to a draw. However, in last few minutes Uma was able to get one back for Berky and the lead was restored.

U11A v Cheltenham College

Lost 5-24

We arrived at the sports hall and after ensuring we knew what lines to play to we got started! The game started quick, with Cheltenham College showing their strength from the start. We worked hard to defend, with all players fighting for the interceptions. However, we soon discovered the high speed and excellent tactics of Cheltenham College, forcing them to try much harder to match their opponents. The Berky girls did a great job doing this and it was evident in their play that they were hungry to succeed. Unfortunately, the girls couldn't match up to the skills of Cheltenham College on this occasion. It was a good game to watch and there was some brilliant movement and defending by our girls. Well done ladies, good effort.

U11B v Cheltenham College

Lost 3-14

We started off slow and the Cheltenham College girls were able to sneak a few goals in before we got into the flow of the game! Once we got into the rhythm of the game there was some great play, and the team were working hard to mark their players. The tight marking paid off with some good interceptions being made. The game was even on court but Cheltenham College were just too strong for us in their attacking third. They were well drilled and their shooting was on target. Well done girls for putting up a good fight and not giving up.