



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of the first half term of 2018 and what a packed one it's been! There's no easing off at Berkhampstead in the run-up to the holidays – active as always with fixtures. Our girls took on Cheltenham College at U8s, U9s, U10s and U11s and they all acquitted themselves very well in a series of evenly matched competitive and exciting netball. I was delighted to be able to watch the first half of the U8s game and they played superbly – great movement and ball handling skills from all the girls. The U11 and U10 boys hosted Hatherop and acquitted themselves well on a rather chilly afternoon. They were all delighted to be able to tuck in to a much-needed hotdog and chocolate chip cookie after the game. It is always a pleasure for me to witness the terrific sportsmanship and camaraderie that comes with team sport.

Wednesday was also an extraordinary day in the Pre-Prep, with the Year 1 pupils looking 'out of this world'. Aliens had overrun the Pre-Prep and were kept busy making rocket fruit skewers, playing space party games in the gym, and singing space songs with Mrs Sallis. In the afternoon they took part in a fantastic space-themed drama workshop.

The week was a busy one too in the Prep; Year 5 visited The Commandery in Worcester where they took the opportunity to write using quill and ink, learnt how to shoulder a pike and fire a cannon. They relished dressing up in period costume and were quite a sight!

A number of Year 6 pupils had a rather more cerebral test as they pitted their wits at a Maths Challenge at Cheltenham College. They turned their minds to a range of problems that tested mental agility and were fun at the same time; against tough opposition, they came third and were the highest ranked Gloucestershire school.

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD
Saturday 10th Feb - Sunday 18th Feb - Half Term

Mon 19th February
 School returns

Tue 20th February
 3.15pm – Pancake Races on the MUGA

Wed 21st February
 2.00pm - U9A, U9B Football Tournament at Beaudesert
 2.15pm – Football U11A, U11B, U11C v Wycliffe (A)
 2.30pm – Netball U11A, U11B, U11C , U9 v King's Gloucester (H)

Thu 22nd February
 4.00pm – Netball U8A, U8B v St Edward's (A)
 4.00pm Chess (A&B teams) v Richard Pate (A)
 7.15pm – 9.00pm – Parents' Choir

Fri 23rd February
 8.45 - Parents' 'Taste the Menu', Pre-Prep Hall
 2.30pm – Football U9 v Rendcomb (H)
 3.30pm – Netball U9A, U9B v Dean Close (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

The pace and intensity of all that we have packed in has made for some weary faces around the place. The children are tired from having enjoyed such a range of activities, many of which have seen them persevere in cold and often wet conditions. At this stage of term, it is normal that niggles arise; please do use the appropriate channels to communicate with us if you have any concerns. We can often give an insight – having a fuller picture than your child may have been able to tell you - into an occurrence at school. This then allows us to investigate, to support all parties and restore the equilibrium.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

I would like to publicly thank Jane Wiles for brilliantly running the Second Hand Uniform shop over recent years. I know how much you as parents appreciate being able to buy and sell uniform through the shop and Jane has generously given of her time to administer and facilitate this. The shop has raised significant funds over recent years, and these have contributed to the many developments for the children. Jane's son Olly is in Year 6 now and she has decided to step aside at this stage of the year so that she can still be a support for the new 'Mum at the helm'. Thank you Jane.

I am delighted that Becky Jenkins (mother of Ben and Charlotte) has agreed to take on the responsibility and will be running the shop after half term with new opening times.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP - OPEN MONDAYS 3pm-4pm

After half term we welcome a new boy, Isaac, to Reception. In addition, Mrs Laura Lynch will be joining the Reception staff to support Isaac.

I hope that you all enjoy the holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February with the children rested and refreshed.



SHROVE TUESDAY & PANCAKE RACES

Shrove Tuesday this year is in half-term and I'm sure you will be reminded of this by your children! The annual House Pancake Races will be held on the first Tuesday after half term, 20th February. Do please come along if you can at 3.15pm to enjoy the Races on the MUGA. It is a fine tradition and one that is perhaps the most hotly contested in the Berky calendar of House events. You will hear the noise and cheering from along Pittville Circus Road – always a spectacle, you are very welcome to watch. Afterwards Pancakes will be available in the Pre-Prep Hall.



Richard
Richard Cross
Headmaster



Taste the Menu
You are warmly invited to join us on the morning of Friday 23rd February, after drop-off, for tea and coffee and a chance to enjoy a 'Taste of the Menu' from our catering team, Palmer and Howells.

Missing
Prep rain coat -
named - V Boddana



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the Early Years...

KINDERGARTEN

What a Tweet!

Kindergarten have had plenty of fun this week making bird feeders. Getting really messy, the children had a great time squashing lard into pine cones, and then rolling the gooey balls into bird seed.

Tied with string, and carefully wrapped with foil, the children were tasked with taking the lovingly-made feeders home ready to hang up in their gardens.

Well done, Kindergarten!

RECEPTION

The Reception children have enjoyed their last week of dinosaurs! They have already created a mind map for our next term's topic, 'The Secret Garden'.

The children read 'Walking through the Jungle'. Throughout the week they experienced rhyming activities and played games. The children wrote their own version of the book and called it 'Walking through the swamp.' This of course had lots of dinosaurs in it!

The children explored 3D shapes this week and related them to dinosaur's shapes! What great fun they had using 3D shapes to create their own dinosaur. They were challenged to name the shapes and describe them.

Everyone was seeing double this week in maths as we explored doubling and halving. The children enjoyed exploring doubling using Harry and the Dinosaurs doubling machine. They particularly like the halving activities as it involved sharing out sweets!

We hope you have an enjoyable holiday with the children and we look forward to seeing them return for another exciting term. HRW





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

8TH ANNUAL BERKY CHESS CONGRESS

The annual Berky chess congress proved a great success with a very high turn-out and lots of money raised for the PTA. All the children played to a fine standard and enjoyed the day. There were prizes galore! The year group winners were Beatrice N and Isabella E (Y3 Girls), Harry A, Henry R and Hugo W (Y3 Boys), Charlotte B (Y4 Girls), Griff L (Y4 Boys), Edith H (Y5 Girls), Finian C and Noah W (Y5 Boys), Leslie M (Y6 Girls) and George de B-T (Y6 Boys). All the above qualified for the Gloucestershire Megafinal along with Rupert G, Oli S, Adam R and James S. Many thanks to Mr Bird for organising such a popular event.

CHESS MATCH

The Berky 'A' team won its latest league fixture against Holy Apostles by a comfortable 5.5-0.5 margin. Our players are on tremendous form and are now one match away from another District League title. A youthful 'B' team claimed an encouraging 3-3 draw against their Holy Apostles counterparts.

YEAR 6 MATHS CHALLENGE DAY AT CHELTENHAM COLLEGE

On Tuesday, 4 Year 6 pupils took part in a day of maths challenges. They were against 11 other schools from as far away as Rugby! Alexa, Rhys, Sarah and William battled over a series of tough challenges. Alongside their maths knowledge, their reasoning and team skills were tested to the extreme. After several tasks, we were sitting outside the top 4 places, but after an excellent lunch the 'Fab Four' were reinvigorated and showed true Berky perseverance. We finished in third place overall, beaten by two teams from outside of Gloucestershire. Well done Team Berky, I was extremely proud of you.

MUSIC NEWS

Spring Recital

The next Recital will be on Tuesday 6th March for solo or small ensemble performances. Music teachers in school will sign up pupils for playing (unless they performed in the Autumn Recital) and please let me know if you would like to take part, but learn outside school.

Sponsored Playathon

We have arranged for a sponsored Playathon to raise funds for two charities (Winston's Wish and Edward's Trust) after half term. Pupils may collect sponsors for each 10min unit of practice time spent from 19th Feb - 2nd March. It would be most helpful if parents could keep track of Practice time in the music notebooks and endorse achievement with a signature daily.

Music Exams

These have been confirmed for Saturday 17th March and I will let you know the list of appointments after half term.

Summer Music Courses

Jazz, String Starters and Orchestra (Grade 1-4 and 5-8.) Organised by Cotswold Music Tutors in Stroud, July 30th - Aug 3rd. Please see website www.cotswoldmusicutors.co.uk for details. These are very popular and an excellent way to have fun, make new (musical) friends and develop skills.

Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose!

After half term Y5/Y6 will be preparing for the Spring Concert and learning songs which fuse Tudor music with Sea Shanties, telling the story of King Henry VIII's warship the Mary Rose, its sinking in 1545 and discovery and raising in 1982. I can recommend a very worthwhile day out with a visit to the Royal Docks and the new Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth.

Parents' and Friends' Choir

We will be continuing rehearsals on Thursday 22nd Feb to prepare for a performance of 'Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose' with Y5/6 at the Spring Concert in March. No choral experience necessary, come and enjoy a relaxed evening with fellow parents and Berky friends. Rehearsals on each Thursday, 7.30-9.00pm, in the Prep building. (Please note - there are also some Parents' Evenings on Thursdays).

Please let me know, via the office, if you would like to join us. PM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U9A v The Richard Pate School Won 7-1

On Friday 2nd February the U9As travelled to RPS for a game which saw some very entertaining football from both sides and included a hat trick from Lincoln and four goals from Jonny who takes his season tally to 19 goals in 4 matches! The second midweek match proved no problem for this team, unlike our winging premiership sides, the boys were raring to go with no complaints and no need for last minute fitness tests. They continued from where they left off on Wednesday with their usual swarm attack and some excellent defence once again from Seb and Alex and Alessio taking up his new position in goal. The final score didn't quite reflect the play from both sides. RPS pressed our defence on a number of occasions finishing their moves with accurate shots on goal but failing to score due to some outstanding saves from Alessio. Berky were all the more impressive at the other end with moves from Max, Jack and Will leading to a number of well taken goals from both Jonny and Lincoln. This was an excellent team performance with the boys displaying some quality football.

U9B v The Richard Pate School Draw 1-1

The U9B team had a very closely contested match with RPS, which resulted in a 1-1 draw. The boys were well organised with Griff and Alex S doing a sterling job in defence, ably assisted by Ollie playing solidly in front of them. The midfield trio of Jonathan, Archie and Otto played with great energy and caused the opposition lots of problems. They attacked with speed and tracked back when needed. Rupert got himself in good positions up front and came close on several occasions. Harry was reliable in goal in the first half and had an excellent second half in midfield. It was a thoroughly enjoyable game and I was delighted with the boys' efforts. Well done to all the team. Many thanks to all of the parents who supported the boys.

U10 v Hatherop Win 2-0

On Wednesday, the U10 boys played Hatherop at the Victoria Ground. The boys played 6 a side which made the game slightly more challenging because they had to work that bit harder to move the ball around the pitch. This was an excellent performance, though, with two goals from Jensen who was supported well by Noah, Oscar H and Luke. These boys worked together to get the ball into the box and there were some close chances including one from Luke that hit the bar! Andrew and Ed were solid in defence and cleared the ball away well whilst supporting the boys further forward when they needed it. Oscar A also played well in goal and kept a clean sheet. The match finished 2-0 to Berky,

Well done boys, a good result. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support them.

U11A v Hatherop Won 2-1

The theme for this week's training was defensive organisation and retaining possession. I was delighted that the boys implemented this to great effect on Wednesday. We were patient in defence and showed a much greater awareness of when to tackle. The boys passed the ball well and attacked with width, getting many crosses into the opposition penalty area.

Defensively Jack, George de B-T and James S worked well together and the midfield of James E, Charlton, Adam and Rhys gave them protection and were quick to turn defence into attack. Benji and Rumhann really troubled the Hatherop defence with some mazy runs. Rumhann scored both goals to give us a fine victory. Well done to all of the boys and many thanks to our loyal supporters.

U11B v Hatherop Won 9-0

A great game for the spectators as Berky stormed forward and with many chances scored an embarrassment of goals. James C-G was up front on the first half and scored. He played very well holding his position and had several chances. William and Archie in midfield were excellent making several storming runs, both scoring. Charlie and Eliot, at the back, held firm and made some strong tackles and so Benjamin in goal was left with little to do. On the second half, Berky were all on the attack and on a rare counterattack Hatherop almost scored, Eliot making the all important save. However Berky were quicker to the ball and fiercer in the tackle. George L sprinted through from defence unchallenged to slot the ball home in the bottom left corner of the net. Both Archie and Charlie scored screamers as they hit the top right hand corner of the net. Charlie scored twice as did Archie and Eliot. Olly, who had been playing in goal, in the final few minutes went up front and scored from directly in front of goal. In the end Berky were just too strong. A very enjoyable game.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

NETBALL

U8 v Dean Close

Draw 2-2

Due to the size of our U8 netball squad, all girls from Y3 played at least a quarter each. It was the girls' first match of the season and all girls were very excited and eager to play. The match started well with Matilda and Rosemary working hard around our shooting circle, resulting in Matilda scoring two goals by half time. The rest of the Blue team worked well at stopping the ball really going anywhere near the Dean Close circle. In the second half, the tables turned and the ball unfortunately didn't make it down to our shooting circle, resulting in a 2-2 draw at full-time. Well done to all girls for excellent play; their positioning really is developing well, as is their footwork. A special mention, too, to Matilda for being a great Captain.

U9 v St Edward's

U9A Won 6-3 U9 Blue Lost 2-1

On a rather cold evening all the under 9s and four under 8s went to St Edward's – well done to the Year 3s for stepping up an age group. I saw the first half of the A team match and at half time it was 2-2 which obviously was a tight game and all to play for. The result was 6-3 to Berky so well done for driving through in the second half. The Blue team match was 1-0 to St Ed's at half time so another close game. Charlotte scored our only goal in the second half, but St Ed's scored a second goal to give a 2-1 victory to them. Well played to all our under 9 girls.

U9A v Cheltenham College

Draw 3-3

The U9As match started with our girls in a bit of a flap! CCPS very quickly got the better of our defenders and scored twice in quick succession. Indeed, at the end of the first quarter, one of the girls asked me if we were playing against older girls because they were so much taller than us and were so skilled! However, we soon regained our cool and in the next quarter Isobel scored after some excellent attacking play led from the centre by Isla. Furthermore, Becky, Phoebe, Dulcie and Viera had realised that they had work to do and rose to the challenge, preventing many further goal-scoring opportunities by CCPS. At the end of the third quarter the score was 3-2 to Berky, but a lucky break in the fourth meant that CCPS scored again, bringing the final score to a 3-3 draw.

Isla was voted player of the match for her ability to be everywhere all at once! This was a super game and Berky U9As can be very pleased with themselves to gain a draw against CCPS. Well done girls.

U9B v Cheltenham College

Lost 3-4

This was another well-balanced match for the U9B girls and pretty much followed the pattern of 'they scored, we scored' throughout. Unfortunately for us, the final whistle blew when they had the lead and the final score was 3-4. Nevertheless we had witnessed a much improved game with some speedy manoeuvres from Bella again, with Darcey as her partner in crime this time, consistently getting the ball into our shooting circle and Eleanor was able to capitalise on this with three goals. Our defenders worked hard too, preventing far more goals in this match and showing that they had learned much from our previous game (by not being quite so kind to the opposition!). Darcey was voted player of the match, the other team clearly having noted her powerful presence on the court. It was such a shame that this match didn't end when it was a draw, but well played, girls, even so!

U10B v Cheltenham College

Lost 3-1

The girls were playing outside and, captained by Edith, elected to shoot out of the sun for the first quarter. Unfortunately, despite getting the ball into the D we could not capitalise on the advantage and score. The second quarter was better with Lizzie, Emma and Georgie passing the ball smoothly up the court. Emma managed to score our only goal of the match and had so many other near misses. Frankie put in some timely interceptions in defence, marking her opponent tightly. I was really pleased to see the girls getting in front of their markers before calling for the ball (we have been working on this in training). A good performance, girls – you are now starting to play more like a squad.

U10A v Cheltenham College

Lost 8-4

This was the girls' first indoor match (captained by India) and it was certainly played at an impressive pace. The first quarter was a whirlwind. With Hattie on one player (their best player), everyone defended like their life depended on it! Daisy came on in the second quarter and

injected some confidence into the team. She scored 4 goals in quick succession and we found ourselves with a narrow lead after the second quarter. The third quarter was tight with end to end opportunities, CCPS regained the lead. Sophie was working incredibly hard as Goal Keeper, making many timely interceptions. 5-4: it was all to play for in the final 6 minutes but the CCPS girls were obviously drilled in using the bounce pass indoors and used this home advantage to secure their victory. Although we did not gain a win, the girls all gave 100% and were fully committed to their team. Well done girls, you showed great spirit and although there are things to work on, you certainly gave CCPS a run for their money!

U11 v Cheltenham College

U11A Lost 5-2 U11B Won 7-3

The Bs started the fixture outside on the tarmac courts and they did brilliantly considering we were minus 5 players! The defence of Catherine and Zoe was fantastic making numerous interceptions to stop their shooters even attempting any shots at goal. Isi and Darcey swapped between centre and wing defence and both of them were superb in controlling the centre third. Hannah and Kyla's court play was very solid with excellent footwork and Eleanor had her shooting eye well and truly in and shot all 7 goals – well done! At half time the score was 3-2 to Berky so it was a very tight game but the girls stuck to their task and powered through the third and fourth quarter to win by 7 goals to 3. A super game! The As then went inside to play in the sports hall, which immediately makes it a completely different game. There is a myriad of lines and play speeds up by a few miles per hour! Unusually for an A team match it was a very low scoring affair with no goals being scored after the first quarter. Our girls busted a gut in this match. We had no one to swap in whilst the College team had their squad of 10, this started to make a difference as the game progressed. Mollie played her usual brilliant game at centre against an excellent girl from the College – both girls were voted player of the match at the end. There were lovely passages of play between our attack players Sarah, Rosannah and Jemima and the defence, Ella, Leslie and Alexa made some timely interceptions to really put pressure on their shooters. The final score was 5-2 to the College. I am very proud of all the Year 6 girls who ran their socks off and played superbly in tricky circumstances. First class all round!