



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 9TH MARCH
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

It has been one of those weeks when I have been particularly proud to be Headmaster. I am currently sat in my study, in character, as Sir Robert Peel. Meanwhile, Year 2 as Victorian street urchins, with the help of Sherlock Holmes, are all out and about solving clues to recover stolen plans for new street lighting in the City of London (we think Moriarty did it)! They hope to be able to recover the plans and I may reward them with a golden (chocolate) sovereign if they do! What great creativity from Mrs Taylor, Mrs Owen and Mrs Agg - with help from other staff - in coming up with an inspiring day of historical problem solving!

Last week has confirmed that our wonderful Year 6 have gained 23 grammar school places and 14 Scholarships to Independent Schools. Destinations include Pate's, Sir Thomas Rich's, The High School for Girls, Crypt and Ribston Hall grammar schools as well as independent schools such as The Cheltenham Ladies' College, St. Edward's, Dean Close, King's Gloucester, Malvern St. James and Rendcomb. We are also lucky to have some brilliant local academies and some pupils are destined for schools such as Balcarras and The Costwold School too. I know that some final decisions are still being made but very well done to Year 6.

Cheltenham is an enviable place to be educated in that there are many excellent schools and our pupils go on to excel at the best of them. We are extremely lucky to have the opportunity to send children to schools that regularly feature in the Top 50 in England. Well done Year 6 on your achievements! We are all very proud of you.

The focus now will be on an enriching programme of study and activities to stretch and inspire academically, musically, dramatically and in their emotional and personal development, ready for the transition to senior school.

We had a super Prep celebration assembly last Wednesday, to which Year 2 parents were invited to get a taste of what life will be like next year 'Across the Road!' The Year 3 children rose superbly to the occasion and proved to be enthusiastic and informative guides to the Year 2 parents - keen to talk about life in the Prep and to show the very best of what the new Year 3 will enjoy.

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sat 10th March

9.30am – 11.30am Open Morning
10.30 - Art Exhibition at Malvern St James

Mon 12th March

3.30pm – 4.15pm – Book Fair, Andrews Gym
6.00pm – Year 4 and Year 5 Future Schools Information Evening, Prep Hall

Tue 13th March

10.00am - General Knowledge Championships at Wycliffe School (8 children)

6.00pm - Kindergarten Parents' Evening

Wed 14th March

9.10am Year 1 Assembly, parents invited to watch
10.00am - General Knowledge Championships at Wycliffe
2.00pm - Netball U11A, U11B, U10A, U10B v St Edward's (A)
2.30pm - Football U11A, U11B, U11C v Beaudesert (A)

Thu 15th March

6.00pm - Reception Parents' Evening
7.15pm-9.30pm Parents' Choir

Fri 16th March

Year 1 trip to @Bristol

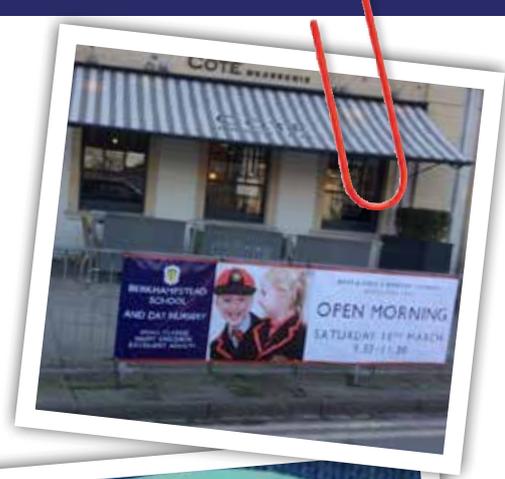
Sun 18th March

3.00pm-5.00pm Dress Rehearsal for Spring Concert - Parents' Choir, all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

The tours have been a good warm-up for our Open Morning tomorrow, Saturday 10th March. Our Year 6 children will conduct the tours and they do it with pride. I invariably get very positive feedback from prospective parents as to how they are our greatest asset. It would be great to have as many as possible to join us on tomorrow. And parents please do stay for a cup of tea and homemade cake, take a look round or steal an hour or so to yourself! Oh and of course, please do mention to any friends and neighbours with children who might be interested in coming along.

We have had some super feedback about our pupils' artwork - much of which is up and around school for Open Morning - and this week the very high standard of Berkhamstead Art was endorsed by Malvern St. James school. Congratulations go to Isi F, India R and Lizzie H who were Highly Commended by the judge. Very well done to all who entered, the standard was exceptionally high. The exhibition is on tomorrow morning, having been postponed from last weekend. Mrs Bareham is already making plans for our whole school Art Exhibition in the summer term.

It has been brilliant to witness the hatching of chicks in kindergarten this week. The children have been fascinated and loved caring for the eggs and were excited to watch the chicks hatch. Thank you to 'mother hen' Mrs Main who has enabled this.

I am extremely proud to lead such a capable and experienced staff. They all go the extra mile with supporting each and every child, with the focus on bringing out the best, celebrating success, caring and having fun!

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Missing items...

*Missing named
school jumper*

*H Connaughton-
Wainwright*



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years...

KINDERGARTEN

Despite the recent weather Kindergarten has started the topic of 'Spring into Life'. We have been reading different versions of Jack and the Beanstalk and the children have been acting out some scenes from the story using puppets. Each key worker has planted a bean with their group, the children will learn to take care of their beanstalk, and monitor how tall they grow. We have also been studying spring flowers and produced some beautiful paintings.

On Monday we took delivery of some living eggs and an incubator; we have been watching them crack open and now have some baby chicks to look after. The children have been fascinated with how the chicks have changed and developed over a few days, and have been talking about new life. We will have them until Thursday 16 March and then have the opportunity to rehouse them. If anyone is interested, please contact Kindergarten staff.

RECEPTION

The children have settled back into Early Years life and are enjoying their topics "Step into Spring" and "The Secret Garden." Lots of beanstalks have been spotted around the department. No giants have been seen yet!

During one of our carousel activities the children became budding gardeners. After reading "Jack and the Beanstalk," the children wanted to plant beans. We read the story "Jasper's Beanstalk" to find out what we would need to do in order for our beans to grow healthily. The children agreed that some of the things Jasper did were good, however, after he lavishes care on his bean for a week and nothing happens, Jasper becomes very impatient and does some things the children did not think was good!

The children agreed that our seeds would need sunlight, soil and water in order to grow. They planted their own beans and placed them in a tray in the sunlight and are ensuring they get plenty of water. We are waiting to see whose bean will grow the tallest!

As part of our topic, "The Secret Garden" we decided to use paintings by Claude Monet as inspiration for some artwork. To introduce the children to the artist, we read the story 'The Magical Garden of Claude Monet' where Julie and her dog meet a very unusual gardener, for not only does he cultivate his many plants, he also paints beautiful pictures of them. Julie has made a friend of the great impressionist painter, Claude Monet.

We talked about the colours used in the painting and the style and technique used by the artist. The children then created their own pictures by using Monet's paintings as inspiration using pastels. Their finished creations are fantastic and all very individual.

During Forest School this week, the children created potions in the nature garden. They had great fun filling up their pots with anything they could find in the garden. The children named their potion and explained what it would turn you into; these ranged from turning into frogs, horses, fish to even the Stickman.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school...

500 WORD STORY WINNERS

The judges of the in-house 500 word story competition were most impressed with this year's entries. Congratulations to the following pupils:

Highly Commended

Y3 Rosemary B, Harry M, Henry R, Isabella E
Y4 Viera M, Alex D, Seb L
Y5 Andrew P, Milly W, Simian D
Y6 Charlton, Florie H, Leslie M

3rd Place

Y3 Aurielle M
Y4 William B
Y5 India R
Y6 Chiara O'C

2nd Place

Y3 William J
Y4 Alex S
Y5 Sophie G
Y6 James S

1st Place

Y3 Lottie A
Y4 Dulcie B
Y5 Oscar A
Y6 Alexa E



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 10 minute 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 the list of appointments was sent out last week.

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.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...



NEWS FROM THE PTA

Last week you will have received the Save the Date card for this years PTA Midsummer Ball taking place on Saturday 16th June at the fabulous Queens Hotel.

Tickets will go on sale at Easter but if you would like to reserve a table now please email berkhampsteadpta@gmail.com to ensure a spot at the hottest event this year!

The Cake @ Break Sale last week was a huge success and raised an amazing £171.69! Thank you to everyone who organised, baked, sold and bought cakes, your support is amazing.

Although a little while ago, the pancake team did a great job and raised a fabulous £105 for Winston's Wish, thank you for everyone's support.

We appreciate the children were disappointed that **Movie Night was postponed but it has been rearranged for Friday 20th April**, after the Easter holidays. Details remain the same. If you have yet to make your donation for the event please can we kindly ask that you drop your donation into the school office in a named envelope.

Thank you as always to everyone for their ongoing support; we truly have a great school community.

Don't forget to reserve your Summer Ball tickets today!

Have a great weekend.

Joey

Joey Bowden
PTA Chair

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07816888058



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
MIDSUMMER BALL

Save the date

SATURDAY 16 JUNE, 2018
THE QUEENS HOTEL, CHELTENHAM
6PM - MIDNIGHT

RECEPTION DRINKS IN THE ORANGERY
SPILLING OUT ONTO THE LAWN
FOLLOWED BY DINNER & DANCING

SPACES ARE LIMITED...
- TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE CONTACT THE PTA
ON BERKHAMPSTEADPTA@GMAIL.COM

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE IN APRIL

FRIENDS OF BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL PTA MIDSUMMER BALL IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

FOOTBALL

Hatherop Castle Tournament U9A

Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 1

Runners-up

Our U9As played their last set of matches this season at Hatherop Castle. With a trophy at stake and a so far unbeaten record, the boys were quietly confident. Our first match against St Edwards was a slightly dire affair with both sides finding their first touches difficult on a small pitch with small goals, resulting in a draw. Windrush Valley were next and created a 10-minute storm in a match that saw both sides have a number of shots on goal, and a goal mouth scramble in which a ball rebounded back into our own goal, this was a 1-0 defeat - our first of the season. We kept focussed and Alessio surpassed himself in goal making a number of match winning saves. Our new defence line up of Seb, Will and Jack were solid at the back making strong clearances and often setting up good moves for our attack. Max, Jonny, Alex and Lincoln linked up superbly to engineer a 1-0 win against St Hugh's, a 5-0 win against Rendcomb, and in our last game a 2-0 win against unbeaten Hatherop Castle.

Three teams finished on equal points and the same number of goals against but unfortunately for us Hatherop had scored just one goal more and so we finished as runners up. This was a great team effort from all of the boys who played with enthusiasm supporting each other on and off the pitch and finishing the season on a real high. Well done, boys.



U11A v King's, Worcester Won 5-0

The U11 had a superb match on Wednesday, gaining a convincing victory over King's Worcester. We played with a real energy and vibrancy and had our opponents on the back foot for much of the game. The boys were adaptable to slot into a variety of positions and performed well wherever they were asked to play. Our defence of George de B-T, Jack and Charlton kept the opposition forwards at bay, affording them few shots on goal.

James E, James S, Adam and Rhys were excellent in midfield and were often in the ascendency in 50/50 balls. Benji and Rumhann were threatening in attack and made some excellent runs to find space and create opportunities. Rumhann scored a hat trick and Benji and Adam scored one each. One goal that stood out came from a pacy cross from Benji which Rumhann met with a brilliantly timed header. It was unstoppable.

A great performance boys. Well done! Many thanks to our supporters, as always.

U11B v King's, Worcester Won 6-0

The game started brightly with King's passing the ball sweetly. However, Berky were the more tenacious side and went quickly into the lead with James shooting in from close range. Eliot and George L were making good runs in on the wing. Charlie hammered another goal in from the edge of the box. Archie took over striker duties and he scored also. At the other end of the pitch William was sterling in defence aided by Olly. Benjamin was rarely troubled in goal, but did make one important save. In the second half Archie went back to defend and Benjamin became the striker. Berky really began to pass the ball well. William made some great passes into the box leading to Benjamin scoring two great goals. Sadly the third eluded him despite some further opportunities. At the back Charlie and Archie held the line. Ollie had to make several good saves and at one point had to bravely put his body between ball and striker. Again George L made some good runs. Eliot passed the ball well, creating further chances for the midfield players but it was Eliot who powered in an unstoppable shot to make the score 6-0. King's had a few last minute chances but Berky defended well and kept a clean sheet.

U10 v King's, Worcester Lost 0-3

On Wednesday, the U10 boys played against King's, Worcester. This was a tough match and the opposition were quite physical which was different to the teams we have played so far. King's scored the first goal in the initial couple of minutes and continued to put pressure on our defence for most of the first half. Luke made some excellent saves and at half time the score was 2-0. In the second half the boys had some good chances to score but they found it a challenge to get a shot on target. Jensen worked really hard and made some superb passes and George was in goal for the second half and he made some excellent saves. Unfortunately the match finished 3-0 to King's.

Well done boys. This was a challenging match. Thank you to the parents who came along to support the boys.

U9B v Rendcomb Won 3-0

The U9Bs took on Rendcomb on Friday in a very competitive game with both sides playing with enthusiasm and effort. Berky started well and were extremely organised in defence with Griff, Otto and Alex D keeping things in order despite a number of good moves from the Rendcomb attack. Our attack, however, were somewhat disorganised with players not always keeping to set positions, and goal mouth scrambles finishing with little or no results. A team talk at half time seemed to calm the nerves and in the second half we began to string some good passes together and more importantly keep possession. Rupert, Jonathan, Oli and Archie all contributed to some strong moves from the midfield and goals from Will B and Harry led to a comfortable win in the end. Well done to all the boys.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

NETBALL

U9A v Dean Close

Lost 3-7

It was a pleasure to umpire the U9A team last Friday. I hadn't seen them play for some time and they have really improved – well done! We were an equal match for the Dean Close girls right up to half time where Berky led the match 3-2. The girls were playing very well with some lovely interceptions all over the court. There were, however, one or two wayward passes which kept the Dean Close girls in the game. Jasmine stepped up really well for her first game in the As and she did a great job. The second half of the match saw the Dean Close girls take a bit of a grip on the match and Berky did not score again. Sadly, the opposition did and were rewarded with a 7-3 victory. An area to work on in practice is our defending skills where much tighter marking is required. A good team effort – well done!

U9A v Malvern St James

Lost 5-13

After a beautiful drive in the spring sunshine over to Malvern St. James, we met a triumphant team who were basking in the glory of their previous day's exploits at a Midlands netball tournament where they were the overall winners after 8 games! They showed what a good team they were within minutes and we were 6-2 down after the first quarter. We were not helped by the fact that this was the first time the Berky girls had played on an indoor court (with a rainbow of lines on the floor and a slight slippiness not found on the MUGA!). Nevertheless, we did have a few moments where we shone with 2 goals from Eleanor and 3 from Isabel and strong defence (it needed to be!) from Grace and Becky. A 13-5 loss against such a strong opposition was actually a really good outcome for the girls and I was very proud of their fighting spirit right to the end! Well done girls.

U9B v Malvern St James

Won 4-1

On a beautifully sunny afternoon Berky Under 9B team arrived at Malvern St James indoor sporting arena. Somewhat bewildered at first by the sheer size of the court and the multiple different coloured lines, the girls soon took the new environment in their stride and began their attack. From the outset Hazel and

Bella made a splendid attacking duo in the 'D' and it was not long before Bella had scored the opening goal of the match. There was great movement from Darcy and Cressy and Charlotte in midfield which continually fed our Goal Shooter and Goal Attack. The whole squad worked well as a team, they battled away to keep the ball and really earned the water break they had between each of the quarters. This said, MSJ were no walk over and also had the ball in their own 'D' on many occasions during the match but simply failed to convert their possession into goals until the final quarter. Hazel scored beautifully in the third quarter with Bella skilfully finding the net for all the other goals. Thanks as well to sterling defence by Berky, the final score was a very handsome 4-1 win. Well played, girls – a well earned victory.

U9B v Dean Close

Won 6-4

Well, what a game! The Berky B team girls demonstrated right from the start that their play has matured over the season and we witnessed some tremendous passages of netball and some pretty slick moves! After a quick goal from Bella in the first two minutes, the girls felt confident and by the end of the first half the score was 3-1. Further examples of attacking play and some strong defending led to a final score of 6-4 and a well-deserved win for the Berky girls. Bella was voted player of the match (having scored 4 of the 6 goals), but a great game was also had by Charlotte, Darcey, Eleanor and Hazel and they deserve to be mentioned.

U10A v Hatherop Castle

Won 15-4

Another home match on the MUGA and the girls certainly put on a performance! The girls (captained by Simran) were in the zone – the pace was fast and furious. Occasionally, the girls were a little too fast and some of their control disappeared. The first quarter ended with us up 3-2. After a calming chat, the dream team put on a performance; they were using space wisely and moving with confidence. It soon became very apparent that we were far too strong for our opponents and by the end of the third quarter we were 14-3 up. After a few tactical changes in the final quarter, with the girls playing out of their normal positions, the final score was 15-4. Well done, girls. A strong win with excellent teamwork.

U11A v Hatherop Castle Draw 2-2

This was a game in which the ball just did not want to go in the hoop – for both teams. This being my first time seeing the U11 girls play, I was more than impressed. Their speed, accuracy of passing, and team work was astounding. The ball travelled quickly from one end of the court to the next, with Hatherops centre running round in circles trying to keep up with Mollie. Emily was able to shake off her player in order to support the defence and get the ball out of the danger zone quickly. Alexa played a variety of positions, but stayed strong when taking a few knocks purely due to the Hatherop players trying their best to get out of the way of her galloping strides. Berky fell to 2-1 down after the third quarter but with some great verbal encouragement at the edge of the D from Sarah, Jamima and Florrie were able to work faster than the defence and get a successful shot away to end the game with a draw.

U11B v Hatherop Castle

Won 7-5

This was a terrific match. At one point it looked like we were going to win comfortably and the next there was only a goal in it. The match was played at an energetic and fast pace from the first whistle and there was no doubt Berky had the upper hand in the first part of the match, making some great interceptions and passing sequences. It was, however, only 1-1 after the first quarter. Eleanor then got her eye in and slotted three amazingly long shots from near the edge of the circle, 4-1 at half time to Berky. The Hatherop girls then found more of a rhythm and started to claw their way back into the game. Rosannah scored a very vital goal so at the three quarters mark it was 5-4 to Berky. The final quarter was a feisty and tight session, but I am pleased to say Berky stuck to the task and played thoughtfully and accurately and came out on top by 7 goals to 5. Well done to the whole squad!