



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a lovely, and very busy, first week back. We have really hit the ground running - there's been a real bustle about the place. What a shame that we have had to postpone the Firework Party tonight, but it is something to look forward to next week... now Friday 16th November. Cake at Break on Tuesday this week was a great success... the children love this event (as I do!) and enormous thanks to Mrs Sampson, Ms Wood and Mrs Jenkins for organising this. The next PTA meeting is on Wednesday next week; do come along if you wish.

This week we have focused our assemblies on Remembrance. The children were reminded of the 3 gentlemen who lived in Beechmount and Fernbank, now the Pre-Prep Building, in 1914 and sadly died as a consequence of the First World War. The fact that their memorials are in France, Greece and Iran (Persia in WWI) shows that it was truly a World War.



Harold Charles Edward Barratt
aged 21, of 'Fernbank,' Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, died of wounds on 18th May 1917 in Salonica.

John Roland Barratt
aged 25, of 'Fernbank,' Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, died of illness in France on 24th January 1919.

Douglas Burgoyne-Wallace
aged 21, of 'Beechmount,' Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, died in Persia on 3rd March 1915.

Next week I look forward seeing the Year 5 parents at the Parents' Meetings (Tuesday and Wednesday), in order to discuss their children's progress and their plans for senior schools. We have a wealth of experience of what each school offers, we know your children well, know the senior schools well so we are in a good position to advise. There will be a Future Schools Evening for parents of Year 4 and 5 in the Spring Term. In the meantime, though, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Agg or Mrs Holland if you would like to discuss your thoughts for your child's next school.

This week also saw our chess team do splendidly at St. Gregory's in the League Competition. We had a full list of sporting fixtures - see match reports from the Games staff. Inclusivity is central to what we do at Berky and it was super that so very many children represented the School again this week.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 13th Nov

3.45pm Chess v Bishops Cleeve

(A) (12 players)

6.00pm – Kindergarten

Parents' Evening

6.00pm – 5K Parents' Evening

Wed 14th Nov

Reception trip to the Toy Museum

2.30pm – Hockey U11A, U10A, U9A, U9B v Beaudesert (A)

3.00pm – Rugby U11, U10A, U10B v Richard Pate (A)

6.00pm – 5B Parents' Evening

8.00pm - PTA Meeting

Thu 15th Nov

Year 5 trip to the Rainforest

3.15pm – 4.15pm

Book Fair, Andrews Gym

6.00pm – Reception Parents' Evening

Fri 16th Nov

2.45pm – Hockey U9A, U9B v Richard Pate (A)

3.15pm – Rugby U8,

U9 v Dean Close (A)

3.30pm – 4.15pm –

Book Fair, Andrews Gym

5.30pm - PTA Firework Event





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

Early Years children have returned after their break with great enthusiasm, ready for all the exciting activities leading up to the end of this very busy term.

It's been lovely to see the Kindergarten children well rested and happy to be back with us this week. We have had a fun start to the term with our new topic 'People who help us' and we would love our parents to be involved by spending some time in the Kindergarten to talk to the children about their job and how they help others.

We have talked about Bonfire Night and created some dramatic firework pictures using chalks and black paper; everything and everyone was covered in glitter.

We have been reading the story about Sparky the Spider and how he got his wings after helping his minibeast friends when they all found a fire. The children learned how to phone the emergency services and what to do in an emergency situation.

The children have loved playing in the new fire station role play area and dressing up as firefighters. We have observed the children working together to problem solve and share resources. Involving the children in real life situations has enabled them to talk about different occupations and what they would like to be when they grow up!

Please sign up for Kindergarten parents' evening Tuesday 13 November.

Reception children watched their own firework display on Monday; staff lit sparklers so children could have first-hand experience watching and listening to fireworks. This was to help them think of words to describe fireworks. Later, they composed their own firework poems and had great fun thinking of wonderful words to describe a variety of fireworks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about Guy Fawkes and his devious plotting against the King!

Reception celebrated Diwali this week. It was a great opportunity for us all to look at how another faith celebrates a significant celebration in their calendar. Rishik's mum came in to tell us all about the 'Festival of Light' and the different ways in which it can be celebrated. The children also had a go at designing their own mehndi hand patterns during carousel. These hand creations will be displayed so please come and see them.

The children became shape detectives this week as they explored 3D shapes. We started by looking at regular 3D shapes and thinking about their properties and why some were better for building than others. Later in the week, we decided we would search for 3D shapes in the outdoor environment. The children were great detectives finding and describing the shapes in the playground.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten
Milo R, Alex B

Reception
Charlie F, Jack F,
Olivia M, Matilda S,
Flo PT, Melba F, Isaac M,
Hughie B

Book fair...

Come and browse the newest and latest children's books at this year's Scholastic Book Fair. It takes place on Thursday, Friday and Monday from 3.15 to 4.15pm in the Andrews Centre.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

YEAR 6 GEOGRAPHY AND ICT TRIP

The weather was set fair and the Year 6s set off on their Rivers and ICT trip. The Severn at Broadoak was the first stop and it was low tide so there was more to see than when the river is at high tide. Drawings and pictures were gathered and on we went to Cannop Ponds in the Forest of Dean. I feel for most this was the highlight of the trip as wellies were needed for wading in the water to take various measurements – for some, more splashing than measuring! Symonds Yat was more impressive and glorious than usual with the magnificent autumn colours being illuminated by the sunshine which decided to appear at just the right moment. Flood plains, meanders and river bank erosion were much in evidence and the children appreciated what superb countryside we have on our doorstep. The second road closure of the day prevented us from following the Wye down its valley, but both the Wye and Severn were observed again at their estuaries from the view point near the Severn Bridge crossing. I hope the children enjoyed the trip and we will be following up the work in class this week.

Well done, Year 6!



Prep mid morning snacks

Please ensure that all snacks are healthy and nut-free: for instance fresh fruit, fresh vegetable sticks, bread sticks, sandwiches and plain popcorn are all most acceptable.



CHARITIES

We are so proud of these kind-hearted Y3 girls who have handmade delightful poppy hair accessories and badges in order to raise money for Remembrance Day. The girls have raised an impressive £50 so far.

The School Council has chosen Water Aid and The Acorns Children's Hospice as their charities this year.

CHESS

The Berk 'A' team faced a strong and canny St. Gregory's in its latest District League fixture. Skilful, pragmatic and thoughtful play saw our young players emerge with a handy 4-2 victory. Well done to captain Edith and her loyal lads. Will B skippered an inexperienced 'B' team (Ethan A, Otto S, Barnaby W, Sam B and Ben J were all making their debuts). Berkhamstead 'B' lost the match by a 3.5-2.5 margin but several promising players gained some very useful experience. MC



Missing...
Blazer
named CHITTENDEN



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SECOND HAND
UNIFORM SHOP
WINTER SALE
MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
3-4.15PM

20% OFF PREP COATS

50-75% OFF
DUFFLE COATS

BOYS' SHIRTS £1 EACH

BOYS' TROUSERS

£1 EACH

GIRLS' TUNICS 20% OFF

NEW GIRLS' SHIRTS
20% OFF

RED POLO NECKS

£1 EACH

NEW BLAZERS
20% OFF





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

RUGBY

U11 v St Edward's

Won 30-25

The U11 team continued their fine form with a hard fought victory against St Edward's. Although the teams were evenly matched the Berkys always had the edge. Our attacking play was superb with some of the off-loading and passing creating a great flow to the game. George and Oscar H provided us with strong direct running lines and the speed and footwork of Andrew, Fin, Jensen and Noah caused the opposition many problems. Oscar A often provided the link between the breakdown and next wave of attack. We scored six tries from Noah, Oscar H, Luke, Finian (2) and Jensen.

Our commitment in the tackle showed great determination. We were well organised and hit hard, with everyone giving their all. Luke, Noah and Andrew were excellent in this area. Although it was close at the end, the boys held on to achieve a deserved victory. Well done again boys!

Many thanks to our supporters who were treated to a very exciting game.

U10A v St Edward's

Won 8-4

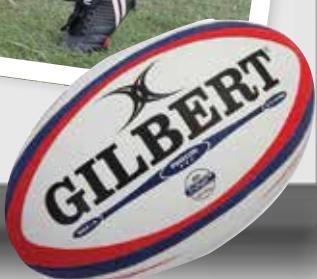
On Wednesday afternoon the U10A boys went to St Edward's. They played on a wider pitch than usual which they adapted to well. The first half was close with tries being scored at either end and at half time the score was 4-3 to Berkys. In the second half, the boys were going down the hill and the tries kept coming resulting in a final score of 8-4. The boys defended brilliantly and listened to the advice they had been given on Monday about passing the ball out away from contact. This gave them the advantage and as a team, they were able to break down St Edward's easily.

Well done boys, an excellent result and thank you to all the parents and friends that came along to support them.

U10B v St Edward's

Lost 1-2

This week the U10B team took on St Edward's in an away game. The pitch was on a considerable slope and Captain Archie won the toss and decided to play up the hill in the first half. This proved a challenge particularly since the St. Edward's team had 3 very big lads. However the boys played at their usual high standard, passing, catching and tackling well with Oli the standout tackler and 'poacher' of the ball and Harry the standout 'rucker'. It was a tight first half and St. Edward's scored twice despite some good defence. As we turned round for the second half the boys were determined to take advantage of the slope. Our quicker runners, Jonathan, Ethan and Alex, started to find more space but the last-ditch tackling from St. Edward's denied the boys tries on many occasions. With good support of the ball from Rupert and Archie we finally had a breakthrough with Jonathan scoring in the corner. However time ran out and the final score was 2 tries to 1 to St. Edward's.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

HOCKEY

U11B v Beaudesert

Won 2-0

It was a cold, wet and windy afternoon on top of the Minchinhampton Common but our girls got off the bus ready for the game! It took a while for us to get into the swing of the thing but after 5 minutes we were on a roll. By the 7th minute we had the ball in a strong position in our attacking end; lots of hits and passes between India, Lizzie, Georgie and Emma meant the ball was right on the goal line, their goalie nudged it over the line for us! We went 1-0 up. After a conversation about passing at half time it was like a new team coming out for the second half! Lorien came off her line in goal and made some strong tackles and cleared the ball well to the side. Eloise made some great clears through the game and Emily pushed up higher to make some great tackles. Up front Georgie and Edith had some great shots on goal, with their goalie managing to save them. Emma, working hard in the middle, marked really tightly which allowed her to make some great tackles and win the ball for us. Frankie received a great ball and sent it straight up the middle into the attacking D into Georgie who made a great strike to goal and we went 2 - 0 up. India made some great tackles in defence ensuring Beaudesert didn't get close to our goal! Lizzie fought hard all game and marked so tightly that some of their players couldn't move without Lizzie being there! Great work, girls, and some lovely play.

U10A v Hatherop

Won 9-0

Playing on Hatherop's new astro pitch was a pleasure. It soon became apparent that the girls were not going to be put under too much pressure and they were able to play some beautiful hockey. Joy (our captain) scored our first goal. She positioned herself close to the goalie and was able to slot the ball into the open goal. The girls used space to their advantage, playing their positions rather than chasing the ball. Goals came quickly and even with some tactical changes, the girls continued to score. Charlotte made a couple of excellent saves. Issy scored her hat trick, Isla claimed one, and both Becky and Grace scored 2 each. I was really pleased with how the girls were able to adapt to playing in different positions and played incredibly well as a team. Bella and Jasmine played in a range of places. Well done girls, you truly deserved this victory!

U10B v Beaudesert

Draw 1-1

A very tight game where teams were equally matched. The game started with both teams trying to break through the centre of each other's defences. Eleri and Viera both defended solidly. There were lots of goalmouth scrambles but Berky always managed to clear their lines. On the wings, Poppy and Hazel made some good runs. Cressie attacked through the centre ably supported by Eleanor. Hazel was tenacious in attack and she scored the opening goal. In the second half Beaudesert upped their game and proved to be an even stronger attack. Although Darcey saved the initial shot, Beaudesert were quicker to the loose ball and they buried it in the back of the goal. Although there were some good runs on the wing by Daisy, we were unable to score again and so the score remained at 1-1.

U9 v Hatherop Castle

Won 4-3

A squad of 17 U9 girls (captained by Jennella) excitedly arrived at the MUGA for our home match against Hatherop Castle. Hatherop had brought a small squad of only 10 girls, but all 27 girls played for at least 10 minutes over the match. In the first half, we saw fantastic attacking play by Aurielle and Lottie in the centre, supported by Rosemary and Matilda on the wings leading to 3 goals. The powerful defence by Jennella, Uma, Anna and Beatrice N prevented any goals from the opposition. The first half ended 3-0 to Berky.

In the second half, Hatherop scored twice in quick succession taking our defence by surprise, but they soon switched themselves on and defended strongly in the latter stages. Serena and Matilda kept pushing forward with Bea-Bea and Lucy, and eventually, right at the end of the match, another goal was scored by Bea-Bea!

A 4-3 victory was a good reflection of this match which was fast paced, had well-matched teams and was very exciting to watch.

U8 v St Edward's

Blue team 0-0 Yellow team 3-0

In both matches Berky were pretty dominant with the ball being up in our attacking half most of the time. Our defence had very little to do but when they were needed, they coped very well with hitting the ball away successfully. The blues took to the pitch first and were really unlucky not to score. The ball whistled past the post on a couple of occasions. The yellow team came on for the second half and as the match progressed our Berky girls got into their stride and scored 3 lovely goals. This is not easy when there are about 8 children around the ball at any one moment! Ena and Thea were our goal scorers. Well done to all the Berky U8 girls!

U8 Red v Hatherop Castle

Won 2-1

After a slightly hesitant start the red team pulled together with some gutsy tackles. They seized opportunities, running well with the ball and getting clear to score their two goals. There were some great defending moves too which kept Hatherop in check and only able to score the one goal.

U8 Blue v Hatherop Castle

Lost 2-0

Berky Blue team put in a huge effort with some great defending but Hatherop played really well. Their attackers put the pressure on and scored two good goals. The blues held their own, though, for the rest of the match, not allowing in any more goals.

U8 Yellow v Hatherop Castle

Lost 3-0

The Yellow team pulled together to defend well against a strong team from Hatherop. Hatherop gained three goals although Berky did manage to get the ball forward towards the end of the match but sadly were unable to capitalise on it.

