



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week all round here at Berky; there has been plenty going on to stretch and stimulate, see reports and pictures below (and on the website and Twitter). I know that many of you have attended Parents' Evenings in the past couple of weeks and hope that you found them interesting and informative. Do remember that form or class teachers are always available for a quick chat at drop off or pick-up and should be your first port of call for queries; appointments can be made if more in-depth discussion is needed.

I have been in London for most of the week, inspecting a Prep school in the pilot of a new Independent School Inspection. As always I gained a fascinating insight into another school; I came away impressed with their pupils' consistent consideration for others' points of view and their attitude, along with some ideas of changes that we might make at Berky. More importantly though I came away with a firm conviction of the excellence of our teaching at Berky. Our staff engage the children and encourage them to become more independent in their learning – they have such fun in doing this, and the children achieve amazing results.

Well done to those Year 6 children who sat the Grammar School Entrance exams this year. Sitting the papers is a great achievement in itself and I would like to congratulate all those who gained a place – you should be very proud of your achievements. Many others are now working towards the Independent School Scholarships and Entrance exams ... it is a busy time for our Year 6.

As we move towards the end of a busy half term the children are, understandably, tired and ready for a break. I am looking forward to 'tossing the caber' this afternoon at the Pre-Prep Highland Games before taking a break myself. I wish you a restful and enjoyable half-term.



FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 31st Oct

School Returns

Wed 2nd Nov

Year 6 – Detective Agency
Workshop

2.30pm – Rugby U9, U8 v
Hatherop (A)

2.30pm – Rugby U11A, U10A v
Beaudesert (A)

2.45pm – U11A, U11B v The
Richard Pate School (A)

Thu 3rd Nov

4.00pm – Hockey U8A, U8B v St
Edward's (A)

Fri 4th Nov

Year 6 Mosaic Artists Workshop

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

3.45pm – Rugby U8 v St
Edward's (A)

5.30pm - PTA Family Firework
Event



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school...

YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

This week Year 1 and Year 2 have thrown themselves into Scottish activities. Monday saw the Pre-Prep enjoying Scottish crafts; leaping salmon appeared with 'Nessies' in Year 2, whilst tartan paintings and Scottish men were created in Year 1.

On Tuesday a local Scottish dance group arrived to teach the children traditional dances. After a few demonstrations the children quickly learnt the basic steps and enjoyed a morning 'slipping' and skipping.

Wednesday morning was full of excitement as 61 children had breakfast in school. A big thank you to the Pre-Prep staff who cooked delicious porridge and served oatcakes and smoked salmon. Many children asked if they could have breakfast at school again.

Today the Highland Games will be held. The caber will be tossed, wellies will be thrown, the keltie dash will be run and highland steps jumped. The afternoon will end with a demonstration of Scottish dancing for parents. A big thank you to Miss Jewers for organising the event.

What a great week!

We wish you all a happy and restful half-term.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school...

EARLY YEARS

The past few weeks have been very busy but great fun in Early Years.

Thank you for attending Reception Parents' Evenings; it is always very positive to share with you the progress the children are making. We look forward to Kindergarten Parents' Evening on Monday 7th November.

During literacy the children had found a little bear asleep in the book corner alongside a large bear with three lanterns. What story would we be reading this week? After great discussion everyone agreed it must be "Can't you sleep Little Bear?" The children loved sequencing the story and created some fantastic story maps. Following on from "Can't you sleep Little Bear?", the children created lanterns. They used their scissor skills to cut carefully and had great fun decorating their lanterns. We agreed Little Bear would love their lanterns and go to sleep very quickly!

Family Afternoon was a great success. The children enjoyed their teddy bears picnic alongside their parents and favourite bears. The children were very keen to show the parents what they have been learning and the classrooms; it was a wonderful opportunity to look round and share the many activities the children have experienced.

The Reception children have settled into school very well and we ask if you can now say goodbye to them in the playground and go behind the gates with the Year 1 and 2 parents.





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News from around the school...

EARLY YEARS

Kindergarten have been busy embracing the Autumnal theme and have brought in some wonderful objects for our autumn display table. They have made some very bright-eyed and bushy-tailed squirrels to display.

On Thursday we had a very successful parents' afternoon. The children excitedly challenged their mums and dads to draw a self-portrait. These are now being exhibited alongside the children's, in the Kindergarten portrait gallery. The winner, as voted for by the public is..... Mr Hibbert (Hugo's daddy).





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News from the PTA...

FAMILY FIREWORKS EVENING - COLOURING/POSTER COMPETITION

A colouring project (Pre-Prep) and instructions for a fireworks safety poster (Prep) were sent out in book bags this week. Any entries need to be submitted to the office by 10 am on Tuesday 1st November. Prizes will be given out at the Fireworks Evening on the 4th. Additional copies of the book bag forms are available to download from the parent portal.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year we are collecting shoebox presents again for Operation Christmas Child, to provide a gift at Christmas to children who otherwise would have nothing. Empty shoeboxes are available at Shoezone if you do not have one. Leaflets with full details will be sent home after 1/2 term and please can boxes be sent into school for collection by 17th November....



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

RUGBY

Game - U10 Richard Pate

Won 22 - 2

A great improvement in play since the last time I saw them at the beginning of the season. The boys tackled well, Rumhann leading the charge forward. Jack and Benji tackled well too. Charlie and Rumhann competed well in the rucks. There was some great passing out of the tackle and courageous strong running as the boys tried to force their way over the line. Richard Pate struggled to compete. They never gave up, however, and showed great resilience despite conceding several tries. Tries were scored by Charlton, George, James E, James S, Eliot and Benji, some scoring more than once. However, it was a great team performance.

Game - U11/U10 v Richard Pate

Won 9 - 7

On Wednesday the U11/U10B rugby team travelled to Richard Pate. The boys started well, playing really good attacking rugby. Everyone got involved when they were defending and they tackled confidently. Unfortunately the boys from Richard Pate were looking for gaps in our defence and when they found them they were able to score a try easily.

At the end of the first half we were losing by two tries. In the second half we closed the gaps in defence and this was really frustrating for Richard Pates. Some of our boys were excellent at staying on their feet and fought through to the try line which helped us

win the game by two tries.

There were great performances from each member of the team. The try scorers were Toby (3), Archie (2), Peter (2), Max (1) and Charlie (1).

Well done to all the boys and many thanks to our loyal supporters.

HOCKEY

Game - U10

Hockey Tournament

The squad of nine players, captained by Alice, were a real credit to Berky on Wednesday and a pleasure to look after. The girls were really fired up for their five box matches, watching the competition before their first match. With the matches only lasting eight minutes, every second counted and the girls worked hard in every match. We began with goalless draws against Richard Pate, Wycliffe and Cheltenham Prep, Leslie made some excellent saves to keep us in the game against Cheltenham Prep. The box was incredibly tight as only the top two would go through. Our fourth match was against Prior Park and we needed to score to improve our chances of going through. The girls attacked, spending most of the eight minutes in Prior Park's D. Finally a goal was scored, after a deflection from one of the Prior Park players. A win for Berky! After watching the next few matches and calculating every scenario possible, we arrived at our final match knowing that a draw or a win would take us through to the semi-final. However, we were against Clifton (who were very impressive and leaders of the box), but the girls were ready to give it their all (as were the parents!). It was an evenly matched game with both teams using the width of the pitch and tackling well. Clifton scored first, but our girls did not give up. Spurred on by amazing support from the sidelines they battled forward and

were rewarded by a goal from Sarah. A one all draw - we were through to the semi-finals! We played Dean Close, who were incredibly slick and showed great passing skills. Unfortunately it wasn't our day and Dean Close won. Although the girls were disappointed, they should take great pride from their achievements - they played really well as a squad, supporting each other on and off the pitch. Thank you for the support from parents from the sidelines - I am sure we were the loudest!

