



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I had a lovely afternoon on Wednesday watching the Year 3 boys rugby teams playing in the Hatherop Rugby Festival - see the Sports Section report below. They played brilliantly and it was a pleasure to see their enthusiasm, determination, skill and joy in playing. As always, it was lovely to see so many parents there to support and encourage the boys (and Hatherop is not easy to find!) Other schools at the Festival had taken their best 7 players, whereas we had all our boys, as is consistent with our policy of giving every child the opportunity to represent the school. On the same afternoon all of the girls - U11, U10, U9, and U8 were playing Cheltenham College - and it made me think...I wonder how many fixtures we play. I did a quick tot up for this term and we have an amazing 88 matches - my thanks to Louise Walter and Pete McCreanor for all their efforts in arranging this comprehensive fixture list.

We are a busy school, there is no doubt, and the children's experience is enhanced by this. They enjoy the trips, matches, visits and performances and just this term there have been a staggering 24 trips and visits, 11 music events, plus weekly clubs in a range of areas, 15 other extra events - including 4 run by our fabulous PTA. I know that these take a considerable amount of time to arrange and I regularly witness the extra time and effort that the Berky staff put in to ensuring these are not just educationally fulfilling but that the children are safe and have a wonderful experience. We wouldn't be able to fulfil these without the support of the children and yourselves. Thank you for all your support in every way - with prompting and preparing, with last minute costumes, games kit washing, accompanying the trips, and even getting the children to school on time! It is much appreciated and allows us to be the impressive school that we are.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



**FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 30th Nov

10.00am Year 3 – Year 6 visit to Dean Close to see 'Oliver, the Musical'

2.00pm – U11 Rugby Festival at Dean Close

2.15pm – Hockey U11, U9 v Prior Park (A)

2.30pm – Hockey U11B, U10A, U10B v Beaudesert (A)

December 2016

Thu 1st Dec

3.30pm – Chess v King's, Gloucester (A) – 15 players

Fri 2nd Dec

10.00am – Year 1 and Year 2 trip to the Everyman Theatre, "Jack and the Beanstalk"

10.00am – Kindergarten and Reception to the Everyman Theatre, "The Great Bear of the North"

Year 6 trip to the Steam Museum

Sat 3rd Dec

11.00am – 2.00pm – PTA Christmas Fayre

Polite Reminder

Please return all School Photography orders by Monday 28th November.

Thank You.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school...

CELEBRATING 'THANKSGIVING'

Every child at Berkhampstead, from the very youngest in our Day Nursery, up to our eldest pupils in Year 6, celebrated Thanksgiving this week with a traditional turkey roast lunch.

The dining rooms were adorned with flags and bunting in American Stars and Stripes, a merry backdrop for a delicious home-cooked lunch of roast turkey, roast potatoes, carrot and swede mash, served with cranberry sauce. Pudding was a Berky kitchen triumph: toffee swirl cheesecake with pumpkin puree.

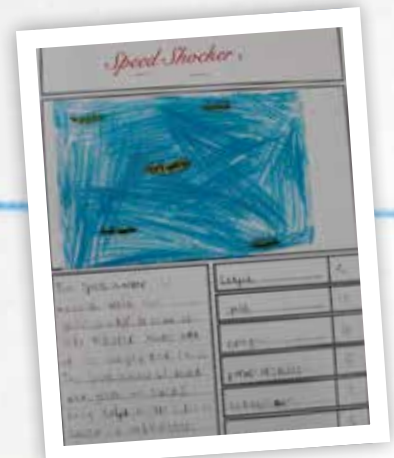
Everyone enjoyed the celebration.



TOP TRUMPS IN YEAR 2

The children in Year 2 have been inspired by the Loch Ness monster to create their own mythical creature and make a top trump card.

On Wednesday with the cards complete Mr Cross arrived to play a game of Top Trumps with 30 children. With a little adapting of the rules Mr Cross had soon lost his cards to a stronger monster. William Senior won the game using his Special Powers category.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Early Years...

Early Years children and staff are practising for our Christmas Concert "One night in Bethlehem" and this year it will be the traditional story with Reception children telling the story! The children are very excited about their parts and Mrs Sallis has been busy teaching us all the songs and actions! Please feel free to come and ask us if you have any questions regarding costumes etc.

This week Reception children discussed how they celebrate Christmas and what happens on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They loved talking about the little traditions we all have and the teachers also shared their traditions with the children.

We then found out with the children how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. The children loved looking at the world map and finding out "interesting facts" about Christmas traditions in many countries. They thought it was funny how in Australia white kangaroos are in charge of Santa's sleigh and in Mexico shoes are left out instead of stockings.

With only a few weeks left of the term, I hope these dates for Early Years will help you with your planning. Please feel free to come and ask any member of staff if you are unsure.

Monday 28th November

All Christmas Concert costumes to be handed in in a named bag. If you have any problems, please come and see the staff.

Friday 2nd December

10.00am – Early Years visit to the Everyman Theatre to see "The Great Bear of the North." The studio theatre will only admit a certain number due to health and safety. This unfortunately means the numbers are limited and we can only offer this outing to children who attend Kindergarten on a Friday session.

Monday 5th December

9.15 - Early Years Dress Rehearsal Pre-Prep to watch the concert. All Kindergarten children are invited to come in for the rehearsal. The children who do not normally attend the session to be collected after the rehearsal. Please see Kindergarten staff for timings.

Tuesday 6th December

9.15 - Early Years Christmas Concert

Kindergarten parents invited to watch the performance. All children to come in for the Concert. The children who do not normally attend the session to be collected after the Concert. Please see Kindergarten staff for timings.

Coffee and mince pies served after the Concert.

Wednesday 7th December

9.15am – Early Years Christmas Concert. Reception parents invited. All Kindergarten children to come in for the Concert. The children who do not normally attend the session to be collected after the Concert. Please see Kindergarten staff for timings.

Coffee and mince pies served after the Concert.

2.00 pm - Early Years children to watch Pre Prep Nativity at the church.

Friday 9th December

Early Years Party Day.

All Kindergarten children are invited for the day. Children to come in party clothes suitable for outdoor play!

Tuesday 13th December

12.00 - Christmas Lunch.

Term ends.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

RUGBY

U8 Rugby v Dean Close

The Bisons put on another good display of team work as they played 2 games against 2 different Dean Close teams. Unfortunately we were two men down due to illness so we borrowed a player from Dean Close. All of our boys: Otto, Max, Ollie, Alex S, Jonny and Taylor (our borrowed player!) scored at least one try each. It was a very cold game and the boys did really well to play as they did. We won one game and drew the other. Well played everyone.

U8 Rugby

Berky Buffaloes v Dean Close Won 1 and drew 2

The Buffaloes played three fantastic games against Dean Close last Friday. Will, Alex D, Jack, Sebastien and Harry proved to be an excellent team. They played with pace and skill and supported each other superbly. Some of the attacking play was outstanding. They drew two games and won one, with all of the boys scoring tries. I was really impressed with their organisation. This was evident in their excellent defensive work. Well done to all the boys for three super matches.

U8 Rugby Festival at Hatherop Castle

The U8 boys (the Buffalo team) had a great set of 4 fixtures as part of the Hatherop Festival on Wednesday. They played Hatherop, Wycliffe, Windrush and Pinewood; they won 2, drew 1 and lost 1. There were tries all round with quick passing and elusive running. The team had many captains including Griff, Archie and Jack and the highest try scorers were William, Alex D and Sebastien. There were three highlights for me; the long pass from Sebastien to Jack which resulted in a great try, the powerful run from Harry that nearly got to the try line and allowed William to finish it off easily and the elusive run from Archie for his try against Wycliffe. But the champagne moment was seeing William dive full length to tag an opponent that was otherwise in the clear. Well played, boys!

The Bisons played 4 tough games throughout the afternoon but true to form each player scored a try. We again played well as a team and managed to keep going throughout the afternoon even though we had all 4 matches in a row without a break or a substitute. We beat Westonbirt, drew with Pinewood and were unfortunate to lose to Hatherop Castle and St Edward's.

A great afternoon of rugby! Well played to Jonathan, Max, Rupert, Ollie, Alex S and Jonny.

U9 Rugby v Dean Close

Last Friday the U9 boys travelled to Dean Close. It was very cold; however the boys played well and got on with playing rugby. They started well and quickly took the lead with a try from Euan. Dean Close replied almost immediately with their first try and the match started fairly evenly. The pitch was much wider than the boys are used to and they took full advantage of this by using the space available to them. They were excellent at running wide and exposing gaps in the defence of Dean Close. It was a good match and the boys won with a final result of 8-3. The try scorers were Andrew, Finlay, George and Euan.

Well done to all the boys - one more match left, and many thanks to our loyal supporters.

U11A Rugby v King's Worcester Lost 20 - 10

Last Wednesday the U11A team took on a strong KSW side. In the first half they worked the ball well into space and stretched our defence to score three tries. Just before half time we edged our way back with a well worked try by Ollie R.

The second half was more productive for the Berky boys. We began to keep hold of the ball and put our opponents on the back foot. After a super build up Ollie A. went over the line to bring us within one score. Try as we might we couldn't quite get the equaliser and in the dying moments we conceded a late score to lose by four tries to two.

This was a great second half performance against a very good team. Ollie R. and Harry both had excellent games and Ethan proved to be very effective in the scrum and in defence. As always the whole team worked tirelessly for each other. Well done, boys!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

HOCKEY

U8 Blue v Dean Close - Drew 0-0

It was a very cold, wet and dark afternoon at Dean Close, yet the girls were very excited for the match ahead. This was a very even match and both sides played brilliantly. There was super defending by Becky, Eleri and Eleanor, who did not let any ball go near the goal. Grace, Bella, Viera, Joy and Isabel played their very best in attack and had many opportunities to shoot at the goal; however, the pitch we were playing on was a lot bigger than the one we are used to, therefore the ball was very narrowly missing the goalpost. The Berky girls were very much in control of the game, however they missed out on at least 4 opportunities at scoring. There was fantastic hockey playing, most definitely the best game the Blue Team have played this term. The girls should all be extremely proud with how they did.

U8 Red v Dean Close - Won 3-1

All the girls were struggling with the extremely cold conditions for this match but both teams put up a good show. Our first goal was scored when the ball was hit by Dean Close in the wrong direction and Cressida helped it over the line - 1-0 to Berky. As usual in these first matches the spacing was quite interesting with several players somewhat out of position but overall Berky had the run of play. If Dean Close managed to get close to scoring, Jasmine in defence was superb and cleared the ball strongly every time. Our next two goals were scored through a melée of people but there was another goal for Cressida and Millie scored the other. Dean Close scored a consolation goal but the final score was 3-1 to Berky. Well done, girls!

U8 Blue v CCPS - Lost 0-4

This was a very exciting match for the Blue Team; however the College girls put on a very tough defence. There was a lot of "pass the parcel" playing, with the girls just hitting the ball to where it came from, as opposed to looking up and out into spaces or the wing. There were many opportunities to score when the ball made it to the D, however the girls are still getting used to their positions and getting clear of the opposition so unfortunately missed chances at the goal. We will have a little more practice of what to do in the D. Considering how well the CCPS girls were playing, the Berky Blues did not give and played tremendously until the very end. It was a loss of 4-0; however this score does not reflect how well the match was played. A special mention to Penny C. for a superb match in left wing.

U8 Red v CCPS - Lost 0-1

Missing several key players, the girls battled hard and did well. The College had one or two very strong players but Berky defended well,

with Jasmine and Darcey clearing powerfully most of the time. The areas to work on are spacing out and trying to stick to our playing positions - always difficult at this age. Well tried, girls.

U9A v Dean Close - Lost 0-2

The Dean Close team were amazing but the Berky A team put up a tremendous fight. Almost from the first whistle our defence were under siege but with Hattie in goal and Daisy, Bea and Emma playing as if their lives depended on it, Berky managed to keep a clean sheet for the first half. Fantastic! In the second half, Berky had the odd foray into the Dean Close half with good hits by Vamika and Georgie but essentially our team were camped out in our defending half of the pitch. Anna also made one or two runs up her wing but the Dean Close team had some very strong players and finally their pressure paid off; even Hattie couldn't keep the ball out! The final score was 2-0 to Dean Close but would have been a lot more had it not been for our determination, effort and solid play in defence. Well done to the whole team!

U9B v Dean Close - Lost 0-3

What an exciting game of hockey!!! It was very dark and cold by the time the U9Bs started their game and the girls couldn't wait to get running! There was fantastic hockey being played, and the girls were very conscious of using the wings and getting the ball into a space. The girls marked their opponents well and intercepted passes. A special mention to India R, who received Player of the Match; she did not stop firing the ball out of the D, a great support to Sophie in goal. Unfortunately, the Dean Close girls managed to sneak 3 goals in; however this did not dampen the Berky spirit, and the girls kept on playing to a very high standard until the final whistle. This was a super game of hockey, the girls should all be very proud of themselves.

U9A v CCPS - Lost 0-5

The girls were immediately up against it! Cheltenham College started with real purpose; they were clearly very well drilled on set moves and passing on the astro. Despite Hattie's best efforts (she saved many attempts), we were soon a few goals down. Anna and Vamika worked tirelessly on the wings, demonstrating good stick skills, passing the ball into space and dribbling up the wings. We had a few attempts on goal but frustratingly just couldn't convert them into a score. The girls from Cheltenham College were an impressive team, playing with a sense of urgency. I think our girls found the pace difficult to keep up with and certainly learnt from the game. Although we lost, the girls played with great spirit and never gave up!

U10A v CCPS - Lost 0-2

With depleted numbers in the B's, Isi had kindly moved to play for them. Therefore we only had our one super sub of Jemima! The girls were supported by Miss Chamberlain in the first half and although they ended the half 2 - 0 down, it sounded as if they had played well and the second goal was lucky. After boosting the girls back up at half time, they played incredibly well - all giving 100%. Jemima was a super sub, coming on for Alexa and immediately got involved in the action. The girls were spreading the ball, looking up and linking together but a goal just would not come. The action was end to end and I believe that we won the second half with far more attempts on goal. Don't be disheartened girls, you all played well and now we need to work on scoring those goals!

U10B v CCPS - Won 5-0

What an impressive performance! Watching the first half, the girls began really well. Kyla, Rosannah and Zoe were passing the ball across the width of the pitch, moving forward and attacking the goal as a unit. Isi worked tirelessly to support the attacking trio and raced back to help the defence when needed. Chiara and Eleanor timed their tackles beautifully and Darcy was hardly bothered. By half time, the girls were 2 -0 up, with goals from Rosannah and Zoe. The second half continued with our girls dominating play; Hannah played on the wing for a short time (bravely playing even though she didn't feel great). More goals were scored - Kyla scored 2 and Zoe picked up her second. Well done girls - you fully deserved the win!

Under 11A v CCPS - Lost 1-4

This was a lovely game to watch but at the same time slightly frustrating. The game flowed from end to end and there were many examples of super teamwork. Elli made several storming runs down her wing and there was superb understanding between Lovisa and Evie on the other wing. Naomi and Katie played both in attack and defence to great effect and the defence of Izzy and Helena was brilliant - Izzy having her best game of the season. Milly distributed the ball very well from her centre half position and scored our goal. The College did perhaps deserve the win but the 4-1 score line was rather flattering. Slack marking on a couple of occasions and not making the most of our scoring chances led to the final score. The girls did really well and should be proud of the level that they play to. Well done!