



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I do hope that you have had a good break and that your children have returned to school rested, refreshed and ready for the challenges of the new term. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for all your support last term and for the cards and generous gifts that we received at the end of term.

WELCOME

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Jack, Rosie, Olivia, Laura, Jennifer, Leo, Isaac and Adebare who have joined Kindergarten and the twins Azlaan and Arsalaan into Year 1. Naturally there are likely to be a few nerves at the start, but I know that they will be made to feel a part of Berky very quickly. We also welcome back Maisie into Year 1 ... the children were all delighted to see her back in 1LK.

We have got off to a great start and I have seen happy smiling faces about the place. In Year 1 there has been a frenzy of excitement as their 'Chocolate' topic has got underway. It is permeating across the syllabus - and hopefully a few bars will arrive in my office at some point too!

PUPIL NUMBERS

I know that one of the enormous benefits of a Berkhampstead education is the size of our classes. Let me reassure you all that, whilst we are reaching our capacity, the Governors and I are absolutely fixed on not exceeding 18 in a class. I know that in the past we have exceeded this number and we are extremely popular, but 18 children will be our maximum. We do still have a few places left for Reception next September - so do let any friends know if you feel their children would benefit from the Berkhampstead experience.

STAFF CHANGES

I am delighted to announce that Jacqui Holland, Year 6 Form Teacher and Teacher of Maths and Computing, has been appointed to the role of Director of Studies. She has huge experience of the Prep School curriculum and knowledge of the local senior schools - her own children attend a mix of state, state grammar and independent schools. Since her appointment last year, she has influenced development within the new maths curriculum at Berky and our results continue to be well beyond national norms. Mrs Agg will be handing over to her during this academic year but please do communicate with Mrs Holland if you have any questions or concerns with academic matters.

Her email address is: academic@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

I am also pleased to welcome Mrs Jude Hyde to the position of TA in Prep to replace Lucy Jewers. Mrs Hyde is extremely experienced with working with children and is enthusiastic about taking on her role at Berkhampstead. She has already been extremely helpful in my 3MC Computing lesson this week!

FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 9th Jan

9.00am - Prep Swimming Gala - parents invited to watch

Tue 10th Jan

Year 4 trip to Skillzone

Wed 11th Jan

Reception trip to @Bristol

2.30pm - Football U11A v King's, Gloucester (H)

2.30pm - Football U11B v King's, Gloucester (A)

2.40pm - Netball U11A, U11B, U10A, U10B v Richard Pate (A)

Thu 12th Jan

Year 2 swimming starts

Fri 13th Jan

8.30am - Visiting Head's Assembly - Mrs Clayfield,

St Edward's - parents invited to watch Assembly and join

Mrs Clayfield for coffee at 9.00am. Year 6 trip to Skillzone

2.30pm - Football U8 v King's, Gloucester (H)



Year 1 Spring Walk



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

We were delighted to receive some new Apple iPads just before Christmas. These are to replace the ones purchased over 5 years ago – and are now a little slow! An enormous thanks to Mr Banks who spent quite a few days ensuring they are up and running for the start of term and the children have been delighted to get their hands on them for all sorts of lessons. They are a superb resource for supporting the teaching in a variety of lessons and we now have 2 class sets in Prep, 1 in Pre-Prep and 1 in Early Years (iPad minis). The children are able to have their own 'account' so that their Computing work is secure and will remain so over their time at Berky. The older children are also able to access their work at home to complete work started in class.

Computing lessons (from Pre-Prep) include computer coding, animation, esafety and digital media. The children are also taught how to research topics, create presentations and projects as well as explore the Internet... please be reassured that we have a network-wide filter for this that is specifically tailored to children.

I look forward to introducing 3CC to the new iPads next week!

PARKING

As we start the new year I would be grateful if one of your resolutions could be to respect our neighbours, and the law, when parking around the school. I appreciate that there are times when finding a space is difficult but please do not obstruct driveways, park on double yellow lines or near to junctions. Thank you.

The School driveway is not a place to park for parents. I am aware that there are rare emergencies when parking at the front is needed – ie. if a child is on crutches. If this is the case can the office be called in advance please so that this can be arranged.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Reminder
This year's Berky Chess Congress takes place on Sunday 22 January - open to all children from Years 3-6. Remember to complete forms.