



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

The Friends of Berkhampstead (PTA) May Ball at the Pump Room last Saturday was a super event (not least because of the Cocktails voucher I won in the raffle). The food was excellent, there was a great band and all had a lot of fun. Many thanks to all involved in its organisation – in particular James Molloy and Richard Davies as well as Steve Ackland.

### School Council Competition: Berky's Got Talent

**HAVE A GO...** any pupil or groups can put together an item for 'Berky's Got Talent' ... this could be a musical item, comedy, dance, magic or all combinations!

In our Prep celebration assembly this week, we celebrated many talented pupils. We celebrated a LAMDA certificate for Verse Speaking, a RADA Dance Certificate, a RADA Ballet Certificate, a Karate Certificate, a Certificate for the 30 mile Cotswold Bike Ride, a variety of Cheltenham Festival of Arts Medals – and a winning trophy (of which 4 of the last 5 winners were from Berky) from this competition, and an U12 County Hockey selection! Berky has got Talent!



**Entries for 'Berky's Got Talent' are next week** and auditions will be held in the two weeks after half term. All who enter will receive a certificate and winners will have the opportunity to perform in assembly or at the Summer Fete. See the pictures here from 2015.

I am currently seeing whether we can rig up a Golden Button for the Headmaster to press ...!

I am looking forward to the Summer Term Recital next week, again with a range that would dazzle an outside observer. Lots of talent on show, it will be a thoroughly enjoyable event. Looking to the talent of the future, next Friday features the Music Taster Afternoon where all from Years 2-5 are invited to 'have a go' and make a sound from any instrument they fancy! Each teacher showcases their instruments and treats us to a little burst of music. The pupils are then ready to sample each instrument! Noisy, but great fun, it will inspire many I am sure.

Next week I am away for three days inspecting another school as part of an ISI team of inspectors. I will be privileged in seeing how a similar school works and this gives me another great opportunity to contrast and compare with Berky. I usually come back with one or two ideas but reassured that Berky is in good shape. We await our own inspection report which I hope we will be able to publish to you immediately after half term. In the meantime, I am grateful to those who have completed the Parent Questionnaire I sent out earlier this week. If you have not completed this yet then please do so that I can get as full a picture as possible on your views.

Mme Cussen has been in school for three afternoons this week and it is great to see her back. As part of her return to work following her illness Mme Cussen will be supporting Prep Games sessions on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon and helping Mrs McCreanor and Mrs Mitchell on a Monday afternoon.

Mrs McCreanor will continue in her role as Teacher of French, Spanish and Form Teacher to 3CC.

*Richard*

**Richard Cross**  
Headmaster

**FRIDAY 19TH MAY**  
**SUMMER TERM**

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Mon 22nd May

3.00pm – Reception Parents invited to read favourite stories  
4.15pm – Summer Music Recital Year 2 – Year 5

#### Tue 23rd May

3.00pm – Reception Parents invited to read favourite stories  
Year 2 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

#### Wed 24th May

Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill  
2.30pm – Rounders U10

v Hatherop (A)

2.30pm – Rounders U9, U8

v Hatherop (H)

2.30pm – Cricket U8 v Hatherop (A)

3.00pm – Reception Parents

invited to read favourite stories

3.30pm – Cricket U10 v Airthrie (A)

#### Thu 25th May

Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill

Year 5 Science Discovery trip to King's School, Gloucester

3.00pm – Reception Parents

invited to read favourite stories

#### Fri 26th May

Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill  
Pirate Lunch (TBC)

2.00pm – Year 2 to Year 5 –  
Prep Music Taster Afternoon

3.00pm – Reception Parents

invited to read favourite stories

**Sat 27th May – Sun 4th June**  
**HALF TERM**





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten we have been thinking of different ways to stay healthy. The children describe keeping healthy as: "bathing, playing lots of sport, being in the fresh air, eating fruit and vegetables and (believe it or not) sleeping!" They described how their bodies felt different after playing a sport or undertaking a form of exercise... *"My heart is thumping, my body is wet and I'm hot"*.

The kindergarten snack area has now become a healthy snack café, under supervision the children gain independence through serving themselves food, pouring drinks and having time to chat with their friends. Our tables are set with table cloths and flowers to make the experience more enjoyable.

After lunch we have quiet time which involves a 10 minute session of yoga, the children follow a simple routine that helps develop body awareness, encouraging them to take care of themselves, manage breathing, build concentration, confidence and a positive self-image. We also practise mindfulness, another form of relaxation that increases optimism, happiness, compassion and empathy for others. The children concentrate on their breathing as they watch glitter being shaken up in a bottle and then focus as it swirls and settles to the bottom.

The children have enjoyed sharing ways of keeping safe and healthy that are important to them and their families so we look forward to covering this topic in more detail later in the year.

As the weather warms up over the next few weeks please can all Kindergarten children be provided with a sun hat and a water bottle each day; we are hoping to spend lots of time outside.

Thank you for your cooperation.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### MUSIC EXAM RESULT

William S - Grade 1 Recorder with Merit

### MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

This popular event will take place on Friday 26th May from 2-3.45pm in the Prep Hall. All Y 2-5 pupils will be attending the initial demonstrations by our team of music teachers. Afterwards, pupils in Y 3-5 who are already settled and learning an instrument will be supervised elsewhere in school to allow those who are genuinely interested in starting an instrument to attend try out sessions with the music teachers.

Parents of Y3-5 pupils are welcome to attend if your child is interested in starting to learn. Any Y2 pupils who are interested in starting an instrument need to be accompanied to the Try-out session by an adult, otherwise they will be supervised in the Pre-prep until 3.30pm.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

**Lost property**  
Please keep your eyes peeled  
for the following missing items...  
Two hoodies named Godding

## News from around the school

### TUDOR TIMES

Year 4s enjoyed a brilliant Tudor experience at Sulgrave Manor yesterday - the sun shone for them.

