



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

There aren't many times in your life when you meet truly inspirational people and we were lucky enough this morning to do just that. Issy Bailey, Paralympian Pistol Shooter came into Berky to speak in assembly and officially open our MUGA. Issy went to school locally (Rendcomb and Dean Close) and played many sports and this included playing Hockey to a very high level. In 2013 she was involved in a car accident near Cirencester which left her paralysed from the waist down. Despite this she was determined to continue with sport and, as part of her rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville, she took up pistol shooting. Issy also plays wheelchair badminton and wheelchair rugby for Gloucester. In assembly this morning she spoke about her journey and inspired us with the GB Paralympian message - to look for our own talents, take pride in them and be determined to succeed. The children were captivated by her story and asked searching questions about her accident and what motivated her. She then kindly stayed to open our MUGA officially and was thrilled to spend more time with the children, answering their questions and signing autographs!

A BUSY WEEK...

It has been another busy week and I have enjoyed walking around school and experiencing some lessons with the children. The wildlife garden has been widely used this week and the Early Years children have been outdoors a great deal listening for birdsong and observing the changes in the garden; it's a super area of the grounds, which the children love. This is part of a 'Forest School' programme of learning which Early Years have incorporated into their Carousel afternoons. More staff are to be trained in this so that it can be enjoyed by Year 1 and 2 also.

As a school we are always interested in the wider community and I was delighted to see the letters that Year 2 wrote this week to Her Majesty the Queen enquiring about her cold and asking questions about her family. I know too that both Year 4 and Year 6 have enjoyed trips to SkillZONE in Gloucester. SkillZONE is a state-of-the-art life-size village that acts as a fully interactive learning environment to teach children to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe in the wider community. It includes a life-size jail cell - but you will be glad to know that they all returned from the trip!

I look forward to the Berky Annual Chess Congress on Sunday where I will play a few games - but will try to avoid playing the team who beat St. Gregory's in their Chess Match this week. The A Team won 5-1 and the B Team won 3½ - 2½.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun 22nd Jan

10.00am - 3.00pm -
Berky Chess Congress

Tue 24th Jan

Year 2 trip to Tewkesbury
Museum

3.40pm - Chess v Holy Apostles
A and B Teams

6.00pm - Year 3 Parents' Evening

Wed 25th Jan

2.30pm - Netball U10B, U9A
v Beaudesert (A)

2.30pm - Football U11A, U11B,
U11C, U9, U8 v Wycliffe (A)

8.00pm - PTA Meeting,
Pre-Prep Hall

Fri 27th Jan

3.30pm - Football U9
v St Edward's (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

MUSICAL SUCCESS

All the results from recent music grade exams have now been published and the following pupils have achieved a high standard of performance. Congratulations to the following:

Prep Test Piano: Rowan M, Holly B.

Grade 1: Lizzy H (violin)

Grade 2: Holly B (viola), Ollie A (piano*), Otilie W (violin**)

Grade 3: Catherine W (descant recorder), Claire C (viola*) Harry B (drum kit)

Grade 7: Leslie M (Viola*)

(* Denotes pass with merit, ** Pass with distinction)

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We are delighted for Jemima R who has been awarded a place in the National Children's Choir. The auditions this year were competitive, with only a few places offered.

BIG STRINGS PROJECT

Advance notice for all string players of a fantastic 2-day music course organised locally at half term in February. This is an amazing opportunity which has been run for several years to great acclaim. Please register your interest with Glyn Oxley on admin@gamusic.co.uk or 01452 668592.

KINDERGARTEN

The children have had such fun this week - the construction area now resembles the view from inside a spaceship! Inspired by their new display the children have used the large construction blocks and other materials to make a new spacecraft for the aliens to travel to Earth in. They are no longer Kindergarten children - they are amazing astronauts!

The children were mesmerized when we watched the Apollo 11 moon landing. We talked about what the astronauts collected and left behind. We now know the moon is most definitely not made from cheese!

We then took the children outside and together counted down: **10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Blast off!** As they landed we recreated 'One giant leap for mankind' by making a footprint in some silvery sand.

CHESS

Away v St. Gregory's

Berky kept league hopes alive with a clinical 5-1 defeat of title rivals, St Greg's. The 'A' team played some super chess, chipping away at experienced opponents with precision and no little subtlety. Toby is proving a splendid captain this year and he led the team by example, winning his match in style. The 'B' team, captained by the ever-improving Rhys, showed great determination to record a narrow 3.5-2.5 victory.





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Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U8 Bisons v King's - Lost 5-1

We were a little shaky to start off with in our first match of the season. A couple of simple mistakes such as unnecessary handball and goalie picking the ball up out of his area led to 2 early goals for King's Glos. It took us a little while to get into our stride and actually manage to get into the King's half of the pitch.

The second half was a much better played half with the ball going evenly from one side of the pitch (usually followed by the majority of the boys on the pitch). At times there was some good positional play but it was definitely a game where we worked on our defence. We had a couple of opportunities at the King's goal but only one by Jonathan got past their goalie. The final score was a 1-5 loss. Well played, boys. Good effort throughout.

U11A v Rendcomb College - Won 3-0

What a difference a week makes. The boys made great strides in training this week, which was carried into a fine performance against Rendcomb. There was a much better shape to the side, with each player showing greater positional awareness.

We played with industry, putting pressure on the opposition when they had possession and driving forward whenever the opportunity arose. Bertie opened the scoring. This was followed by a nicely taken goal by Benji. The second half saw Rendcomb try to attack more but they were nullified by excellent defence from Adam and George de B-T.

Our final goal came from some dazzling skills by Ollie R, who set up Ollie A for a confidently taken shot past the keeper.

This was an excellent performance by all of the boys. Well done!

U11B v Rendcomb - Draw 2-2

An enterprising Berky team was leading 2-0 before two late Rendcomb goals broke supporters' hearts and turned a deserved victory into a slightly disappointing 2-2 draw. Our boys ran their hearts out and attacked keenly.

A well-struck shot from Rhys saw Berky lead at half-time and Ethan doubled the advantage after the break following a goalmouth scramble. Numerous chances came the visitors' way to extend the lead but a combination of brave goalkeeping, desperate defending and the woodwork kept Rendcomb in the match before the exciting but frustrating climax.

U11C v Rendcomb - Lost 0-1

Following a fine win last week the U11C team travelled to Rendcomb for our first away game of the season. Without striker James E (who had been poached by the B Team following his hat-trick last week - Mr T still owes me the transfer fee), and defender Peter S (through illness) the team knew they needed to up their game and find a new goal scorer. In the first half they worked really hard dominating possession and having some good chances on goal.

James CG was terrier-like up front and he was well supported by Ollie, William and George. Charlie, Jasper and Edwin shored up the defence and Eliot was solid in goal - Rendcomb didn't look like scoring. Unfortunately the coach made a few changes just before half time and, due to not quite leaving enough time for the new goalkeeper Archie to put his gloves on, the Rendcomb team scored a goal.

Determined to put this right, the coach pushed more players in to attack for the second half and the boys responded well by bombarding the Rendcomb goal with shot after shot. The Rendcomb team, defending in numbers, were equally determined and, with minutes to go, had a breakaway chance to score. Benji J in goal was heroic; up against three of the opposition he made two saves including a finger-tip push round the post.

Well played, boys, and fingers crossed for the Wycliffe game next week.





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Sports report...

NETBALL

U9A v Malvern St James - Won 9-0

Varnika captained the U9s A-team away at Malvern St James and chose the direction of play. Within 2 minutes, a goal had been scored by Daisy, and then another, and then another. By the end of the first quarter the score was 0-4 to Berky. In the second quarter, the girls had to work a little bit harder as MSJ had 'upped their defence' but with Bea in centre and Millie and Simran in attack, it wasn't long before they got the ball to Daisy for another goal. In the third quarter, it became Simran's game and 2 more goals were achieved by her. A further 2 goals arrived in the final quarter, thanks to excellent attacking skills and Simran's shooting. The final score was 0-9 to Berky. Bea was player of the match. All the girls deserve high praise – it was a fantastic team effort and their sporting behaviour was exemplary!

U9B v Malvern St James - Won 7-2

This was a great match for our girls. From the start we were the dominant team. The girls knew exactly what they were doing and goal after goal poured in to the net. By the end of the first quarter of 6 minutes we were winning 4-0. In order to make the game more even, we had a lot of swaps of positions and gave Malvern one of our players when one of their players was sick. Nevertheless the final score was 7-2 with excellent work in the circle from India and Anna. Anna was chosen as player of the match by the other team. Well played, girls, a very convincing win.

U10A v Hatherop Won 18-9

Playing on the muga certainly suited our girls. Captained by Leslie, they began with real pace and fluidity, quickly ramping up a healthy score. The players were all attacking the ball and working well as a team. There were some great interceptions from our defence to send the ball back up to Florrie and Alice, who were popping the ball in from all sorts of angles. But Hatherop had a real fighting spirit and were not disheartened, they dug deep and when they attacked they played with an impressive pace. By half time the score was 10 - 4 to Berky. The second half was a closer affair and Berky had to fight to retain and intercept the ball as Hatherop found their groove. It was good to see the Berky girls fighting for possession and wanting to improve. As things became tighter, we began to bunch a little and we needed the calmness of Eleanor to spread the ball out wide again. The second half was 8 - 5 to Berky and I was pleased to watch how the girls reacted under some pressure. Well done, girls – a super team effort once again!

U10B v Hatherop B - Won 16-1

The first home game of the season and the girls certainly shone! Captained by Rosannah, the squad of 10 players played with real purpose. Each girl played their part in the victory with accurate attacking play and great team spirit. The match was played at a fast pace with the Berky girls dictating the play. By half time the score was 6 - 1 and the girls were playing with confidence. During the second half the ball rarely left the attacking D as Berky continued to add to their goal total – both Isi and Rosannah shooting with accuracy and confidence. Miss Winchcombe, who was refereeing, was impressed by the girls' skills and attitude. Well done, girls – we are on a roll!

U11 v Hatherop Castle - Won 13-3

What a difference a week makes! The girls were fantastic in this match; playing hard and fast, their footwork was accurate and best of all the shots were going in - Helena's shooting was on fire! Unusually for us we had a huge height advantage which is a good psychological boost before we had even started. (I am not sure that will continue!). Berky were really dominant from the start and we were going to win the match even with the girls playing in unusual positions-Lovisa from centre to GK was the most out of position manoeuvre! At half time the score was 7-1 to Berky. The girls had to be quite feisty as the game was a little rough at times but excellent defence and much improved play around our shooting circle led to a comfortable victory.

