



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

One of the main highlights of my year comes when we hold our Spring Concerts in the Pittville Pump Room and this year was no exception. The community came together to enjoy music on Tuesday and it was lovely to see so many friends and family there. To say that the standard was superb is to understate it. A number of newer parents were staggered at the quality of the playing and behaviour and demeanour of the children as they supported and took pleasure in others' performances. This is normal for Berky ... and we get used to it but we really shouldn't forget how remarkable it actually is. Our dedicated and extraordinarily talented staff make it so and inspire the children to great heights; my enormous thanks to them for their composing, conducting, singing, transporting and coordinating.

The last week or so has featured a whole series of events - reports below - and the children have risen wonderfully to the occasions each time. You are now likely to be faced with tired children who have made the most of the term and are ready for a break.

Another series of Associated Board Music exams took place last weekend; my thanks to Mrs Mitchell and our talented peripatetic music team for their efforts for this. I am fully aware of the input that parents have into this and in to so many of the events and extras that we offer here. The listening and supporting, the transportation of child (and instrument) to the right place at the right time, the encouragement and constant practice...it makes a real difference but it does take some effort. Berky children are lucky to have such supportive parents and we as a community benefit from this - thank you.

Our Year 6 have done tremendously well this year, earning 16 grammar school places and an impressive 11 scholarships to independent schools (with one local school no longer offering Scholarships). We are delighted with their results but most importantly they have had success and found a school that is right for them.

Fun@Berky, our Holiday Club for 3-8 year olds, will be operating over the Easter break, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday. There are still places and if you would like your child to attend, then please get in touch with the School Office.

### Staffing News

We say a fond goodbye to Mrs Lawrence-Dowds who has been leading our Kindergarten for the last two years. We wish her all the very best and thank her for all her support of the children in Kindergarten. Mrs Melanie Main will join the Early Years team to be Head of Kindergarten from the start of next term. Berkhampstead Kindergarten has a lovely environment where all staff know the children really well. In contrast to larger nursery settings, children here are able to form positive and caring relationships with a range of significant adults rather than being restricted to a key worker alone. Our Kindergarten children enjoy specialist tuition from Mrs Sallis (Music), Mme McCreanor (French) and Miss Jewers (PE) and move confidently from group to group and adult to adult.

I am sorry to say that Mme Cussen is still not well enough to return to work after Easter and so Mme McCreanor will continue to cover for her, teaching the French and Spanish through the school. She will also continue as 3CC Form teacher through the Summer Term.

### New pupils

Next term we welcome the following new children: Jasper (brother to Barnaby in Year 1), Jack and Charlie (brothers to Jacob in Year 1), Lara (sister to Emma in Reception), Polly (sister to Nancy in Year 1) and Matilda to Kindergarten. Polly (sister to Matilda in Year 2) will be joining Reception RB and Lincoln joining 3CC. I know that they will receive a warm Berky welcome.

It simply remains for me to wish all a very happy and restful Easter break. After a term packed with so many events, there are many tired but happy individuals around the place - staff and children alike. May I remind you that the summer term begins on Wednesday 19th April and that summer uniform may be worn from this date should the weather be kind enough.

# Richard

Richard Cross  
Headmaster

## PTA diary...

**May Ball** - Saturday 13th May 2017  
at Pittville Pump Room. Booking forms will be going out in book bags when school resumes after Easter so book your babysitters and dust off your dancing shoes!

**Summer Fayre** - Saturday 24th June.  
Keep the afternoon free for some family fun and enjoyment.

## FRIDAY 24TH MARCH SPRING TERM

## Diary dates...

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Wed 19th April**  
Summer Term starts

### Dates for your diary...

**Sat 13th May**  
PTA May Ball, Pittville Pump Room

**Wed 24th May - Fri 26th May**  
Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill

**Wed 12th July**  
Prep Sports Day, Prince of Wales Stadium - parents invited to watch from 1pm

**Fri 14th July**  
10.30am - Speech Day, All Saints' Church followed by Year 6 Leavers' Refreshments at school  
11.45am - Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 to be collected from All Saints' Church  
12.00 noon - Kindergarten/ Reception/Year 1 depart from school

### END OF TERM

## BBC...

Tune into BBC Radio Gloucestershire next week - Berky is featured at 3.45pm-ish each day!

All the episodes will be available on iplayer [www.bbc.co.uk/radiogloucestershire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radiogloucestershire)  
Search for Nicky Price's show.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Spring concert

### BERKY PUPILS RAISE THE ROOF!

The Spring Concerts - held on Tuesday at the Pittville Pump Room - featured all our ensembles, and every child from Years 1 - 6 - that's an incredible 190 marvellous Berky Children!

Here are just some of the highlights.

