



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

How lovely to have some sunshine this week particularly with the various trips! We have hurtled through another event-packed half term and approached the break at a gallop - it's been another extraordinarily busy week. The weather has been superb for our Year 6 on their activity residential at Viney Hill. It does make such a difference to their enjoyment ... particularly the water sports. They are due back later today and the reports I've had have been very positive about their 'can-do' attitude and the way that they have co-operated with one another throughout. No doubt there will be tired children and soggy clothing later today...but along with that, some wonderful memories of time spent with school friends.

We enjoyed a wonderful recital this week with pupils from Years 2-5 performing a wide selection of pieces. This afternoon will see our Music Taster session where all are invited to blow, bash, bow or pluck to see what sounds they can make and decide what might suit them next year. Well over 90% of Prep children take up at least one instrument - it's in the DNA of the school to do so - and they get a huge amount of enjoyment out of playing together in ensembles and bands. Many did very well at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts - well done to all of them. I saw a number of the performances; the standard was very high and we thoroughly enjoyed celebrating these in school.

The staff, and no doubt you too, are already thinking ahead to next September and preparing the children for the transition. Our Form Teachers for September remain the same with Mrs Roddy Watts and Mrs Gargan in Reception, Mrs Langley King and Mrs Stephenson in Year 1 and Mrs Owen and Mrs Cole in Year 2. Mrs Stephenson will remain working 4 days a week with Miss K. Jewers stepping in to the Form Teacher role for one day as Mrs Parker has done this year. The children know Miss Jewers well and she is able to liaise with the children and Mrs Stephenson throughout the week.

In Prep, the Form Teachers will be Mr Cole and Mrs McCreanor in Year 3, Mr Titley and Miss Evans in Year 4, Mr Banks and Miss Walter in Year 5 and Mr McCreanor and Mrs Holland in Year 6. I am delighted that Mrs McCreanor has agreed to take on a permanent role as Form Teacher to 3M (Mr Cole's class will be 3C) and teacher of Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) throughout the school. Mrs McCreanor has been a brilliant teacher across the school over the last two terms and we are all thrilled that she is staying with us. It is with sadness that Mme Cussen is not able to return to us full time, but she will be seen back at Berky as she has agreed to a part-time role teaching some games and supporting Mrs Mitchell with the Junior Choir. Mme Cussen is delighted that she is able to continue at Berky on this part-time basis.

The Early Years and Pre-Prep 'moving-up' afternoon is on Monday July 3rd. I know the children will be excited to meet their next Form teacher. Considerations for this are being worked through at the moment and I will write to you with the Form Teacher allocation for your child/children after half term.

Thank you for completing the Parent Questionnaire. I will analyse your feedback over the next week and be able to give you a summary of this soon after half term. Do enjoy the Bank Holiday and I hope that the children make the most of the week off. I understand that there are a few places for Holiday Club still available; please contact the School Office if you would like to book a place.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 26TH MAY
SUMMER TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 5th Jun

School Returns

Wed 7th Jun

2.30pm – Cricket U11A, U11B, U11C v St Edward's (H)

2.30pm – Rounders U9A, U9B, U8A, U8B v Cheltenham College Prep (A)

2.45pm – Rounders U11A, U11B v Richard Pate (A)

Thu 8th Jun

Year 4 trip to the Science Festival

3.45pm – Berky Art Exhibition, Prep Hall

Fri 9th Jun

2.30pm – Cricket U9 v RGS Springfield, Worcester (H)



The Sally Lee Kindness cup was passed from William J to Elodie O in Pre-Prep assembly this morning. Congratulations to Elodie.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from around the school

RECEPTION

A basket of food and a red cloak was left in Reception this week. We asked who could have left this behind? Everyone agreed it must be Red Riding Hood. We read the story and discussed good and bad characters in this story and others.

The children took part in "hot seating". A child took on the role of one of the characters from Red Riding Hood. The other children asked questions and the character in role answered the questions in as much detail as possible. The children had a really good time and asked excellent questions and we found out many things about the characters. Following on from this, they wrote questions for the main characters.

During one of our carousel activities, the children created their own fairy tale forest. They used a shoe box, and selected resources they wanted to use to create a fairy tale forest within their boxes. The children had great fun designing the forests from 'princess' forests to 'dragon' forests. All the forests were very different and the children cannot wait to take them home to put their own figures in to create some wonderful storylines.

During our Forest School this week the children were given their own pot to plant some wild flowers to attract butterflies and other types of wildlife. The children cannot wait for the flowers to grow so they can observe what wild life the flowers will attract.

The children enjoyed their parents coming into school to share their favourite traditional story with the children. We have heard lots of stories this week from "The Three Bears" to "Rumpelstiltskin". We loved listening to the many different stories. Thanks to everyone who came into school to share their stories.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Cake at break

Enjoy Cake at Break on
Tuesday 6th June

Reception and Y5 to
provide the cakes this time.

News from around the school

SUMMER RECITAL

On Monday we had our Summer Recital with wonderful performances from pupils in Y2-Y5. Once again there was tremendous variety from a delightful voice and guitar solo (Will J) to the powerful sounds of drums (Otto and Alex D), saxophone (Jack E) and guitar (Henry). We heard thoughtful, carefully shaped phrases from piano players (Isabel, Sophie, Rosemary, Eliot, India, Griff, Simran and Alice), exciting sounds from woodwind (recorders Jonathan and William, flutes William and Varnika, clarinets Eleanor and Becky and bassoon Rhys), tuneful melodies from strings (violins Otilie, Lizzie and Archie, violas Hazel and Millie, cellos Jack and Andrew) and a beautifully shaped piano composition from Anna T. Well done to all those who conquered nerves and played expressively for our entertainment. Thank you.



MUSIC TASTER AFTERNOON

This popular event will have taken place by the time the Berky Times reaches you and I hope that many children will have taken the opportunity to meet the music teachers and try out instruments. After half term I will send out application forms for instrumental lessons starting in September. There is no pressure to start lessons in Y3 and some of our most successful pupils have taken up an instrument in Y4, 5 or even Y6. The most important factor, other than pupils choosing the instrument that they want to play, is the parental support for regular practice between lessons.

COTSWOLD MUSIC COURSES

These popular summer holiday music sessions are based in Stroud with Mr Trim and other local music tutors. Please see the poster on the Prep notice board for further details.

GOING GREEN

On Tuesday, Year 2 went to the Cotswold Wildlife Park in Burford. Their topic this term is 'Going Green' and we wanted to find out why animals around the world were endangered and what can be done to help protect them. We all enjoyed a safari train ride past the main large animals before meeting the keepers to learn a little more about them. We saw three enormous lion cubs and found out why rhinos around the world are so critically endangered. As well as the big animals, we also saw the smallest ones in the invertebrate house and some not so small ones in the reptile house! Year 2 had a fantastic day out and are keen to find out what they can do themselves to help these endangered animals.



Missing items

T Cass - Blazer
A Hirani - school jumper
A Brannagan - school hoodie
and jumper

Class photos

Please place your
order online or return
to the office by
Mon 5th June



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS RESULTS

Congratulations to the following children -
from Years 2-6 - who were awarded certificates in
the Verse Speaking Classes:

Rosemary B, Freddie B, Michael C, Lilah C, Matilda
E, Harry M, Oliver M, Beatrice N, Elodie O, William
S, Harry T, Harry A, Charlotte A, William C, Uma
C, Patrick D, Ethan M, Lucy P, Leon R W, Mateo S,
Ottillie W, Hugo W, Daisy B, Joy C, Cressida F, Archie
L-B, Viera M, Darcey C, Alexander S, Eleanor T, Euan
M, Daisy O, Millie W, Emily G, Florrie H, Rosannah M,
James C-G, Katie L.

Bronze medals were awarded to William J
and Simran D.

Silver medals to Isabella E and Jonathan B.

Gold to Albert B.

Oscar A was awarded **Distinction** in
'Duologue - 8 years and under'

James C-G was awarded a **Silver** medal in a
'Scene other than Shakespeare - 9-10 years'

The following children participated in music
classes and gained the following awards for their
marvellous instrumental playing:

Leslie M - 2 cups (**Gold**) and 2 **Bronze** medals

Rhys L - **Silver** medal

Griff L - **Bronze** medal

Alice H - Cup Winner (**Gold**)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report...

ROUNDERS

U9 v Rendcomb College

Lost 11½ - 7½

Well, it was fair to say that this training match, captained by Millie, will be remembered for many things!

Firstly it was definitely a game of two halves! After Daisy scored a rounder off the very first ball when it was our turn to bat, Berky set off to a very good start and with 4 more whole rounders and a few half rounders we had a very respectable score of 7 rounders after the first innings. Some excellent fielding by India, Simran, Varnika and Millie meant that Rendcomb only scored 2 whole rounders and we ended the first 'half' with a 7 to 5 lead.

Secondly, it was a bit of a shock! In their second innings that the Rendcomb girls seemed to have switched on their booster engines and scored a further 6½ rounders. Then their fielding blew us out of the water! This time, Daisy was caught out on her first ball and then, in quick succession, all our girls were either stumped out at 4th or caught out, with only half a rounder scored in the whole innings and 9 good balls were still available to the opposition! The final score was 11½ to 7½.

And finally, it was a good lesson! Our girls learned a new trick from seeing what had happened to us and from observing the excellence of the opposition fielding. It made us realise we needed to up our game! So, onwards and upwards.

U9A v Hatherop

Won 16½ - 7½

Goodness! What a match! You could definitely say that we had learned the lessons from our previous match and we absolutely reaped the benefits. The Berky girls fielded and batted with skill and their energy and enthusiasm was wonderful to see. Excellent decisions were made when batting (leading to 10 whole rounders being scored - 4 of those by Daisy) and fielding was superb (Varnika particularly standing out with some excellent catches), making the most of stumping the opposition at 4th post.

The girls were complimented by the opposition teacher who said "it was clear that your girls wanted to win and they pushed for every opportunity!" Well done girls.

U10B v Hatherop B

Won 7 - 5½

A perfect afternoon for a game of rounders in a beautiful setting! The team, captained by Sarah, lost the toss and were immediately put into bat. Hatherop were strong fielders and it soon became apparent after a few rash decisions by some of our batters that it was going to be a close match. Kyla and Darcy managed to gain full rounders and we notched up our score by sneaky ½ rounders to finish the innings on 4½. Hatherop responded to the challenge by gaining 3½, but we had bowled them all out after 26 good balls. Our fielding was good – Hannah played really well and Zoe managed to claim a catch. Communication was improving between the players – but I knew we could play even better! After a team talk in the welcome shade, the girls were fired up for their second innings. However, Hatherop had different ideas and their fielding became even tighter. We made some poor decisions and some players were run out quite quickly, leaving Sarah and Rosannah in to finish the innings. We were all out for 2½ after 25 good balls. Things were not looking good. But the Berky spirit prevailed and we began fielding with a renewed energy. Kyla was on fire, bowling accurately and even managing a one handed catch, which I am sure was completely intentional! Rosannah caught a deep ball and soon Hatherop were struggling to even gain ½ rounders. Their innings finished on 2. It was certainly a tight match but Berky were worthy winners as they showed spirit and a great attitude. Well done girls, a super team effort!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

CRICKET

U9 v Rendcomb Won by 52 runs

It was with relief that this fixture wasn't rained off – following a downpour in the morning – as the boys were eager to play a match. Losing the toss and being asked to bowl it was important to get off to a good start. This they did with accurate bowling from Finn, George, Andrew, Ed, Luke and Euan. In the field, all the boys were alert and eager to restrict the running of the Rendcomb batsmen. This fielding led to two run-outs with Noah keeping wicket superbly. Wickets were taken by George, Andrew, Ed and Euan – with Euan's Wicket Maiden being the highlight. Rendcomb reached 56 runs having lost 30 runs due to the wickets.

The batting started well with Euan and George (26 runs) hitting the ball well against some accurate bowling. Luke and Noah (27 runs) batted next with some big hits from Captain Luke and some intelligent running from Noah. Jensen and Oscar (25 runs) started a little nervously but once their confidence grew they started to hit boundaries and take some quick singles. Finn, Oscar, Harry, Andrew and Ed shared the next 6 overs and between them scored 30 runs. Finn particularly hit some big shots and he and Oscar took some risky runs – but with no wickets. Harry and Andrew batted sensibly – not giving away wickets – and Ed came in to hit a boundary at the end. By the end the Rendcomb team had not taken any wickets and Berky were on 308. This was a great way to start the season – well done boys, a good victory.



U10 v Airthrie

The good news - the sun shone, the scene was idyllic. Christchurch towering in the background as the sound of leather on willow was heard in the picturesque ground.

Bad news- we lost by 1 run.

It was a game of two halves with the game see-sawing one way and then the other. Berky lost the toss and were forced to bat. Adam and Archie opened the batting very successfully and added 22 runs for no wickets. However, our next pairs were less fortunate and several wickets were lost to catches, run outs and good bowling from the opposition. Eliot being the only other player not to lose his wicket. We ended on a score of 192 and so would need wickets to win the game.

Adam opened the bowling and on his first ball got a wicket. However, Airthrie batted well for the rest of the pair and were ahead at the end of the innings for the first batting pair. Good bowling put us even by the end of their second pair. Benji, Archie and James E fielding well. Even better bowling at the end of the third pair meant that Berky were ahead, Olly scoring four wickets in just one over. All the bowlers, Adam, James S, Rhys, Olly and Eliot all got wickets. However, the last Airthrie pair were very good cricketers. One player was able to place the ball at will and scored several boundaries. With one over left Airthrie were trailing by six runs. They scored seven and clinched the game. A very close finish.

U11A v Rendcomb

Rendcomb - 128 for 2 Berkhampstead - 129 for 3 Berky won by 7 wickets

On a beautiful sunny afternoon the U11A team had a superb match against Rendcomb. Batting first, the hosts scored a very fine 128 for 2 from 20 overs. Our bowling was mostly good but we will need to show a little more consistency in future games. Ollie A and Olly were our two best bowlers, gaining a wicket each and conceding the least runs. There was some real energy in the field with Charlton, George de B-T and Adam making some excellent contributions. There was also an outstanding one handed catch from Harry to take one of their wickets.

Our batting got off to an excellent start with Sam (14) and Henry (18) scoring 31 for the opening partnership. Adam (23 not out) and Harry (26 not out) batted beautifully to reach 129 with 22 balls to spare. To reach such a competitive total within that time was a fantastic effort. Well done to all of the team for a wonderful performance. As always many thanks to our loyal supporters.

U11B v Rendcomb

Berkhampstead - 275 for 1 Rendcomb - 224 for 6

It was an excellent afternoon of cricket at Rendcomb on Monday. We won the toss and Jasper chose for us to field first. Our bowling wasn't great unfortunately and we had a lot of wide and no balls; however we rescued this by taking 6 wickets from Rendcomb. These were a combination of good fielding and some great catches which left Rendcomb with 224 at the end of their innings.

We started our innings well with some good runs and this set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. We had a couple of boys who hit 4s including Benji Mc, Rex and Jasper. Most of the time the batsman thought about how the ball was being bowled to them and hit it well. We only lost one wicket which was caught by Rendcomb but overall our batting was good.

The match finished 275 for 1 to us and 224 for 6 to Rendcomb. It was an excellent win at Rendcomb on a warm, breezy afternoon.