



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I am always delighted when the children approach me to ask a question or two. This week I was probed with questions such as, 'What do you do all day?' and a prospective parent asked, 'What is the best part of your job – and the worst?' For me there is no question that the time I spend with the children in the classroom is the best part. We have such keen and interested boys and girls at Berky, eager to learn and to explore problems and challenges - they are a pleasure to teach and to spend time with.

Last Sunday I thoroughly enjoyed being at the seventh annual Berky Chess Congress and it was another great success. Chess is a big part of life at Berkhampstead, so it was no surprise to see so many children turning up on a Sunday to 'do battle' with their friends. It was a real pleasure to see high quality chess being played with great sportsmanship and a tangible sense of fun. Children from age 7 played a series of games of chess, 7 in total and after a couple of rounds they played opponents of a similar standard, acquiring little prizes as they progressed throughout the day.

The congress is part of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, a National competition involving tens of thousands of children across the country. The leading children from the Berky Congress will qualify for the Gloucestershire 'Megafinal' - and last year some of the best Berky players won through to represent Gloucestershire at the North of England 'Gigafinal' in the summer.

This year Griff stormed the Year 3 competition with 21 out of 21 points with Rupert, Otto and Isabel qualifying for the Megafinal. Finian, Andrew and India qualified from Year 4 with Finn winning the Year 4 trophy; Jack was best Year 5, with George qualifying too; Toby was the best of the 4 Year 6s on 20/21.

A big thank you to Mr Bird for organizing the event and for those parents who helped out on the day.

I have also been asked by a couple of parents for advice on e-safety. Technology and the Internet is developing at an ever-increasing rate and new issues crop up regularly. There is much we do in school to support the children, educate them on the benefits and pitfalls of technology and the Internet. We do hope to offer another 'session' for parents on this that will include feedback from children who have recently experienced life as a teenager. In the meantime, we recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website, for more information on keeping your child safe online (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates...

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 1st Feb

2.30pm – Football U9, U8
v Hatherop (H)

2.30pm – Football U11A, U11B,
U10A, U10B v King's, Worcester (A)

Thu 2nd Feb

Year 1 walk to All Saints' Church

Fri 3rd Feb

3.30pm – Football U8
v St Edward's (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

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.

News from around the school

RECEPTION

Reception children are continuing to enjoy finding out about their bodies through our topic "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes".

During one of the carousel activities, the children are experiencing "Forest School" led by Mrs High. It is an opportunity for children to experience nature and the outdoor environment, in a safe, secure, and hands-on way. Giving them an awareness of the natural world and an understanding of self-care in respect of managing their own safety and hygiene in the outdoors. The children have loved exploring our wildlife area using their senses and there are lots of exciting activities planned for this term!

The children found a skeleton in the classroom! We read *Funny bones* by Janet and Allan Alhberg and enjoyed sharing the story. The children participated in a variety of rhyming activities and wrote their own poem about their body.

Following their discovery of the skeleton, the children explored vertebrate and invertebrate animals. They discussed the similarities and differences between them and how we can tell by looking at a picture of the animal. The children enjoyed working in small groups sorting pictures of animals, into 'vertebrate' and 'invertebrate'.

Throughout the week, the children have explored 3D shapes. They were asked to listen to shape descriptions and they had to identify the shape. The children used a collection of 3D shapes to explore building. When using these shapes they investigated which were best for building and those which were not. The children were encouraged to describe and name the shapes they have used in their models.

CHESS

Berkhamstead reached the District Cup Final on Tuesday after a comfortable 4.5-1.5 victory over a Holy Apostles team containing several strong and experienced players. This was a very solid and workmanlike performance; our players are collectively hitting a rich vein of form. The final will be against St. Gregory's and will take place after half-term. Well played, Jack, James, George, Olly, Toby (captain) and Sam. The school's 'B' team battled hard against Holy Apostles 'B' but lost 4.5-1.5.

Last Sunday, Berkhamstead School hosted its seventh Annual Chess Congress as part of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge. There were numerous eye-catching performances. Griff won all seven of his games on the way to clinching the Y3 Boys championship while Toby won the Y6 crown with six wins and draw. Other qualifiers for the Gloucestershire Megafinal are Otto, Rupert, Isabel, Finian, Andrew, India, George and Jack. Many thanks to Mr Bird for organising such a special day in our school's chess calendar.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL

U8 v Cheltenham College - Won 2, Lost 1

Last Friday the Buffaloes played three matches against Cheltenham College. In our first match we played well against strong competition. We put some good passages of play together, but couldn't quite manage to hit the back of the net. Our opposition took their chances well to win 2-0. In our second match we were more cohesive and passed well to create lots of chances. This resulted in a fine 3-1 victory. We took our good form into the final match and were victorious by 2-0.

Our goals scorers were Will (3) and Jack (1). They were both a threat in front of goal and played with great attacking intent. They were well supported by Otto and Max who were energetic throughout. I was also very pleased with the excellent tackling and determination shown by Alex S, Archie and Harry. Well done boys for a great afternoon of football!

U8 Bisons v Cheltenham College

The boys played 3 short games against each of Cheltenham College's three teams. We played a lot better in these matches than in the previous one against King's Gloucester. In the first game we went ahead twice but the thirst for goals was too strong as we pushed forward and let in a late goal. Score 2 - 3.

We dominated the second game and spent most of our time in the opposition's half. We won that game 2 - 0. The last game was very even and we were unfortunate to lose it 0 - 1. Goals were scored by Alex D, Griff and Jonny. Everyone played their part in the matches. Jonathan and Oli harassed their defence when they played up front and Sebastian and Rupert made some great tackles whilst in defence.

Well played, boys!

U8B Bisons v Wycliffe - Won 6-0

Having been mixed up between the two teams from our last match the "new" Bisons had a great game, each of them trying out different positions on the pitch. We played against the weaker of the two Wycliffe teams and dominated them throughout. Max had to stay in goal for the game and kept a clean sheet. He was rarely troubled due to great defensive work by the team. In attack Will and Alex D scored a hat trick each. I was really pleased with the effort that Jonathan, Rupert, Archie and Harry put in during the game. Each of them made great tackles and came close to scoring as well. A great team performance. Well done.

U8 Buffaloes v Wycliffe U8A - Loss 2-5

The final 5-2 scoreline flatters Wycliffe a tad. Berky were always in this match and created chances galore but were foiled by some expert goalkeeping. Two well-struck goals from Jack kept our lads in contention but a late Wycliffe goal scored on the break and against the run of play sealed the visitors' fate. Strong running from Griff and Jonny helped our star striker Jack while Alex S and Seb defended wholeheartedly and Oli ran his heart out for the cause. Otto proved a very useful goalkeeper.

U8 Buffaloes v King's Gloucester - Won 9-0

Last Friday the Buffaloes opened their season with an emphatic victory against King's Gloucester.

In the first half we showed good dribbling skills and attacked with intent. We pushed forward at every opportunity and shots rained down on the King's goal from all angles. Jack was a constant threat and scored four of our goals. Will, Max and Harry also hit the back of the net. There were also good contributions from Otto, Alex and Archie. Well done boys for a great start to the season.

U9 v Wycliffe - Lost 2-3

On Wednesday, the U9 boys went to Wycliffe. It was bitterly cold but dry and the boys played well.

In the first half, they were finding their feet and there were a few clumsy passes. Wycliffe quickly took advantage of this and scored a couple of goals quite quickly. Towards the end of the first half the boys were showing more confidence and the defending began to improve. Euan made some excellent clearances and worked hard to defend the goal.

We had a change of keeper at half time and brought Finian out onto the pitch. The boys played fantastically in the second half. They were well organised and worked together as a team to attack Wycliffe's goal. There were some superb shots on goal including one from Andrew which I'm sure would've been a goal if there had been goal line technology! Two goals were scored by Jensen and Finian and these were great goals. Wycliffe were quick on the counter attack but Ed, Noah and Harry were strong in defence and worked well together. Unfortunately, Wycliffe scored a third goal but I was hopeful that we would get one or even two more. As we approached 'Fergie time' the boys were peppering the Wycliffe goal with shots. Wycliffe were panicking and the boys had lots of corners and throw ins. The final whistle was blown and the match finished 3-2 to Wycliffe. It was a loss but the boys played so well and fought until the end.

Well done boys. You played well. Thank you to the parents who came along to support the boys.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report...

FOOTBALL CONTINUED

U9 v Cheltenham College

Last Friday the U9 boys played four football matches against Cheltenham College. After a disappointing start to the season the boys were looking to bounce back and secure some wins. The boys responded to this well. They showed some great vision in each match and worked well as a team to secure some wins.

Mr Banks's team won their first 3 matches with Luke Flexman scoring an impressive 5 goals across them. Everyone played in goal although they didn't need to make many saves. Finian showed some excellent footwork and he used this to keep possession of the ball on more than one occasion. The final match for this team was a narrow 1-0 loss. However the boys were firing shots in and were unlucky not to get a goal. Well done boys.

U11A v Wycliffe - Lost 4-3

The U11 played in a hugely entertaining fixture on Wednesday. Wycliffe proved to be a very capable team from the start, creating several chances with slick passing. It resulted in us being 3-0 down in the first 15 minutes. However the Berky boys are a determined bunch and fought their way back. A great through ball was picked up by Rumhann, who rounded the goalkeeper and coolly slotted a left foot shot into the goal. So at half time it was 3-1 to Wycliffe.

The second half saw Berky pile on the pressure, which resulted in two more goals from Rumhann and James S. It was 3-3 and all to play for. Both sides had their chances but a late goal from Wycliffe clinched the match.

I was delighted with the performance by the boys. It takes a lot to come back from 3-0 down and some of our play was superb. Adam and Harry both had strong games. Defensively George and Jack worked well and James, Benji and Charlton played with lots of energy in midfield. Rumhann was excellent up front and Sam made some super saves.

Well done boys for a great game of football!

U11B v Wycliffe - Lost 5-0

A good game in which the team played well and improved on their previous games. The score certainly flattered the opposition. In the first half we were playing uphill. Despite this we showed great attacking skill and we held the line well defensively. Hugo played well up front and held his position causing problems for the opposition. He was supported brilliantly by Ethan and Rhys in midfield. Rhys showed great skill and made some fantastic runs and Ethan battled tirelessly in midfield chasing loose balls and tackling everyone. At the back, Olly, Toby and James played really well, battling hard and keeping the opposition out. Wycliffe had most of the attacking play in the first half but could not score. Rex was having a great game and made several important saves. At half time the score was 0-0.

In the second half Berky attacked strongly with James taking up the striker role. Charlie played midfield to support Rhys. Despite some great play we could not quite score. Olly was pushing up supported by Max. We were definitely causing the opposition trouble. However, with us pushing up, we were drawn upfield but were caught at the back as we chased the ball up the field. Despite some superb saves by Rex, Wycliffe scored several times with great placed shots. The traffic wasn't all one way however. Berky had probably more shots on goal. The Wycliffe goalkeeper played out of his skin and made Peter Shilton look like an amateur. He even saved a deflected shot. The score ended 5-0, but it didn't represent the game at all. The game was far more even.

U11C v Wycliffe - Lost 0-3

Another thoroughly enjoyable match was played this week by the eager and enthusiastic C Team. Peter S returned from illness – but sadly Edwin had joined the injury list – and we played the first half up an enormous slope ... I wondered whether the boys should have been wearing crampons on their football boots! For the first 10 minutes the defence held firm with our three centre backs, Charlie, Peter and Jasper working hard to clear the ball up the North Face of the pitch to the midfield of Ollie O, George and Eliot. A goal for the opposition came after a throw-in unluckily rebounded into the path of the Wycliffe striker who powered it past Benji in goal. Unfortunately, this was followed by another goal for Wycliffe before Berky had their best chance of the match. James CG picked up the ball just inside the Wycliffe half and pushed past two players before striking the ball past the goalkeeper – onto the post. The rebound came to Eliot but the ball bobbled and he kicked it past the post. In the second half – now playing down the slope – Eliot, George and William in midfield showed great dribbling skills and they, alongside Archie, James CG, Jasper and Charlie, bombarded the Wycliffe goal with shots. Sadly the best player on the Wycliffe team was their captain and goalkeeper – and he had a superb game keeping out all of our shots. Wycliffe scored a breakaway goal in the second half and won the game 3-0. It was all smiles as the Berky team came off the pitch though – as they had thoroughly enjoyed the game and were thinking of the match tea – sausage, chips and jam doughnuts!





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Sports report...

NETBALL

U9A v Dean Close - Won 4-2

Phew, what a game! Played at a thousand miles an hour, this was not only exhausting to play in, I would imagine but also to umpire. The girls played with a huge amount of energy and their effort was to be admired. The girls displayed really good team work, sound defensive play and most importantly they managed to get the shots in. Well done! At half time the score was 2-1 to Berky. I was always hopeful of a positive result as the girls have had several matches already. The good play continued with everyone contributing much to the result of 4-2 to Berky. Well played!

U9B training game v Dean Close - Draw 2-2

This was a very closely fought match and both Berky and Dean Close girls played excellently, particularly considering the freezing temperatures! At the end of the first quarter we were 1.0 up and Anna had scored with a fantastic shot at the net! Dean Close scored early in the second quarter and again in the third. But, after a fantastic passage of play Berky scored again, bringing the final score to a 2-2. Emma S was voted player of the match, but it was wonderful to see ALL the Berky girls playing as a team.

U9A v Beaudesert School - Lost 6-8

This was a thrilling game to watch with fantastic pace and excellent teamwork from the Berky girls. After a very early score from Beaudesert, we scored 3 times in very quick succession and Beaudesert barely got to touch the ball, although by half-time they had caught up and it was a 4-4 draw. By the end of the 3rd quarter it was still a draw (6-6) and the two teams were very evenly matched, but Beaudesert scored two more times in the final quarter taking the final score to 8-6. Bea D was voted the player of the match (for the third match in a row!) and this was very well deserved.

All the girls played fantastically - they looked like a team!

U10B v Beaudesert C - Won 3-1

There was a thick mist surrounding Minchinhampton Common and it was freezing! With only a squad of eight players, all the girls knew they were going to have to play well in order to achieve a victory. Isi, today's captain, chose to shoot in one direction and Beaudesert began with the ball. It was really tricky to make out the lines on the multi-purpose astro and initially the girls were struggling to use the width of the court. The first quarter finished 1-1. It was going to be a tight match. In the next quarter it became apparent that fingers were cold as passing and catching was not as accurate as in previous matches. By the third quarter it was still a draw, but the girls were patient and began to string more passes together, creating more shooting opportunities - the ball just wouldn't go in the hoop! Rosannah managed to score her second and we began the final quarter with a narrow lead. The girls worked hard to defend; Georgia was rock solid as goal keeper. Isi secured the win with an impressive goal from the edge of the D. Although not your prettiest of matches girls, you fought for the win and the conditions were not the best. Thank you to Kyla for her support on the side lines when she was off - she was great for team morale!

