

BERKHAMPTSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE

SUMMER TERM  
2021

# BLAZER

*Back to matches!*  
A GOOD INNINGS

*It's Showtime!*  
BERKY TAKES  
TO THE STAGE



*Pupils  
take the lead*  
SPORTS DAYS 2021

INSIDE: SPOTLIGHT ON JAN TAYLOR | SUMMER ART EXHIBITION | DAY NURSERY NEWS



## Thoughts FROM THE HEAD

What a wonderful Summer Term - back in school for the whole time! The gorgeous weather contributed to making all the superb events and activities such a success. The final term's farewell for Year 6 was enormously fulfilling with events including an exciting three days of canoeing, mountain biking, climbing and spending time together. We had a lovely Year 6 Music Recital at the Parabola Arts Centre and the hilarious 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits' production. We also witnessed their camaraderie and consideration for others at the annual Sports Day. They are a very supportive and caring group, role-modelling the 'Berky Way' for all to see. The Speech and Prize Giving Service was a fitting way to say goodbye and it made it particularly special having Lucy Heyman, an old-girl and sister to one of our current Year 6, to award the prizes to the children.

Sport is such an important part of education; it develops coordination, teamwork and leadership, it helps self-confidence and self-esteem, it enhances the children's social skills, discipline and resilience. These were all witnessed at our annual Sports Days for Kindergarten, Pre-Prep and Prep and I am enormously grateful to such a wonderful staff who care so much for Sport, ensuring the children enjoy their participation in sport. I am also grateful to the parents for their on-going support of the children and school at these events. This edition of the Berky Blazer is a reflection of this and I hope you enjoy reading it.

### Richard Cross

Richard Cross  
Headmaster



## PLATINUM AWARD

Congratulations to the following leavers who have been awarded theirs this year: Elodie O and Luke R

## Spotlight ON JAN TAYLOR

Jan Taylor is a well-respected and talented teaching assistant, currently in Year 2. She joined Berky in 2007 having worked in primary schools since 1985. She has been married to Mr Taylor - from the Estates Team - for 44 years, and has three children (including twin boys), and five grandchildren.



### What was your first job?

My very first job was when I came to Cheltenham in 1975 and trained as a nursery nurse. I met Simon that same year when he came to my lodging house to record the grandfather clock for an amateur production of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol.'

### You have run Year 2's popular gardening club for years. Why you in particular?

I love being outside and am a passionate gardener. This love was first fostered working with my father on his allotments and in his greenhouse. As children we were sent into the nearby fields to collect sheep poo to feed dad's tomato plants. I thoroughly enjoyed designing the wildlife garden and Pre-Prep playground.

### You are also a passionate eco warrior. Why is this?

I am very conscious of the world around us and what we are doing to the planet. It only has a finite number of resources which we are consuming at an alarming and growing rate. We only have one Earth and are utterly dependent on it for our survival and well-being. If we continue to consume at our current rate, we face severe consequences so I make every effort to reduce, reuse or recycle whenever possible.

### Your Prep Knitting Club is very popular. Are you a keen crafter?

Yes, my other passion is art and craft. Knitting is my "go to" craft, I knit every evening to relax. I greatly enjoyed running the Prep Knitting Club and hope to be able to resume this soon.

### Your displays are always exceptional. Have you been to art college?

I have no formal art training but believe everybody has an artist within them and, with encouragement, can produce wonderful things. My favourite quote is "Earth without art is just eh". Heading Year 2 art is one of my favourite parts of my job.

### What else do you like doing?

I like to always have a book to read - in particular, crime fiction; Agatha Christie is my all time favourite author. Interior design fascinates me and I think this is the job I would do in another life. I'm a fan of rugby union, following Gloucester and, of course, England. I also enjoy cooking, particularly baking and sugar craft. I have made a number of celebration cakes, including wedding cakes and all my children's and grandchildren's birthday cakes.

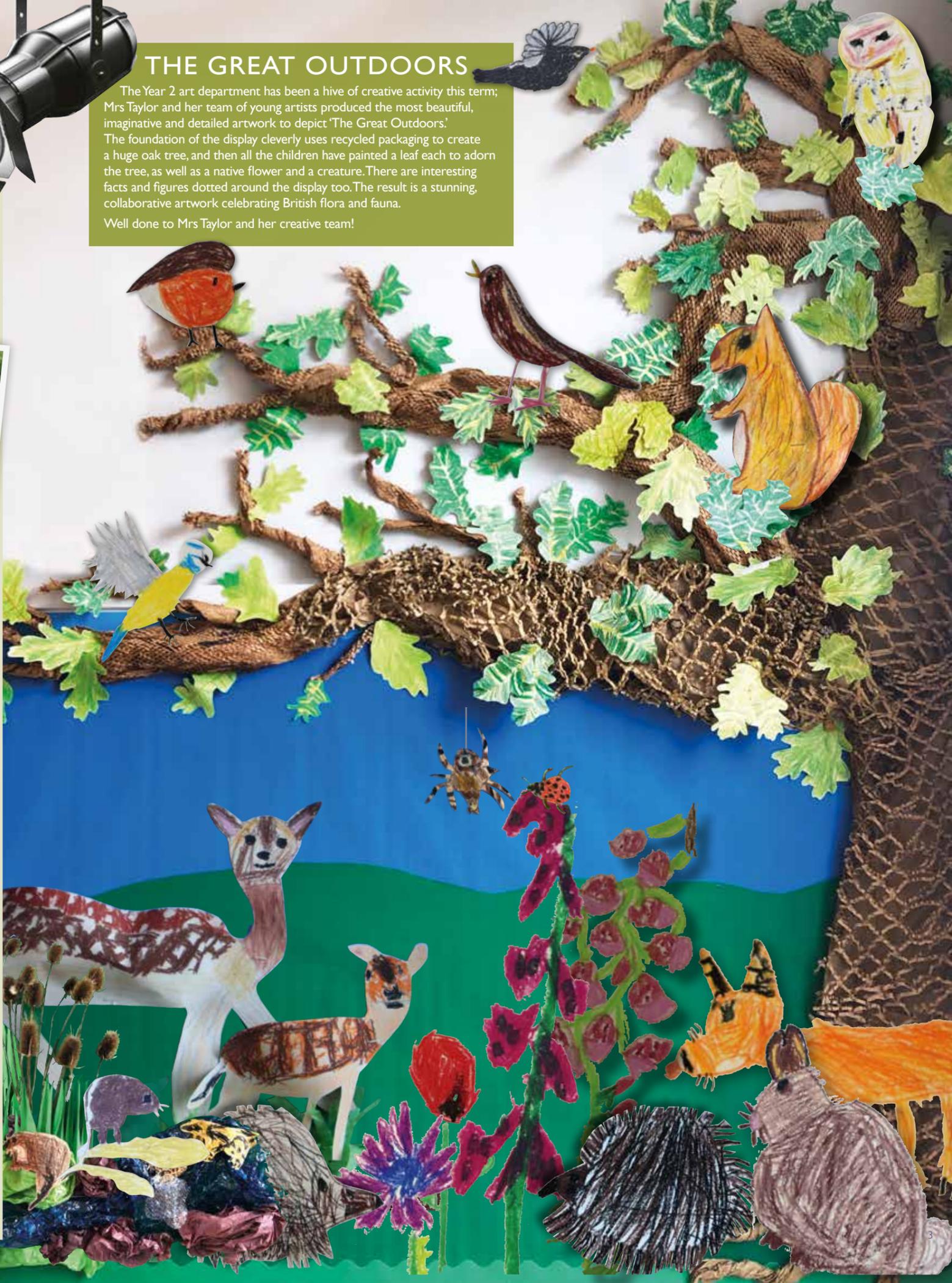
### You are always so busy; any time for learning anything new?

I love learning new skills and have recently had a chance to use, not entirely successfully, a potter's wheel. Berkhamstead School's motto 'Perseverantia Vincit' certainly comes to mind. I hope perseverance will foster positive results.



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Year 2 art department has been a hive of creative activity this term; Mrs Taylor and her team of young artists produced the most beautiful, imaginative and detailed artwork to depict 'The Great Outdoors.' The foundation of the display cleverly uses recycled packaging to create a huge oak tree, and then all the children have painted a leaf each to adorn the tree, as well as a native flower and a creature. There are interesting facts and figures dotted around the display too. The result is a stunning, collaborative artwork celebrating British flora and fauna. Well done to Mrs Taylor and her creative team!



# News

FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



## CHELTENHAM TOWN FOOTBALL

A week in May kicked off in style with Robins' fans celebrating Cheltenham Town's ascent to League One! To everyone's delight, our victorious local football club lent us their trophy and banner for the day. So, having delivered an inspiring assembly about Resilience, and using Cheltenham Town FC's refusal to give up after a disappointing previous season as an example of resilience, Mr Cross took the resplendent trophy to every classroom. Plenty of children asked questions, lots held the trophy, and everyone posed for the camera. Huge thanks to Cheltenham Town FC for allowing us to share in their glory.

## 30 DAYS WILD

The Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild' initiative challenged everyone to get outside and do something with nature and wildlife every day in June, and Reception's outdoorsy advocate Miss Watkins embraced the scheme with huge enthusiasm. The 'Random Acts of Wildness' included the scattering of seeds in the wildlife garden, learning to identify wild flowers, listening to the wind whilst practising yoga, and feeling grass between toes. The children have loved the activities, and designing and building a home for insects was particularly popular. The initiative has been truly beneficial to the children's wellbeing, and Miss Watkins observed, "The children have certainly benefitted from 30 Days Wild. Their understanding and respect for nature has grown and the challenge has been great fun too!" Miss Watkins runs Reception's weekly Forest School activities each week as well.



## KINDNESS CUP

One of our most special and coveted prizes, the Sally Lee Kindness Cup is awarded every half term to a Pre-Prep pupil who has consistently shown care and consideration for others. The Prep School equivalent is named in honour of Deputy Head, Mrs Agg, who cares deeply about our pupils' emotional wellbeing, and is a firm believer in encouraging good citizenship. Since the last issue of the Blazer, the Prep Kindness Cup has been awarded to George E, Zoe B, Barnaby W, Polly E and Maisie G, and the Pre-Prep Kindness Cup has been awarded to Leo C, Lara C, Ethan S and Seth L. Well done to all these exemplary children!

## PTA News

With ongoing Covid restrictions, it's been difficult to put on events this term. However, the school have been fantastically creative in delivering some of the usual Summer Term traditions. 'Berky's Got Talent' was one such example, and it took place in the penultimate week of term. The PTA provided welcome ice lollies for the interval! Vanessa and Becky have done a wonderful job in the second-hand uniform shop through difficult times and have worked hard to offer a great service. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Summer Ball again this year. We will be looking for a new venue and hopefully we will be able to put on a fabulous event next year and truly celebrate. As this strange academic year comes to an end, we are looking forward to getting back to some form of normality. We are hoping that the following events will return next year, and hopefully be enjoyed by all: Parents' Quiz, Christmas Fayre, Christmas Discos, Cycling Scheme and more...

With this in mind it would be great to welcome some new volunteers to the PTA, as well as Class Reps. If you would be interested in joining the PTA, then please do get in touch by emailing [pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk](mailto:pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk) - we would love to hear from you!

A big thank you as always to the wonderful staff at Berky who have powered through this last year with great energy and enthusiasm and enabled us to put on a few small events for the children. Here's to next year and being back in together for some great Berky events!

**Joey Bowden (PTA chair)**



"Humanity is now standing at a crossroads. We must decide which path we will take. What do we want the future living conditions for all living species to be like?" Greta Thunberg

Following on from our very successful Green Day and Christmas Jumper Sale before the second lockdown, the Berky Eco-Warrior Committee has worked enthusiastically to encourage 'green' activities and attitudes within the school community. All the class representatives are incredibly passionate about the subject; they have so much to say and so many great ideas that the weekly meeting is never long enough! There is now an 'Eco-tip for the Week' in every newsletter; everyone is being encouraged to conserve energy and other resources around school and there has been a continued drive to raise money for larger eco projects such as solar panel installation and the creation of a Prep Wildlife Garden facing onto Cleeve View Road.

The main focus, however, has been the introduction of our Eco-Pledge via a Teams assembly. The purpose of this is to emphasise the fact that everyone can work towards being an Eco-Warrior. There are ten possible pledges with examples of the sort of activities people could do to fulfil them; these range from switching off appliances when not in use to installing solar panels, or from walking to school to buying an electric car! Each family has been asked to try to fulfil at least five of the pledges and log/photograph their activities as evidence. As an incentive, there is a lovely Eco Warrior badge (made from recycled tin) to earn! The final pledge is compulsory for anyone taking part; it is to spread the word by, for example, involving friends and relatives in eco projects, lobbying companies which are not eco-friendly and actively supporting eco-friendly companies, projects and individuals.

**Please help our planet however you can; even small changes can make a big difference. GA and LW**

# Taking learning Outdoors



Outdoor learning and play is critical to children's health and well-being, and with this in mind, the Day Nursery staff are always eager to improve and develop their outdoor spaces. Top of their wish list this year was to install an outdoor classroom and patio area which, although located outside the Teddy Bear's room, can also be accessed via the Nature Garden so it can be used by children throughout the Nursery.

The Teddy Bear children, however, particularly benefit from this excellent provision. Their brand new patio doors are kept open, allowing 'free flow' activities so that the children can choose between playing inside and playing outside. This has enabled the improved outdoor space to become a useful extension of their classroom, meaning greater room for activities, and role play in particular can become even more realistic! For instance, when the children came to Nursery dressed as firemen for World Book Day, along with plenty of book-themed activities indoors, the staff were able to set up pretend hoses and houses on fire outside so that the children could pretend to put them out!

The outdoor classroom itself offers a solution to beat the unpredictable British weather - the children can be outside, no matter what the weather: it provides shelter and - in better weather - shade. It also offers a smaller, calmer and quieter environment where small group activities can take place, and individual children's learning can be closely observed. These activities might focus on numbers, letters or observing children's language, and the staff are finding that the children are benefiting greatly from sometimes being away from the hustle and bustle of the main classroom.

Another improved outside space is the Under 2s garden. A musical wall, construction area and a mud kitchen - complete with real cooking utensils - provide plenty of engaging activities for our youngest children. And future outside developments? Plans are for the nature garden to have a new climbing feature with slide, a new pond and a wildlife area. And above all, the Day Nursery is looking forward to their outside space returning to being a sociable area where the different rooms can mix once again.



## KINDERGARTEN CAPERS!

At the beginning of the Summer Term, our topic was 'Countries' and our mascot Andrew Bear went on adventures around the world, sending us postcards from various countries. We learned about different cultures and celebrations, and Harvey brought in his smart clothes that he wears during the celebration of Eid, he told us how he sings songs with his family. The children were involved in lots of messy play when they made African clay pots and miniature globes from mod roc. They also made flags from different countries, and they were so inspired that they collaged their own flags.

The topic finished on a high as Andrew Bear returned home for our Party Day, but he played a few tricks on us, hiding our snack and then leaving us clues so that we could go on a treasure hunt; he also organised a very special visitor (Mr Cross!) to read us a story.

It was such a fun day and made extra special when we heard the children say, "That was the best day ever!"

During the second half of term, we looked at traditional tales and thought about their meaning. Our role play area changed from the three bears' cottage to Grandma's bedroom from 'Little Red Riding Hood' to a huge

beanstalk and a giant's castle! Everyone loved this topic and it was made extra special when the children took part in the Early Years Summer Concert, 'The Porridge Monster'. We all had so much

fun and the children all performed brilliantly. MM



## RECEPTION ROLLIKS!

We introduced our first Summer Term topic, 'Mad About Minibeasts' by having real caterpillars delivered to Reception. The children learnt the art of patience as they carefully observed the caterpillars growing bigger, changing into chrysalises, and then emerging as butterflies. The children loved setting them free and watching them fluttering away. Watching the life cycle of a butterfly was an absolutely fascinating experience for us all!

We discussed how to respect the natural world, and before our minibeast hunt, the children knew that they should be kind and respectful towards even the tiniest creatures. The children became nature detectives as they explored the Wildlife Garden, discovering what sorts of places minibeasts live including under logs and on plants. The children found a range of creatures including spiders, woodlice and snails, and then carefully returned them to their natural habitats!

Creativity flowed when the children created Matisse-inspired snail collages. They also listened to music inspired by insects to create marks in response to the music, and used paints to turn pebbles into minibeasts.

The final topic of the year was 'Animals Galore,' and it kicked off with a trip to West Midlands Safari Park. Reading animal stories was well received by the children and popular titles such as 'Walking Through the Jungle', 'Monkey Puzzle' and 'Dear Zoo' enthused the children to write letters, create book reviews and make information posters. The children loved creating wild animals out of clay, and painting and collaging their favourite animals. We celebrated the end of the school year with a fabulous Early Years party! HR-W



# Ohh we go...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



## WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK

Reception buckled up and held on tight and went on a safari! We saw zebras, Congo buffalo, a greater one-horned rhino, cheetahs, African lions, tigers and elephants - all wandering around us. Seeing the pride of lions roaming around the side of our coach was thrilling! Our park ranger shared interesting facts and the children were encouraged to listen out for clues as they explored the Discovery Trail. It was a magical day and the children returned to school excited to find out even more about wild animals! HR-W



## CSI BERKY

Former police officer Jenny Williams ran a variety of fascinating activities for Year 6 which demonstrated how science is used to capture criminals. The children learned all about the importance of finger prints - that they are individual and that a thin layer of oil leaves a print that can later be 'lifted' by the police and hopefully identified. The pupils used a brush dusted with aluminium powder to make fingerprints stand out, then lifted them ready for matching. Using chromatography, they discovered which pen might have been used to write a threatening letter during a bank robbery. Handwriting was also discussed as a means to implicate a crime. They had a great time and immersed themselves in all the activities. TM

## Y3&4 CRICKLEY HILL

We started with a lovely walk across the Scarp with spectacular views to our left; we saw lots of different wildlife habitats and the belted Galloways in the distance. Our activities included solving stick puzzles, making a natural bookmark and having lunch atop the windswept Crickley Hill. A good time was had by all. Well done to all the Year 3 and 4 children. LW



## CRICKLEY HILL

Year 2 started the day started off with a leaf identification hunt followed by making leaf crowns, and having donned their splendid crowns, the children set off deeper into the woods, tasked with making dens in groups. After a demonstration of fantastic teamwork, the dens created were sturdy and strong and even passed the waterproofing test! After a well-deserved lunch, the children went on a mini-beast hunt and played a game of trust, blindfolded! It is safe to say that much fun was had by all, and there were some very tired children at school the next day. KT



## COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

Year 1 loved their trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park - highlights were definitely the insect house and the giraffes! The children met one of the park keepers who told them all about caring for animals at the park. We all enjoyed an ice cream and staff were amazed at the children's excellent behaviour. What a fantastic day out! AS



## ICT & RIVERS TRIP

Year 6 finally managed to fit the postponed autumn trip into the end of the summer term. We followed our usual route of seeing the River Severn at Broadoak and our last pitstop was the Severn estuary near Bristol. In the middle, there was a visit to Cannop Ponds in the Forest of Dean, the spectacular Symonds Yat and a drive down the scenic Wye Valley. I am pleased to report that many of the Year 6 could remember a lot of our rivers work from the autumn term and they clearly enjoyed paddling around in the water at Cannop Ponds, measuring the depth, width and speed of the water and recording everything on their iPads. Well done, Year 6! LVV

## BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

The Year 5s had a wonderful day at the Black Country Living Museum, following the lives of two Victorian children. Our route included a visit to a pawnbrokers, a hardware store, a trip down a mine and a lesson in a Victorian classroom. The children learned huge amounts about the life of a Victorian child. PMcC





# THE MUST-SEE SHOWS OF THE SUMMER

EARLY YEARS THE PORRIDGE MONSTER

YEAR 1 THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN

YEAR 2 JACK & THE BEANSTALK



The Early Years Summer Concert was different this year due to COVID restrictions, but the children rose to the occasion and did a brilliant job of performing it for the camera for their parents to watch via the Teams platform rather than live. The young actors invited their parents to join them on a journey with Little Bear on a monster hunt where he met some well-known characters. The children did an amazing job remembering their lines, actions and playing musical instruments, and were both confident and very entertaining! HR-W

As this year, Year 1 couldn't join Year 2 for a combined Summer Production, we decided to do our own! Inspired by our topic 'Giants and Minibeasts' we settled on a retelling of Julia Donaldson's 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. The children were keen to make use of our fantastic new green screens and on filming day they rose to the occasion, using them like true professionals! The animal characters were excellent and there were animal noises galore. They all spoke their lines beautifully and had worked incredibly hard with Mrs Sallis to learn their 'rap', ably accompanied by a violinist and a cellist! The finished production was a triumph and we were all very proud of them. HC



Year 2 have been learning about the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as part of their literacy lessons this term; they investigated the themes, patterns, story language and characterisation within the traditional tale and did a fantastic job of retelling the story using puppets. When it came to deciding on a Summer Production, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' seemed like the perfect option! Lots of hard work was put into learning lines, painting the set and props, organising costumes and, of course, practising all the catchy songs with Mrs Sallis. Sadly, restrictions meant that the production was recorded rather than live, but the children performed beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed the whole process. LL





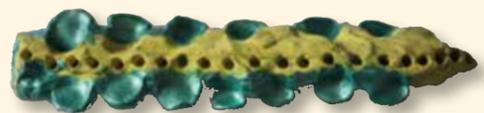
★★★★★  
**ALI BABA  
 AND THE BONGO  
 BANDITS**

**U**nderneath an Arabian sky, the Year 6s performed Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits, a tale of vile villains and handsome heroes, of ruthless robbers and mystical magic! This colourful and fun play was truly brought to life by the incredibly talented Year 6 children who threw themselves not only into learning their lines but also into the acting, singing and dancing. Even with the uncertainty of whether they would be able to perform live to their parents - which unfortunately in the end was unable to happen - this determined and dedicated group did not let this stop them giving the production their all; for this, they cannot be commended enough. They were able to perform to a small audience for the recording and their enthusiasm and effort were endless. It was a wonderful performance and their enjoyment was evident. Well done, Year 6 - I'm sure the production and songs will stay with you and, although you may not be 'the most incredible robber band', you are certainly the most incredible band of children! BE





## YEAR 1 HAVE BEEN BUSY EXPLORING GIANTS AND MINIBEASTS THIS TERM!



In English lessons, the children have worked really hard on writing their own 'Kipper and the Giant' stories. They then created some fantastic rhyming poems about various minibeasts. They also created their own fact file, helping to teach one another what they had learned. This was then turned into a book.

The talented children had great fun making the most spectacular minibeast prints, and they also sewed their very own minibeasts. They even made minibeasts using clay, which was tricky, but the children were up for the challenge and their final products were brilliant!

It was particularly memorable when the children became giants in Computing lessons, and recorded each other in slow motion. They edited the videos and there were a lot of laughs when the children showcased their final product to one another - the children made some fantastic giant movements and sounds!

Then, as a well deserved treat for the hard-working children, we went to the Cotswold Farm Park, where the children were able to observe a hive full of Cotswold bees, bug houses and the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

The Year 1 children really have been busy bees learning and growing into giants before our eyes. It has been a wonderful Summer term. JM



## MEANWHILE, YEAR 2 HAVE THRIVED IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

We were all so pleased to be all together again and back in the classroom, but the summer term is always such a wonderful opportunity to get outside and explore the grounds of the school and the surrounding area. The topic started off with the discovery of some magic beans in the classroom! The children immersed themselves in the traditional tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', picking apart the elements of the story and then having a go at writing their own versions. We then went on to investigate how plants grow, including beans, and we grew our own sunflowers. Lots of time has been spent in the nature garden observing the plants and wildlife there; the children loved investigating the area and sketching some of the beautiful features. A highlight of the topic was our trip to Crickley Hill where we learned about different kinds of trees and plants as well as how minibeasts live in the habitat there. Through our study of the local area, the children did some map work and used different sources to plan a trip to Pittville Park; we used a compass to work out our position and had a go at making our own maps with landmarks around the school. LL



# News

## FROM PREP



### CHESS MOVES

The summer chess report for The Blazer ordinarily features a round-up of cup finals, tournament results, trophies awarded, thrilling matches, prizegiving ceremonies and other acts of chess-related derring-do. It's been - for obvious reasons - a comparatively quiet chess year chez Berky but I am pleased that things have been ticking over nicely, plenty of games have been contested and much skill and, importantly, promise has been shown. The quarantining of chess sets (not an expression I ever expected to notate) meant that clubs could only meet fortnightly, with Y3 and Y4 sharing one lot of boards and pieces and Y5 and Y6 the other. Competition was fierce but friendly. The Y3 tournament flagged up a talented group of young, keen players and a potential league winning team of the future. Tom R enjoyed an unbeaten season and was a deserved champion. Seb C - a hugely talented competitor and also unbeaten - claimed the spoils in the Y4 tournament. In Y5, everyone seemed to be beating each other at one stage

but Barnaby W and Isla R emerged from the mayhem to share the top prize. One of the school's most improved players, Patrick D, won the Y6 tournament. On Speech Day, the Howard Cup for Chess was awarded to Henry R for a fine chess career with plenty of successes and Isabella E collected the Cole Chess Cup to reward her great loyalty to our school chess club and its events. A chess match or two was arranged for the end of the year but circumstance dictated that it wasn't to be. Here's to next year and a hopeful return to normality in Chessland. MC



### IPAD ORCHESTRA

Year 5 took part in a superb 'digital orchestra' workshop delivered by the charismatic 'Mr O' from Music Hands. GarageBand on iPads enabled the children to make a wonderful sound, and their performance at the end of the workshop was truly magical. Blending their computing and musical knowledge, the workshop was inspiring and great fun. Year 6's workshop, later in the term - on iPad music apps - was brilliant too! Thanks to Music Hands for such a brilliant mornings and to our Computing specialist Mr Banks for organising them.

### MUSIC NEWS

We are delighted to have seen weekly rehearsals for Berky Bows and Jigsaw beginning again this term. Pupils in all years have been taking part, socially distanced across the spaces. Since we have kept the year group bubbles separate, it has been more of a challenge to play the music without even necessarily standing next to another player of the same instrument, let alone the same part! But this has also proved a really great learning opportunity and we have noticed some very strong and confident players emerging.

Jazz Combo, Chamber Ensemble and a small Chamber Choir also rehearsed with just Y6 pupils for their Leavers' Recital in June. This was an utterly thrilling experience, especially because we have felt so restricted with regard to performances and concerts during the last 15 months. The Parabola Arts Centre was the venue for our recital which involved everyone in Y6, presenting items and performing on stage. There were some beautiful solos as well as the ensembles, proving that many have kept up their instrumental progress to a high level despite lockdowns and lessons over Zoom. The Recital finished with a very rousing performance of 'Bongo Bandits' with the whole year group performing this song from their end of year production.

There were some final performances from not just the children, with John Stillman demonstrating his wonderful skills at the piano, accompanying and directing, for the last time in 23 years. We have also said farewell to long-standing members of the team, James Agg and Sarah Chestney, but we hope they will stay in touch and visit from time to time. PM



### MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

**Pre-Grade 1:** Ellie A (Piano), Esha D (Violin)

**Grade 1:** Serena A (Viola), Sophia B (Piano), Harry H (Piano), Tatty H (Cello), Anna A (Violin\*), Holly H (Viola\*)

**Grade 2:** Mollie R (Flute), Zoe B (Cello), Tom C-G (Drum Kit\*), Joe W (Cello\*), Rufus H (Drum Kit\*\*)

**Grade 3:** Rosemary B (Clarinet\*and Piano\*)

**Grade 4:** Lucy P (Clarinet), Will S (Cello\*),

**Grade 5:** Bea Bea M-D (Theory)

\*Denotes - Pass with Merit \*\*Denotes - Pass with Distinction

### EN GARDE!

It was brilliant to see many of our extra-curricular clubs resume during the Summer Term, and one of them was Year 6's popular fencing club. Kevin Nelson - who has been coaching fencing at Berky since 2014 - has been coaching for over 30 years, and is the Chairman and Head Coach of the Cotswold Fencing Club. Over the course of a year, he teaches our oldest children all three teaching weapons: foil, sabre and épée. With each of the weapons, they also earn their British Academy of Fencing Bronze Proficiency Awards. In non-Covid years, the pupils take part in two small local fun competitions, one at Cheltenham Ladies' College and the other at Dean Close School. Unfortunately, these couldn't happen this year, but we are very much hoping things will be back to normal next year.





# LIGHTS CAMERA, ACTION!

A BERKY FILM IS CREATED. BY MRS AGG

A TEAM FROM EVENLODE FILMS - A CHELTENHAM-BASED COMPANY RUN BY TIM AND CATHERINE MOUNTAIN - WAS ASKED TO CREATE A PROMOTIONAL VIDEO FOR THE BERKY WEBSITE. ALL THREE OF CATHERINE'S CHILDREN ATTENDED BERKY YEARS AGO AND THE FAMILY HAVE VERY FOND MEMORIES OF THEIR TIME WITH US, SO CATHERINE WAS MORE THAN DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF CAPTURING ON FILM WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL THE SPECIAL PLACE THAT IT IS.

Meetings had already been held in 2020 between our indefatigable Marketing Manager Mrs de Burgh-Thomas and Tim and Catherine to discuss what sort of film

we wanted; it was decided very early on that 'Quirky Berky' deserved something a bit unique! With input from Mr Cross and Mrs Agg, Mrs de Burgh-Thomas supplied lists and photos

of the things we do that make us stand out and the values we consider important; from all of these, the final film gradually started to evolve.



One of the main intentions was to present Berky in as accurate and truthful a light as possible - the film had to be authentic. Soon, Mrs de Burgh-Thomas and Mrs Agg had had several meetings - what education, had heard the soundtrack - specially composed by Tim Mountain - and had studied, discussed and amended the storyboard. This latter was a series of drawings suggesting the images which Tim hoped to capture during the film crew's time in school; it very quickly became apparent that Tim and Catherine thoroughly understood the essence of our school. Unusually, the film was to start with a short animation of our own crest; this was intended to suggest personal enjoyment and development - what education is all about - and this idea was also mirrored in the accompanying script. The script, too, was striking in that it was more free verse than prose. Visual images, music, sounds and words would subtly combine to give a very uplifting and positive impression of our school and the breadth of

curriculum it offers; it was already evident that this film was to be more than just an ordinary promotional video - if all went according to plan, it would be a true work of art!

The first bit of filming had been done way back before Christmas when Evenlode came to record the Year 3 children rehearsing their musical production, 'Rats!' We had looked forward to their return in early January, but then came lockdown! It wasn't until the final days of the Spring term, with all the children safely returned to school and robust health and safety measures firmly in place, that we felt ready to continue with the project. The arrival of all the lights, screens, reflectors, cameras and other gadgetry caused great interest and excitement amongst the children, but otherwise did not interfere with the normal school days overmuch. Both members of staff and children enjoyed being part of the process, gladly taking part in the various shots and displaying great patience and concentration; it was a most interesting experience for us all.

The final thing to be done was the addition of the words... but who was to speak them?

Experiencing the film with the words spoken by their author was impressive and professional but it was felt that it would be more appropriate if they were to be spoken by real Berky people. As Headmaster, Mr Cross was an obvious choice and he, along with two members of Year 6 - Bea Bea and Will S. - visited Evenlode's Montpellier studio for a morning; after very little practice and some rather good hot chocolate, the three of them each recorded the script. Now it was time to wait for the finished film...

When we first heard that the completed film would be only 90 seconds long, we thought it highly unlikely that this could ever be long enough to give a true impression of all the special things we do at Berky. However, it is remarkable how much can be conveyed in such a short period of time. Within a week, the final film was ready for viewing by Mr Cross, Mrs de Burgh-Thomas and Mrs Agg who all agreed that it was a film like no other: a film which conveyed our happy, caring school environment, which demonstrated and reflected the broad and creative nature of the education we offer and which evoked positive emotions in the viewer - a film of which we can all feel very proud.

Do visit our website - [www.berkhampsteadschool.co.uk](http://www.berkhampsteadschool.co.uk) and see what you think!



Mod-Roc globes by KG

# SUMMER EXHIBITION

The creative work of every pupil from Kindergarten to Year 6 was celebrated in our annual Art Exhibition.

Now in its seventh year, our Summer Art Exhibition took place immediately after half term. Always a crowd-puller, for this reason, the exhibition this year looked a little different. Having to adhere to Covid restrictions, entries were timed, there was a one-way system in place, and we were unable to offer refreshments. However, the mood certainly wasn't dampened, everyone still enjoyed themselves, and were wowed by the impressive showcase of artwork by each child in the school. Exhibits included mod-roc globes and clay pots lovingly made by our Kindergarten children, vibrant rainforest paintings by Year 1, Monet's Waterlilies collages by Year 3 and striking 3D masks created by our talented Year 6 pupils; the art on show was both diverse and appealing.

Ceramics included Year 5 cakes, Year 4 name plates and Year 3 coil pots. The standard of work this year was once again exceptional, and Michelle Bareham, Head of Art commented, "I am so proud of the standard of art at Berky. It is wonderful to see such a variety of work across the school together in one place, particularly since lockdown forced the exhibition online last year."

The Summer 2021 exhibition was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing more of the fantastic efforts of our pupils next year.

Our record of Art Scholarships and Awards to senior schools is noteworthy. Mrs Bareham is our inspirational Head of Art, and does a brilliant job of preparing candidates with a great deal of help and advice. In the last five years, pupils here have been awarded Scholarships and Awards to Dean Close Prep School, St Edward's Senior School, King's, Gloucester and Malvern St James. Shown is this year's Art Scholar, Elodie O, who has been awarded a Scholarship to King's, Gloucester. Congratulations!



Eddie H, Y1, Rainforest parrot



Eva H, Y3, natural form mono-print



Mollie R, Y3, Egyptian tomb drawing on papyrus



Millie R, Y3, Monet-inspired Waterlilies



Matilda M, Y2, Sunflowers inspired by Vincent van Gogh



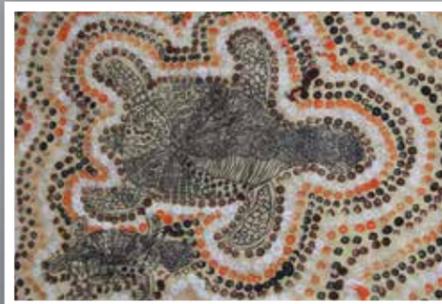
Seth L, Y1, Mini-beast prints



Alexa S, Y4, painting inspired by the Japanese artist Hokusai



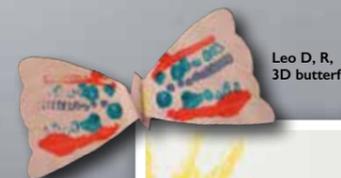
Isaac S, Y4, Observational painting of flowers in watercolour



Esi D, Y4, Aboriginal Art

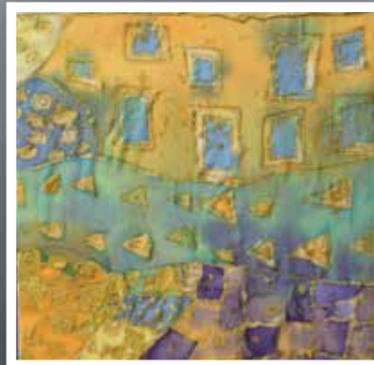


Reuben A, Y5, Hundertwasser study



Leo D, R, 3D butterfly

Mateo S, Y6, Mask



Isla J, Y5, Klimt silk



Rufus H, Y6, Mask

Annie W, R, Flowers study



Melba F, Y2, Rainforest collage



Tom C-G, ceramic coil pot (from Y3)  
Amelia S, Kindergarten, clay pot  
Seb C, Y4, ceramic name plate





# PUPILS TAKE THE LEAD



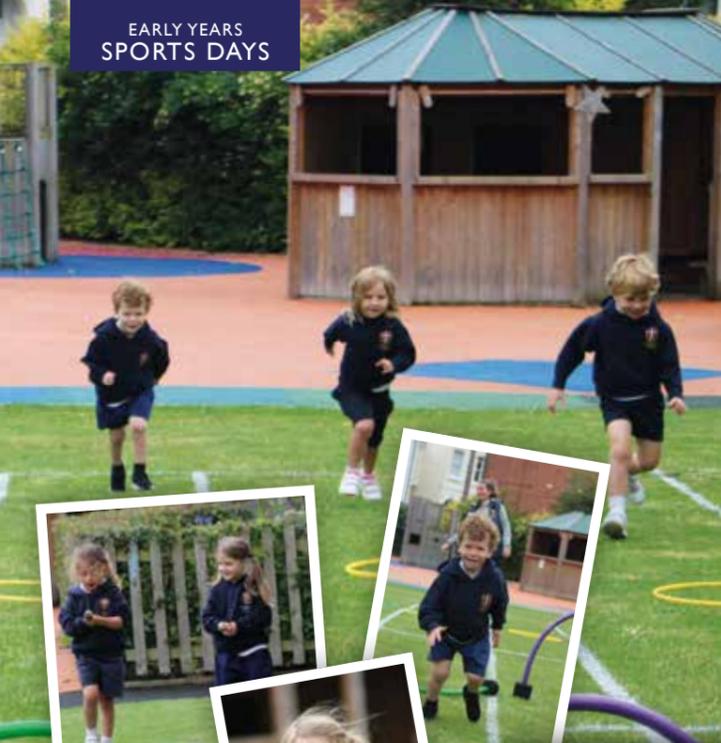
**W**e did it! We managed a Prep Sports Day, albeit a little differently this year. Thankfully it was not a boiling hot day, but just right for our Year 3 & 4 pupils to head up to the Prince of Wales Stadium for the morning. They completed some field activities, and then their parents arrived for the track events. They did me proud, having never participated in a Sports Day at the Prince of Wales before, they took it in their stride and tried their hardest. There was lots of cheering, red faces and tired legs but they did it! Well done to all of them for taking part and gaining points for their house.

Years 5 & 6 arrived at lunchtime. Like the Year 3s & 4s, they completed some field activities and managed some fantastic long jump skills! Then they ran on the track in front of the parents. I was so proud of all that took part and ran for their house. It has been a long 18 months, but they all worked so hard on the relay and it paid off on the day: fantastic handovers! Brilliant teamwork and running throughout the afternoon by everyone. It was a great day! CK



“THE VALUE OF SPORTS DAYS CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. THE LIFE LESSONS LEARNT WHEN CHILDREN COMPETE ALONGSIDE AND AGAINST THOSE THEY MEET EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL ARE INVALUABLE. IT WAS A JOY TO WITNESS THEIR EFFORT, CAMARADERIE AND ACHIEVEMENT.” RICHARD CROSS





**KINDERGARTEN**

# ON YOUR MARKS

Rain was on the cards, but I was optimistic and ready to go! The wind and black clouds were not going to stop these sports days! Kindergarten started the day of races and how well they did. They were fast and nimble during the obstacle course, diving under the tunnel and balancing eggs.

Next up were Reception; the wind was starting to pick up, but it didn't stop these go getters! With the amount of waving the children were doing at the parents, their arms were already warm and ready to be used! I witnessed some great movement and concentration in these activities. Year 1 worked so well with some of the children really focusing on their skills and others focusing on winning! They have worked so hard listening this year to improve their performance. With the Year 2 children, it was like watching the Olympics! We saw determination, competitiveness and skill in every race. Every one of them tried their best during the event and enjoyed the races. I was very impressed with how well they organised themselves for each race. Great work, Year 2 - the Prince of Wales Stadium next year!

I was so proud of all the Early Years and Pre- Prep children. After another confusing year they worked so hard, listened extremely well and smiled through the races. Well done to every child that took part and tried their best. CK



**RECEPTION**



**YEAR 1**



**YEAR 2**

# Ohh we go...

LEARNING BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR  
OUR INQUISITIVE PUPILS



## VINEY HILL

Having settled in and eaten a quick lunch, the children were ready to begin their activities. Some disappeared down to the lake, some headed off to the bikes and the trails and others took up the challenge of climbing and crate stacking, or archery and low ropes. Our activity leaders were excellent, and the children enjoyed their activities - supporting each other with an awful lot of laughter! After dinner, we set out on our night walk through the woods and the mud!

Thursday brought a full day of activities in rather cool and rainy conditions! However, this did not stop the children throwing themselves into the activities and having plenty of fun. All the leaders were very impressed with the children - their excellent manners, enthusiasm and 'have a go' attitude. I think the new activities of biking and canoeing were enjoyed, but it was also good to have some of the old favourites for a little reassurance. That evening we enjoyed a barbeque - with marshmallow sandwiches for pudding - but had to abandon the campfire due to soggy wood and high winds! Undeterred, we entered the woods again to create animals from things we collected in the forest - the children were incredibly creative!

Bedtime was a much quieter affair on the second night as most of the children (and staff) were exhausted! Everyone felt a 'happy exhaustion' - it had been a fantastic residential and we all left feeling very proud of our school. JH





## U8 | CRICKET

Although the boys were unlucky not to play either of their two arranged matches, we had plenty of time to practise our skills in the three main roles of bowling, batting and fielding. The boys' skill level increased throughout the term. Thank you to all parents who practised a little extra with their boys at home, it made a great difference on the field. Fingers crossed for a few fixtures next year! Good effort, boys! TM

**U8 Team:** Dylan B, George E, Jack F, Hugo H, George J, Freddie L, Edward L, Alastair M, Luis M R, Wilf M, Owen P, Isaac R, Ben R, Tom R, Ben S, Ben W



## U9 | CRICKET

Of the five fixtures arranged this year, three were cancelled due to bad weather which rather upset the flow of our season. However, both squads were full of enthusiasm aside from the obvious lack of skills and understanding of the game due to a disrupted year. Despite this lack of grounding, the boys were quick to learn and, although some struggled with the technical aspects of bowling and batting, by the end of the season they were able to bowl an over with fewer wides and no balls. Fielding drills developed the boys' confidence in catching and throwing and by the end of the season, all understood the importance of backing up and throwing accurately.

An early fixture in April saw both teams lose narrowly to Beaudesert and a few weeks later, our second and last match saw an excellent win for the As away at RPS.

Despite the inclement weather throughout the term, I was pleased with both squads' determination to improve and perform, and they should all be pleased with their progress this term. Well done, boys! SM

**U9A Team:** Ben A, Seb C, Thomas C G, William H, Harry H, Bertie L, Joseph W

**U9B Team:** Freddy B, Victor B, Cameron J, Floyd R, Ben S, Isaac S, Gideon T



## U10 | CRICKET

What a season it has been for the U10 boys' cricket team. After a year of no competitive sport, the cricket season was welcomed with a few fixtures to work towards. It started with a home match against King's, Gloucester which was a win: a great start to the season. Following this, there were a couple of fixtures cancelled as we endured an extremely wet start to the summer term. However, the rain cleared, and the boys headed to Cricklade but unfortunately, Cricklade were better on the day and beat the boys by 16 runs. Next, it was an away match at Richard Pate, and this was the closest match all season. The result came down to the last over and RPS took a wicket which gave them victory, but it could have gone either way. The final match was against St Edward's at home, and this was a great result: a superb win where the boys applied everything that they had been taught this term. A big well done to the U10 boys. I have been very impressed with them this season; they have listened well in training and all aspects of their game have improved. DB

**U10 Team:** Reuben A, Sam B, Oscar C-S, Jacob D-T, Jacob F, Max H, Benjamin J, Felix S, Otto S, Barnaby W



## U11A | CRICKET

After a year without any fixtures, it was wonderful to see the boys so excited about playing matches this term. We played a mixture of incrediball and hardball fixtures. Our first game was a comfortable victory against King's, Gloucester by 41 runs. Considering the boys' lack of match practice, their skills looked fairly sharp. Next up was St Edward's who we beat convincingly by 85 runs. We then had our first hardball match and only loss of the season against a very strong Cricklade Manor team. However, we acquitted ourselves well and it was great to see the boys donning the full kit and hearing the sound of leather against willow once again. After half term, the boys' form got better and better with fine victories against Richard Pate, Rendcomb and Hatherop, the latter two by over 100 runs.

This was a real team effort this summer, with every player contributing with the bat, ball or in the field. Will C was outstanding with bat and ball and was our top run scorer by some distance. Harry A and Henry R were excellent with the bat, both looking for gaps in the field and running well between the wickets. They were also very consistent with the ball. Behind the stumps, Patrick was superb and also contributed well with the bat.

I was also delighted to see the improvement in bowling. It was great to have a spin option through Freddie B, who bowled a lovely line and length. Albie B, Will J, Rufus H and Harry M all made great strides with the ball in hand. They all took wickets during the season. Batting really improved with Will S, Oli M and Michael C all scoring at different points in the season.

The boys were a pleasure to coach and have enjoyed a very successful season. Well done to all of you. P McC

### U11A Team and colours awarded to:

Harry A, Freddie B, Albie B, Michael C, Will C, Patrick D, Rufus H, Will J, Harry M, Oliver M, Henry R, Will S

**Outstanding awards:** Harry A, Henry R, Will C, Patrick D

## U11B | CRICKET

This team had a very successful term of cricket. Starting nervously - understandably having not been able to play the previous Summer - they grew in confidence, ability and accuracy. Bowling is always a challenge, but through good coaching and training on a Monday they got better and better and produced respectable bowling figures across the board. The pick of the bowlers were Connor, Robert and Arthur. When it came to batting, many of the boys defended well with Charles, Luke and Harry giving away the least wickets. In attack it was the big-hitting Mateo, Harry and Albie who scored the most runs and on a couple of occasions turned the game for a Berky win. All fielded well and most importantly showed great team spirit. There were 5 games with wins against King's, Gloucester, Richard Pate, St. Edward's, Cricklade Manor. Well done, boys!

**U11B Team:** Robert A, Albie B-C, Connor S, Charles C, Mateo S, Luke R, Arthur B



## U8 | CRICKET

The U8 girls have done extremely well in cricket this term with many choosing to improve their skills at the club on a Thursday after school. It was great to see so many children! Since the Easter break, the girls have practised their bowling and now have a much greater understanding as to what is required for this difficult skill. They have also improved their batting technique and have learned a number of different shots which they can now use, both off the tee and when facing a moving ball. As we hope for normality next year, the girls are ready to use the basics of Kwik Cricket in (hopefully) more matches. A full term's training has allowed them to explore the game in more detail and we are already looking forward to the Summer of 2022. AK

**U8 Team:** Asia D, Harriet E, Eva H, Kitty H, Ella H, Charlotte J, Ara K, Estella L, Lydia M, Coco P, Millie R, Betty R, Mollie R, Georgiana S, Olivia W



## U9 | CRICKET

This term, we have played lots of cricket during our Games sessions and the Year 4 girls have worked very hard on the three main disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding. It was actually their first season of cricket, having missed out in the summer of their Year 3 and so the girls acquitted themselves incredibly well with wins in two out of their three matches. They have also thoroughly enjoyed the competitive element of House matches alongside the Year 4 boys and improving their skills ready to compete in Year 5. It has been very pleasing to see how well the girls have done, how much they have loved cricket and to see them make such progress in a sport that is new to them. CMcC

**U9 Team:** Emily B, Sophia B, Emma C, Nina C, Esi D, Esha D, Georgia E, Polly E, Emilia F, Alina G, Francesca H, Carly H, Tatiana H, Chloe H, Amelia J, Evelyn L, Chloe M, Alba N, Erin P, Erin R, Alexa S, Violet W



## U10 | CRICKET

Well done to the Year 5 team; you have had a great season! All bowling has been improved this term and that has been due to hard work and good listening. Understanding Kwik Cricket improved greatly and the girls tried hard to implement some tactics into their matches; we might need a little more on movement and focus on the field for next year! There have been some brilliant dives and catches in our matches. We were able to do House Cricket with the Year 6 girls and there was some great batting and teamwork during these matches. Well done, girls: good effort this year. JH

**U10 Team:** Ellie A, Georgia A, Ellie B, Zoe B, Nancy B, Katy C, Thea C, Hannah D, Sophia E, Chloe E, Lucinda F, Maisie G, Isabel G, Kitty H, Vivienne H, Isla J, Edith M, Ena ML, Primmy P, Katy P, Isla R, Zoe S, Alice S, Hettie W, Sydney W



## U11 | CRICKET

This term, the girls have looked at all the main aspects of Kwik Cricket and gained a good understanding of the tactics and rules. They have played well as a team and worked hard to steal lots of runs. Our bowling steadily improved through the season. All the girls have worked hard on bowling with the correct technique, and we have been one of the few schools this term that have used the correct bowling technique. We have managed a few games this term and the girls started to implement tactics into their matches. We have had some good wins, with most girls gaining a few 4s or 6s! We were able to do House Cricket with the Year 5 girls and there has been some great batting during the house matches. CK

**U11 Team and colours awarded to:** Serena A, Anna A, Lottie A, Rosemary B, Lilah C, Uma C, Isabella E, Matilda E, Hannah H, Holly H, Matilda H, Bea-Bea M, Beatrice N, Elodie O, Lucy P

**Outstanding awards:** Lottie A, Beatrice N



## CROSS COUNTRY

It was a delight to see the children running in the House Cross Country Competition during the Summer Term. All of the children gave their absolute best and for many it was their first time competing in the event. It was also so pleasing to see the support that the children gave each other, regardless of where they finished. This is what Berky is all about.

Conditions were ideal and an amazing five school records were broken by Patrick D and Rosemary B in Y6, Max H in Y5, Carly H in Y4 and Lydia M in Y3. In addition, first place was achieved by Owen P in Y3, Tom C-G in Y4 and Isla R in Y5.

Well done to St George's who won the team event and to everyone who ran and completed the course! P McC





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

### PRIZE WINNERS 2021

**ENGLISH CUP** Matilda H  
**MATHEMATICS CUP** Lucy P  
**SCIENCE CUP** Uma C  
**COMPUTING CUP** Harry M  
**FRENCH CUP** Elodie O  
**SPANISH CUP** Harry A  
**HISTORY CUP** Isabella E  
**GEOGRAPHY CUP** Rosemary B  
**R.S. CUP** Albie B-C  
**ART GOBLET** Elodie O  
**CWB CUP** Rufus H  
**CUP FOR ALL-ROUND ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT** Matilda E  
**JAMES AGG JAZZ CUP** Patrick D

**WENDY BURROWS CHORAL CUP**  
 Bea Bea M-D  
**CHORAL CUP** Lilah C  
**CUPS FOR OUTSTANDING  
MUSICIANSHIP** William S, Rosemary B  
**CROKER CUP FOR OUTSTANDING  
PERFORMANCE** Beatrice N  
**BARTLETT ENDEAVOUR CUP**  
 Hannah H  
**PROGRESS PRIZES** Albie B, Robert A  
**HEADMASTER'S AWARDS**  
 Arthur B, Charles C  
**HOWARD CUP FOR CHESS** Henry R  
**COLE CHESS CUP** Isabella E

**PATRICIA SMITH CUP FOR  
SPORTSMANSHIP (GIRLS)** Anna A  
**WILLIAMS SPORTS CUP  
FOR GIRLS** Lottie A  
**PODMORE ATHLETICS CUP**  
 Patrick D  
**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER CUP**  
 Michael C  
**SPORTING EXCELLENCE CUP**  
 William C  
**SCOT-SIMMONDS SPORTS CUP  
FOR BOYS** Patrick D, Will C  
**MOSS CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP  
(BOYS)** Freddie B

**ADVENTURE SHIELD** Serena A  
**PLATINUM AWARD TROPHY**  
 Elodie O  
**ALL-ROUNDER CUPS** Holly H,  
 Oliver M  
**HOUSE CAPTAIN PRIZE** Lottie A  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL PRIZE**  
 Mateo S, Matilda E  
**ECO WARRIOR PRIZE**  
 Luke R, Hannah H  
**COURTESY CUP** Mateo S  
**BERKY AMBASSADOR CUP**  
 William J  
**BERKY PRIZE** Rosemary B

### LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2021

**Harry A**  
 King's School, Gloucester  
**Serena A**  
 Balcarras School  
**Robert A**  
 St Edward's School  
**Anna A**  
 St Edward's School  
**Charlotte A**  
 Cheltenham College Prep School  
**Rosemary B**  
 Pate's Grammar School  
**Freddie B**  
 Balcarras School  
**Albert B**  
 King's, Worcester,  
 All-Rounder Scholarship  
**Arthur B**  
 Balcarras School  
**Michael C**  
 King's School, Gloucester, Sports  
 Scholarship  
**Albert B-C**  
 Winchcombe School

**William C**  
 Dean Close Prep School, Sports  
 Scholarship  
*King's School, Gloucester, Music and Sports  
Scholarship*  
**Lilah C**  
 King's School, Gloucester,  
 Choristership  
**Charles C**  
 Pittville School  
**Uma C**  
 Denmark Road Grammar School  
**Patrick D**  
 King's School, Gloucester,  
 Academic and Sports Scholarship  
**Isabella E**  
 Rendcomb College  
**Matilda E**  
 King's, Worcester,  
 Maths Exhibition Award  
**Hannah H**  
 The High School Leckhampton  
**Holly H**  
 The High School Leckhampton

**Rufus H**  
 The Crypt Grammar School  
*King's School, Gloucester, Academic  
Scholarship*  
**Matilda H**  
 The Crypt Grammar School  
*King's School, Gloucester, Academic  
Scholarship*  
**William J**  
 Cheltenham College Prep School  
**Harry M**  
 Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School  
*King's School, Gloucester, Academic  
Scholarship*  
**Oliver M**  
 Cheltenham College Prep School  
*St Edward's School, Academic Scholarship*  
**Beatrice M-D**  
 Dean Close Prep School,  
 Music and Drama Scholarship  
**Beatrice N**  
 King's School, Gloucester,  
 Performing Arts and Sports Scholarship

**Elodie O**  
 King's School, Gloucester,  
 Art Scholarship  
**Lucy P**  
 Pate's Grammar School  
**Henry R**  
 Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School  
**Luke R**  
 Bredon School  
**William S**  
 Dean Close Prep School, Music Scholarship  
*King's School, Gloucester, Music Scholarship  
Rendcomb College, Music Scholarship  
St Edward's School, Music Scholarship*  
**Mateo S**  
 Winchcombe School  
**Connor S**  
 Overseas  
*Italics - other scholarships awarded*

