



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 1ST APRIL
SPRING TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

One of the main highlights of my year comes when we hold our Spring Concerts in the Pittville Pump Rooms and I have missed this so much. The school community came together thrilled to be all together and enjoying performances across the musical spectrum - it was lovely to see so many friends and family members. To say that the standard was superb is to understate it. A number of newer parents were staggered at the quality of the playing, behaviour and demeanour of the children as they supported and took pleasure in others' performances. This is normal for Berky and we get used to it, but we really shouldn't forget how remarkable it actually is. Our dedicated and extraordinarily talented staff make it so and inspire the children to great heights; my enormous thanks go to them for their composing, conducting, singing, transporting and coordinating. An especially big thanks to Mrs Sallis and Mrs Mitchell.

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

House Cross Country was another hotly contested event. The weather was suitably cool and windy for this event and very well done to all the runners. It is not everyone's idea of fun so very well done to all who showed the Berky 'can-do' spirit and achieved more than they thought they might - 'perseverantia vincit' was very much alive and well! Very well done to St Patrick's on their victory and to Miss Keegan and Mr McCreanor for their organisation and encouragement of the children.

I am looking forward to the Easter Service in All Saints' Church on our last afternoon. It is such a special place, and we are very lucky to be able to make use of it as regularly as we do. It is so important for us to gather as a community with so many parents and friends as well as the staff and children and I look forward to seeing the younger children lead our service.

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues 26 April
School Returns
Thurs 28 April
Y4 Swimming starts





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NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

Staffing News

We wish Miss Evans all the best as she starts her maternity leave and we look forward to seeing her back in school with her new baby. Mrs Macpherson-Light takes on 4E next term along with the teaching of English to Years 5 and 6. There is more exciting news from Prep too, with Mrs Rees expecting her second child. Congratulations!

After Easter Naomi Brooks-Hughes takes up the role of School Senior Administrator and she will work alongside Jackie in the front office. I hope you will meet Naomi soon into the new term as she will be the point of contact for any queries. Sue will become HR and Admissions Manager - as well as my PA - and this will certainly keep her very busy!

New pupils

Next term we welcome the following new children: Elsa K, Alfie M, India L, Alex P and Harper J are joining Kindergarten. In addition, Aurelius F is joining Year 1, Harvey W is joining Year 2 and Tommy G is joining Year 4. I know that they will receive a warm Berky welcome.

Eco-Committee

The Eco-Committee has been busy this term and has had initiatives that will help us to protect the environment with the aim of saving on energy costs new infra-red heaters and motion sensor lights will be installed in the Prep Hall over Easter. Motion sensors will also be fitted to the lights in the toilets and changing rooms. This is part of a rolling programme of updating the lights in the school and day nursery so that they are off more often! Well done to the Eco-Committee for their campaigning.

It simply remains for me to wish all a very happy and restful Easter break. After a term packed with so many events, there are many tired, but happy individuals around the place - staff and children alike. May I remind you that the summer term begins on Tuesday 26th April and that summer uniform may be worn from this date should the weather be kind enough.

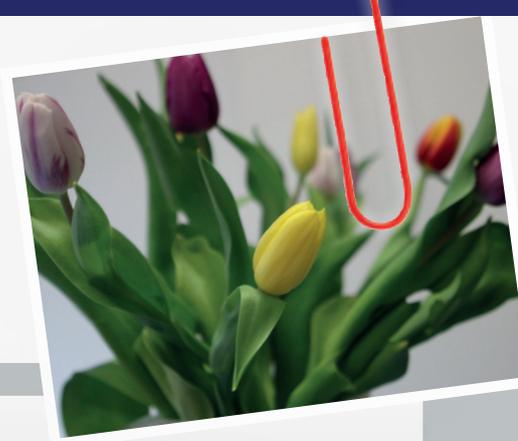
Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Pre-Prep



It has been a busy week of rehearsing in Pre-Prep as the children prepared for the Easter Service, and Spring Concert for Year 2.

The Easter Story has featured in English Lessons in Year 1 and 2. The children have read, acted out and written the Easter Story.

In art, Year 1 have created some beautiful observational drawings of spring flowers. They paid great attention to detail and are starting to shade carefully! Year 2 were relieved to see their clay castles survived the heat of the kiln – these have all been glazed now and the children are incredibly pleased with their creations!

Pre-Prep have also been historians recently; Year 1 have been fascinated to find out about mummification as part of the Egypt branch of their Africa topic. Year 2's Castles topic came to life on a trip to Warwick castle; highlights also included the Birds of Prey show and Horrible Histories maze!

Year 2 have also started to learn their poem for the verse speaking at the Literature Festival this year. Parents will have received a letter with more information and 'Top Tips' for verse speaking. Please help your child to practise. Thank you! AS





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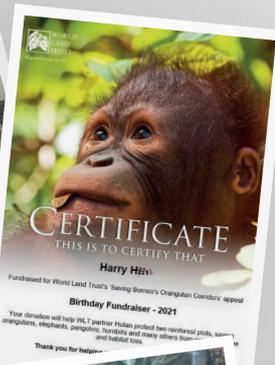


Eco news

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Harry H (5K) who was awarded his Berky Gets Greener eco badge in assembly this morning. Harry's impressive green habits include reusing and recycling wherever possible, not wasting resources such as paper and water, and supporting wildlife, (For his 10th birthday, he asked for people to donate to an orangutan charity instead of giving him presents.) Well done, Harry!

In other Berky Gets Greener news, well done to our Prep School eco gang who were spotted litter picking at the Day Nursery early one morning this week!



News from around the school

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS...

Max, our amazingly speedy and brilliant Year 6 athlete competed for Team Gloucestershire in the National Primary Schools Cross Country finals in Leicestershire at the weekend and came in 31st out of 160 runners! This is a phenomenal achievement - huge congratulations from everyone!

DOODLE SPRING CHALLENGE

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 are encouraged to take part in the Spring Challenges of DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish. The challenges take place between 1st and 30th April, and the children can earn a pin badge and certificate for having a go! For further information, please visit: www.doodlelearning.com/spring-challenge

WHO'S FOR A GAME OF CROQUET?

Children over the age of 8 might be interested in learning a mallet sport during the Easter holidays! Cheltenham Croquet Club is running two free events:

Open Morning - Wednesday 20th April from 10am
Open Evening - Tuesday 31st May from 5.30 - 7pm

For further information, please contact naomiwhitehead@cheltenhamcroquet.org or call 01242 227519

CYCLECRAFT

Congratulations to our first group of Year 6 cyclists who completed levels 1 and 2 in their Cyclecraft road cycle training this week. If these children would like to complete further two levels, (which take place on the road), please email cyclecraft@cyclestars.co.uk for further information.





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Sports report

FOOTBALL

U8 Bisons v King's, Gloucester

The Bisons finished off a very good term's football with a 4-1 win over King's, Gloucester. It was an action packed game with end to end action. We did have the majority of the possession but King's did mount several attacks throughout the game and were rewarded for their efforts with a goal from the last kick of the game.

Lucas, Miles and Oliver were our three goal scorers. Leo, Jack and Atlas showed great effort in tackling and defending. Rishik and Charlie managed to get into good space and make some nice passes. All of the boys contributed to the well deserved win. A great game to finish the season. Well done!

