



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Berkhampstead: the decorations are going up, and there are plenty of lovely Christmassy activities and rehearsals for nativities and services taking place across the school. Pre-Prep and Early Years have come to school today donning their finest Christmas PJs, there has been a very popular Festive Cake at Break, and everyone is looking forward to the PTA's 'Festive Friday' after school today. There will be mulled wine, hot chocolate, face-painting, music and the Christmas hamper raffle draw. After a busy week - which has even included a school and day nursery inspection - this super event to launch the countdown to Christmas is most welcome.

Last evening, some of our singers from Years 3 and 4 visited Bay Tree Court to entertain our elderly neighbours, and I understand that it was a truly joyous occasion! Our relationship with Bay Tree Court is very special as Mrs Edna Andrews, Berky's founder, spent her last few years there, passing away at the ripe old age of 105 in 2009. Our pupils have sung at Bay Tree Court for many years, including when Mrs Andrews was a resident; it's a lovely tradition. Another of our choirs will be out in the community next week: VoxBox will be carol singing at Waitrose, for charity, on Tuesday after school. My thanks to Mrs Penny Mitchell, Head of Music, for organising these wonderful Christmassy events.

The task of selecting this year's Christmas stamps was as challenging as ever, but the winning designs have now been chosen. The entries were superb - there was plenty of deliberation - but the winners have been picked, and the super collection of stamps is now on sale. Well done to everyone who entered, and congratulations to the winning artists. They are: Rafaela C (KG), Max W (RG), Eliza T (RMS), Sophie B (IS), Henrietta C (IML), Georgie C (2S), Sophia H (2J), Devan P (3C), Chloe W (3M), Isabella B (4P), Eddie H (4T), Rose B (5B), Allegra S (5K), Charlotte J (6E) Ben R (6M)

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER  
AUTUMN TERM

## DIARY DATES

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Monday 4th December

9:15am Early Years Dress Rehearsal

#### Tuesday 5th December

Year 1 & 2 trip to Mother Goose, Everyman

9:15am Early Years Christmas Concert - Kindergarten Parents Invited

4:00pm Y3 Chess Match v

Dean Close Prep (away)

4:15pm VoxBox Carol Singing at Waitrose

#### Wednesday 6th December

9:15am Early Years Christmas Concert - Reception Parents Invited

2:15pm U11 Hockey v

The Richard Pate School (away)

2:30pm U11 & U10A & B Rugby

v King's, Gloucester (away)

2:30pm U8 & U9 Hockey v

Wycliffe (away)

#### Thursday 7th December

Year 6 History trip to Steam Museum

#### Friday 8th December

Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper, Crazy Hat (optional) Day

10:00am Early Years trip to

The Ugly Duckling

2:30pm Pre-Prep Christmas Musical Concert - Parents invited, Prep Hall

3:30pm Last Year 2 Hockey club for the term





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Mrs Holland and I were delighted to host another 'Keeping Parents in the Loop' event on Tuesday evening. Neil Griffiths - who has previously delivered reading workshops to our school and day nursery staff - is a former headteacher and director of a government literary project, a current international education consultant and author of 50 children's books. In his customary animated style, he enlightened us on how to make reading to children - and listening to them read - really fun and engaging. His humorous presentation was full of pragmatic advice, aimed to inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Key messages included the need for parents to act as role models, (to be seen reading, preferably tangible publications rather than online versions), the need to minimise control over what the child wants to read, and to read to your children as much as possible - in a really exciting and animated way. Thank you to the parents who attended the event.

There has been a slight tension in the air this week with the Independent School Inspectors (ISI) arriving in school on Tuesday. Of course, the children and staff responded brilliantly and have enjoyed showing the inspection team what Berky is all about. Thank you to you, too, for all your support and for completing the questionnaires so thoroughly. The lead inspector fed back to the senior leadership team yesterday and we were very pleased with what we heard. The schedule is for ISI to publish the report within five weeks, and you will be the first to receive a copy. The countdown to Christmas can now start!

I hope to see many of you after school today, at the PTA's Festive Friday event.

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

All aboard the good ship Pre-Prep! Over the past few weeks, Year 2 have been looking across the Atlantic and comparing New York to Cheltenham, thinking about similarities and differences; for example Cheltenham Town's 7,000 seater Completely-Suzuki Stadium against the 100,000 seater MetLife Stadium. Mrs Bareham brought our visit to life with her holiday snaps of the Big Apple. Year 1 carried out some floating and sinking experiments in their science lessons, looking at different materials and their properties and thinking about what would work best for a seafaring vessel.

Speaking of materials, Year 2 welcomed Jon, the Flying Potter, who helped us create amazing castles and buildings out of clay, using a variety of hands-on techniques. Children had a clay-mazing day!

Alongside all this excitement, Years 1 and 2 have been exploring shape in maths, honing their writing skills in English (ask your Year 2 child all about their flanimal - a made up animal!) and harmonising beautifully with Mrs Sallis in preparation for our impending Christmas celebration. We can't wait for you to see it! KJ





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### ECO NEWS

In an effort to prevent the pesky pigeons from hogging all the bird feed, the Y6 Eco Committee leaders, along with Miss Walter and Mr Taylor, have been securing bamboo canes to the bird table in the Jubilee Garden. In other eco news, a team of fantastic Year 6 girls have been litter picking on their way to school. We are very proud of all these exemplary, eco-minded pupils.



### POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal; we raised a brilliant £218.73!



**LOST PROPERTY**  
E Maddox has lost his named jumper.

**PTA THANKS**  
A huge thank you to the brilliant PTA for so generously funding a set of new books for the library.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## SPORTS REPORTS

### RUGBY

#### U9A v Dean Close

The U9s made the short trip to Dean Close on Wednesday in their penultimate match of the season. Having not been beaten since their very first match in mid - September they were keen to keep that winning streak alive. A blistering start of three tries in less than two minutes caught the opposition completely by surprise and the pressure continued for the home side throughout the game. Berky's excellent defence caused Dean Close to make an endless succession of unforced errors with Berky often benefiting by those mistakes and scoring tries. In attack, we rarely mishandled the ball and our support play often saw the ball passing through several pairs of hands before tries were scored. This was another dominant performance from the boys with all of them getting on the score sheet. A convincing win, well done! SM

#### U9B v Dean Close

A pacy, end-to-end match saw Berkhampstead emerge as winners by a 12-6 scoreline. The Berky players ran hard and made some pleasing tackles. In attack the boys passed successfully and managed to put their teammates into space on several occasions. This was an encouraging performance. MC

#### U11A v Dean Close

The U11A team delivered another excellent performance against a physical and fast Dean Close side. The opening passages of play saw great attacking intent from the Berky boys. Our handling and use of space was superb and we constantly threatened the opposition line.

Dean Close came back at us with some strong carries. Our tackling was ferocious and we worked brilliantly as a defensive unit. We scored 5 tries from George E (2), George J (2) and Tom R scored 1. We also came close on several other occasions.

A couple of breakaway tries when we were in the opposition half and some well-crafted scores were the small difference between the two teams, with Dean Close winning by 8 tries to 5.

I was very pleased with the performance from our boys. They are playing some excellent rugby against strong teams and they are so enjoyable to watch. Well done to all of the boys! P McC

#### U11B v Dean Close

The U11B team played a fantastic game against Dean Close on Wednesday. It was an all action match with both teams playing entertaining rugby. It was noticeable how well the boys were working together. There was some superb offloading in the tackle and there always a supporting runner to receive the ball. The boys ran with real purpose and caused the opposition lots of problems. We scored 4 tries through Isaac (2), Ben W and Ben S.

In defence it was the best tackling performance of the season, with each of the boys putting their body on the line. We showed excellent technique with controlled aggression. The match was so close and there was little between the teams. In the end Dean Close sneaked it by 5 tries to 4.

The improvement by this group of boys has been superb and I was delighted with their efforts. Well done, boys! P McC

