



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a very special Berkhamstead week - and it's not over yet! As I write, I am looking forward to watching the Pre-Prep Nativity, Jesus' Christmas Party, with three performances today. The set has been constructed, the costumes refined, the lines learnt, the music tuned and the children are bouncing with excitement. It is always a lovely event and I know the parents will enjoy it.

Father Christmas Delivers Three Special Gifts from Kindergarten and Follow that Star from Reception were a real triumph. It was lovely to have parents able to attend and the children were thrilled to have an audience. The children did so enormously well, and it was clear just how much all enjoyed it. A huge thanks to all the staff and in particular Debbie Sallis who does such a brilliant job teaching music to all our younger children.

These productions have been filmed and, once edited, will be put up on Teams for you all to see.

Earlier this week Year 6 went on a wonderful trip to the Steam Museum in Swindon. They all arrived at school dressed as World War II evacuees, complete with a gas mask box, and headed off to learn what life was like in the 1940s. They got close to the steam locomotives of the era and experienced the sights and sounds of a GWR station platform. They were accompanied by a very dapper Mr McCreanor, along with Mrs MacPherson-Light, Miss Evans and Miss Walter.

Ebenezer Scrooge has been in school this week for the brilliant History Mystery challenge for Years 3 to 6. Mrs Agg is the brain-child behind these superb activities that challenge the children to learn more about history. I was lucky enough to be invited and played the part of Scrooge for a comprehension challenge. The children were superb at analysing a section of A Christmas Carol to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you Mrs Agg - we will miss you hugely!

Yesterday I was visited by Arabella, Huxley and Immie from Kindergarten with the gift of a Christmas Cake. Earlier in the week they had mixed ingredients and all spent time stirring up the mixture before it was baked in the cookery room ovens and iced. I am looking forward to trying it soon.

I wonder whether you have noticed a change in the post box outside school. A very kind Berky grandmother and her knitting club friends have transformed the top of the post box into a lovely Christmas scene. It includes a beautiful Christmas tree, gifts and stockings all on snow! The children have loved it and thank you so much to those knitters out there.

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 13th December

Kindergarten Superhero Party Morning
Reception Party Day
Years 1 & 2 Eco Craft Day
No Year 2 Lexia
Year 1 no PE kit
Year 1 & Year 2 - no book bags

Tue 14th December

Filming of Prep Carol Service
Year 5 Carol Singing at Bay Tree Court
No Year 2 Lexia
Year 1 & Year 2 - no book bags

Wed 15th December

Wear Christmas Jumper Day (£1 for charity)
Pre-Prep Party Day
Christmas Lunch
Reindeer Visit:

1.30pm-1.50pm - Kindergarten
(Children who do not attend Kindergarten on Wednesdays can join us with their parents at 1.30pm to meet the reindeer)

1.50pm-2.15pm - Reception
2.15pm-2.30pm - Year 1
2.30pm-2.45pm - Year 2
2.45pm-3.00pm - Year 3
3.00pm-3.15pm - Year 4
3.15pm-3.30pm - Year 5
3.30pm-3.45pm - Year 6

Term Ends No-after school provision

Mon 10th Jan 2022

Spring term begins





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

A huge thanks to the PTA again this term. Despite not being able to put on the usual Christmas Fayre and Discos they have bought each and every child a small gift that will be delivered by Father Christmas next week. Imagine wrapping over 250 Christmas presents! Thank you to Joey and her team – the children will appreciate it and I wish you could all see their faces when Father Christmas appears.

We are nearly at the end of term. One of the really special events in the Berky calendar is the Candlelit Carol Service and I hope that we can make this so again this year – albeit on film. The Year 6 will be processing with candles and taking the lead with the readings and a huge thanks to Mrs Mitchell for coordinating this and to Mr Hibbert for agreeing to help with the filming and production. I am looking forward to seeing it sometime just after the end of term.

On the last day it is Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch too. In the afternoon we also have the delight of some of Santa's reindeers visiting us – thank you to the PTA and Mrs Chapman for arranging this. We have sent out a timetable for this and, if you would like, you may come at the allotted time to pick up your child. Please do not worry if this time doesn't suit though as we will be looking after the children all afternoon. There is no after-school club though so please could they be collected by 3:45pm.

And finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your support for the children and staff is superb. You always assist your children with costumes, equipment and uniform; you always turn out in great numbers for all the events and always ensure the children are ready to learn each day. The children are very happy and their enthusiasm and joy for school is what lifts our spirits every day. The whole school community is what makes Berkhampstead such a special school. Thank you.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





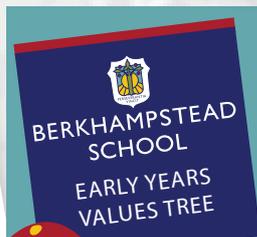
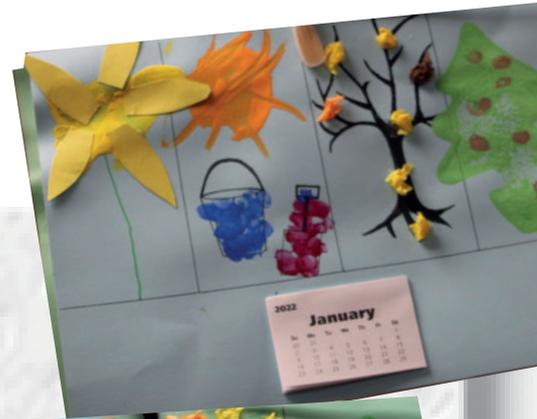
BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Kindergarten

Wow! Wow! Wow! is the only way to describe the Kindergarten's children's performances in 'Father Christmas Delivers' on Tuesday. The children have worked so hard learning all the words and actions to the songs over the last few weeks and they made the Kindergarten staff so proud. Their actions were energetic and their singing superb; we owe enormous thanks to Mrs Sallis for all her hard work and enthusiasm when teaching the children music.

The Kindergarten is looking very festive, decorated with the children's cards and calendars. This week, there has been a glitter and sequin frenzy as the children have been enjoying creating their own cards for their friends.

Thank you to all our parents for your support this term -we really appreciate it. Your children make us smile every day so that coming to work is always fun. MM



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten: Lucy P, Immie R, Esme W, Max W, Lana G, Alba H, Toby K, Archie M, Ayla A, Henry D, Henry LG, Douglas R, Adelaide RM, Berry S-R, Jack S, Max S





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Reception

Reception's Concert "Follow That Star!" was also a great success! The children were fantastic narrators and all spoke clearly and confidently as they told the story of the very first Christmas. The children also sang traditional carols and accompanied the vocals with percussion instruments. Overall, it was a fantastic show and we are very proud of all the children for their achievements. A big 'well done' to all the children, as well as a big 'thank you' for the parental help with costumes which once again were fabulous.

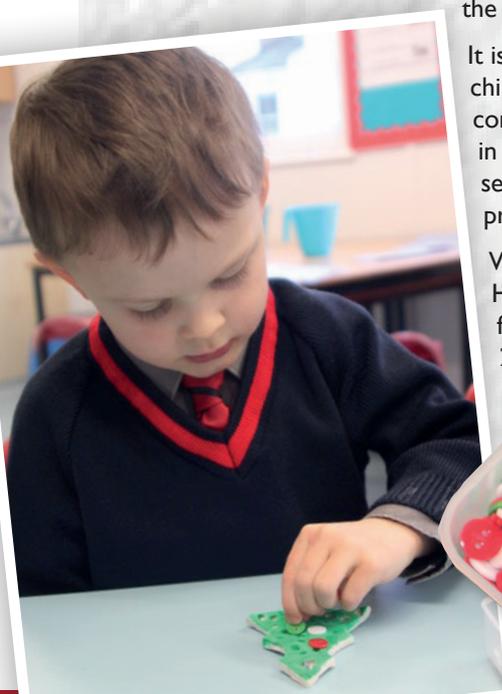
The Reception classrooms have been a hive of activity this week as preparations for Christmas began in earnest. Last week, the children enjoyed visiting the cookery room to make their biscuits; they loved weighing and mixing the ingredients then rolling out the mixture. Rather than make traditional gingerbread men, they agreed on creating Christmas baubles as they did not want them to run away before decorating them!!

During carousel activities this week, the children have been very busy with creating their Christmas cards, making clay Christmas decorations and decorating their Christmas biscuits.

Reception Party Day is next Monday. We are sure it will be another day to remember. During the morning, the children will be playing traditional games with a twist such as Christmas Lotto and Pin the Nose on Rudolf. During the afternoon, we have invited a very special visitor who will be parking his sleigh and coming to see the children!

It is hard to believe the children have nearly completed their first term in Reception and they have settled so well. We are very proud of them.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2022! HRW



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS
Awarded to all the Reception children as they have all worked extremely well.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



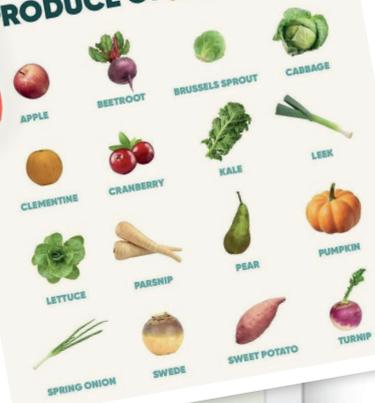
Merry Christmas





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PRODUCE OF DECEMBER



Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM OUR YEAR 6 ECO WARRIOR LEADERS:

Consider renting a Christmas tree like my family has done! Renting is one of the most sustainable ways to go about sourcing your Christmas tree as it creates zero tree waste. Because rental trees are pot grown and can be replanted, they will also continue to do their bit for the environment over the year, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and providing a home for wildlife and birds. Primrose Vale (on the Shurdington Road by the roundabout to join the A417) runs a scheme called Rental Claus. A 7' tree costs £53.

PENS FOR KIDS UK

Thank you very much to everyone who has sent in pens and pencils for Pens for Kids UK. These will be sent to the charity for distribution to developing countries after the Christmas holidays.



Rental Claus
Home pot grown trees to Rent
2' £15 each
3' £30 each
4' £35 each
5' £40 each
6' £45 each
7' £53 each
(plus £15 deposit except 2')



CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC POEM COMPETITION IN THE PREP DEPARTMENT

There were many very inventive entries, particularly from Y4, so a special well done to them. Although it was hard to choose the winners out of so many brilliant poems, the following were selected: Atlas M (Y3), Tom R (Y4), Sophia B (Y5) and Isla R (Y6).



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

HOCKEY

U8 v Rendcomb

Won 3-0

It was the final game of the term. We took just the one team to avoid children standing in the cold after Wednesday's game. The children rose to the challenge and proved worthy opponents to a skilful and determined Rendcomb. Olivia and Annabelle started on the wings; they made some good runs on the wing and were able to pass the ball into the centre of the field providing opportunities for Polly, Flo and Melba to score. At the back, Evie, Amelia and Diana held the line and proved formidable as no goals were scored by Rendcomb. In the second quarter, Polly opened the scoring with some lovely stick play in the D. In the third quarter, Olivia added to our score. Annabelle, Nancy, Flo and Melba all had opportunities but these were either saved or went wide. In the final quarter, Diana came up to the wing and her aggressive play led to further opportunities. Annabelle played magnificently and was very unlucky not to have scored. However, it was Evie who added our final goal which was just reward for all her hard play this whole season.

All through the term, the girls have played magnificently. They are a great set of players and have really improved over the term. They certainly have had a great season and can be very proud of their achievements.

U10 v Hopelands

Won 4-2

Our last match of the season! Playing on grass, the ball never travels far and as soon as the whistle was blown, the girls bunched around the ball. The Hopelands girls had not had many matches and were slightly unsure of positional play during the first third. Berky quickly scored a couple of goals, although the ball was not travelling particularly fast over the grass. Esha was everywhere, attacking and defending, often with three or four girls around her. Alina maintained her position on the wing beautifully and was rewarded with the odd long ball. The second and third periods of play saw the Hopelands girls becoming more determined to score and, although not pretty at times, they crept ever closer, putting our defence under increasing pressure. This was a match full of grit and determination by most players – not exactly flowing, due to the ground we were playing on, but entertaining, nonetheless. The final score of 4 – 2 was a fair result.

U11 v Hopelands

Won 8-0

Within the first few minutes we were in the lead with the girls working hard to attack the goal. It was an interesting game with lots of movement up and down the pitch, Hopelands

didn't shy away from tackling. Chloe made some lovely movement around the pitch to support Ellie B, who, despite the mud, made some outstanding runs down the pitch and took the ball straight into the goal on more than one occasion. With Hopelands making some strong, fearless tackles, Vivienne and Ena did not let this deter them and they kept on the other team, regardless of the tackles! We started fast and were focused from the first touch, with accurate and powerful passes coming thick and fast from Georgia and Hettie. When Hopelands managed to get a run with the ball, they were met with Lucinda and Sophia making some fantastic tackles and trying to offload the ball through the mud! Hopelands kept on fighting for the ball and pushing their way through our team, but unfortunately for them, they just couldn't get through our back players or get a shot past the line.

U10/11 v Hopelands

Won 2-1

What a game - we had mud flying around and wind blowing but the girls did not let this deter them from working hard. Katy C kept her position well and this allowed her to spread the ball wide to open up play. Hopelands were forceful and pushed their way through our mid and defence a few times, enabling them to score a goal. We pushed the ball up well from defence, Izzy C and Katy P forcing the ball forward to Emily and Nina who made some great movement forward with the ball, albeit a bit bumpy over the mud! Hopelands made some fearless tackles but we kept our cool and played good hockey. Izzie G worked well and made some good tackles, stopping Hopelands running away with the ball. We managed to get two goals past them with some great teamwork. Due to some solid defending by Ellie A and good power from Edith, they only managed to get one past us. Well done, girls.

U11 v The Richard Pate School C

Lost 1-0

What a game! The ball was travelling up and down the pitch with good pace. Zoe B made some brilliant runs with the ball, pushing it into our attacking D. Chloe was well positioned up front to receive some lovely balls on the move. RPS were forcing their way through our defence multiple times but Izzy C and Katy P were there to meet them, with some strong playing in defence. Izzie G played well in goal and made some brilliant saves, keeping the score down. RPS picked up the ball and made a lovely run with it; Ellie A worked hard to stay with them marking tight. Unfortunately, RPS girls crept through a gap in our team and took a shot; in it went. Sydney worked really hard playing both well in defence and pushing up; she made some brilliant runs towards our attacking end, but

we just could not find the back of the net between us all. Great work, though, girls.

U11 v The Richard Pate School B

Lost 2-1

The girls started hard, moving around to create space and relax into their positions. Edith worked tirelessly throughout the game, sending the ball out wide. We had a few opportunities where Maisie and Sophia drove the ball into our shooting end, but we just were not strong enough to find the back of the net yet! RPS were just too fast for us during some parts of the game; they were a well-oiled machine. Their passes were powerful and direct, giving our girls a lot to do. Ena, Georgia and Thea worked so well together, communicating and never shying away from a tackle. We saw Ena do some good runs on the wing, trying to cross over to her team members. Thea was always running to support the defence and clearing the ball to Georgia who was ready to receive and drive forward. Unfortunately, RPS broke through our defence and went 1 – 0 up. We went back with force, Sydney passing a great ball forward for Maisie to drive on and score with. The score was 1 – 1 with the last 4 minutes left! Katy C worked so well in goal, clearing lots of strong balls from RPS; unfortunately, RPS drove through with force and scored another goal. The game ended 2 – 1, but the girls worked hard and played some good hockey.

U11 v The Richard Pate School A

Lost 3-0

What a game! The possession was 50/50 and we made some lovely tackles, but RPS started strong, and a goal went through within the first five minutes. Alice worked so well out on the wing, holding her position and making some brilliant drives up the wing towards our attacking end. Zoe S and Nancy worked hard in defence but unfortunately for them, they were overloaded with RPS girls and another goal went through. The weather was turning dark and cold; we needed to step up our game play and press the ball up to our attacking D. We managed to get the ball flowing between Isla R and Primmy in the centre but couldn't get the cross into our D without an RPS girl getting in the way! Maisie did some great tackles and offloaded well to Isla R. Isla worked hard and forced herself through a few RPS girls but we couldn't find the back of the goal. We lost some good opportunities because we weren't quick enough with our sticks or getting back to support our goalkeeper and defence. Vivienne played so well in goal with the strong passes that RPS were hitting in. She made some great tackles by being fearless and coming out to make them, but unfortunately, it was a 2 v 1 situation for Vivienne towards to last five minutes; RPS took a shot and it hit the back of the goal. 3-0. Well done, girls.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

RUGBY

U9 A&B v King's, Gloucester

AB1 Won 4-2

AB2 Won 6-5

AB3 Won 5-2

AB4 Won 5-3

On Friday afternoon, in excellent conditions for Rugby, the As and Bs travelled to King's, Gloucester, with King's fielding only an A side. We split the fixture into four 8-minute quarters with the four sides made up of both A and B team members. AB1 got out of their blocks quickly and wasted no time in stringing together excellent phases of play and making some crucial tag tackles, with the boys running out comfortable winners by two clear tries. The second and third games saw some extremely encouraging play and it was great to watch a number of Bs rise to the challenge, displaying some particularly impressive tag tackling and lots of spirited defence. AB2 won a very close game 6-5 and the third and fourth games were won 5-2 and 5-3 respectively. The four matches and results were a great end to the season and showed that all the boys have worked hard at honing their skills and displaying them in a competitive setting. Well done.

U10 v King's, Gloucester

On Wednesday, the U10 boys travelled to King's, Gloucester for their final match of the season. It was a cold, blustery afternoon which made it difficult to handle the ball at times. The match started well with both teams scoring tries and there were some great runs made by some of the boys. Unfortunately, the tackling wasn't quite where it needed to be, lots of arms and not enough shoulders involved which allowed King's to run through with ease. The last five minutes of the match was much better, though, with everyone getting involved in the tackling and the boys showing great spirit to try and score more tries. Despite their efforts, the match finished with a win for King's.

A good effort, boys, and an unfortunate end to the season. Thank you to parents and friends that came to support the boys.

U11 v King's, Gloucester

The final match of the season was a fitting end to a superb season.

The match ebbed and flowed with two evenly matched teams locking horns. Although we didn't play with our usual width, the more direct approach and some superb off loading saw us create and score lots of tries. Jacob D-T (3), Barnaby, Otto, Reuben, Felix and Max all crossed the try line.

Our tackling in the second half was robust to say the least, with some crunching hits, we put King's on the back foot for much of that period. Try as we might, at 9-8 down, we couldn't quite get the try to level the scores. However, there was much to be proud of in our performance. The commitment and resilience shown by all of the boys was superb. I was very proud of each and every one of them. Well done boys, and many thanks to our supporters.

