



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER  
AUTUMN TERM**

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

In this week's assemblies, we explored the importance of Black History Month - why we celebrate it and what it means. The children learned about Mary Seacole, a pioneering black nurse from the Crimean War who, despite being rejected by the government when she offered to help, refused to give up. She funded her own journey and worked tirelessly to care for soldiers on the battlefield - a true example of courage, resilience and compassion, and a wonderful example of our school motto, 'Perseverantia Vincit.' I also shared a favourite quote from Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I left the children with thoughts of standing up for fairness, celebrating everyone's talents, taking pride in who they are, and always showing respect for others.

On Tuesday, a group of 23 Prep musicians from Years 4 to 6 attended a Strings Day at Dean Close School, where they spent the day rehearsing and preparing for a concert performance. Guided and inspired by members of the Carducci Quartet, our young musicians rose to the challenge of sight-reading several new pieces and rehearsing intensively in their instrumental sections. The day concluded with a super concert — a wonderful experience and a memorable opportunity for all our players to make music together.

Also on Tuesday, our Prep School 'Book Look' took place — and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents. The classrooms were filled with smiles as the children proudly shared their work from the term. It was a fantastic opportunity for families to celebrate progress and see the effort and enthusiasm that go into every page of their books.

On Thursday, our Year 1 pupils arrived at school dressed as superheroes, ready for a day of fun and adventure! They took part in exciting rescue challenges, designed capes and masks, created superhero vehicles, and even attended a 'Superhero Academy' featuring an obstacle course and other physical challenges. The day concluded with a brilliant parade and some fun games. Huge thanks to the Year 1 team for imagining and organising such a fabulous day!

## DIARY DATES

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Saturday 11th October

9.30am Open Morning

#### Monday 14th October

Early Years Little City Workshop

10.15am Year 3 visit to the Literature Festival

4.20pm Kindergarten and Reception Parents' Evening

#### Tuesday 14 October

10.15am Year 5 and Year 6 visit to the Literature Festival

6pm 6L Parents' Evening

#### Wednesday 15 October

2pm U11 Rugby v Cheltenham College Prep School (away)

2.15pm U8/9 Hockey v Cheltenham College Prep (away)

2.15pm U10 Rugby v Hatherop Castle (away)

#### Thursday 16 October

10.15am Year 4 visit to the Literature Festival

4.25pm Prep Move More Cross Country Girls

6pm 6K Parents' Evening

#### Friday 17 October

2.30pm Harvest Festival for Reception to Year 6, Parents invited

4.25pm Prep Move More Cross Country Boys

Half term starts

#### Monday 3rd November

School restarts





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Well done to the Year 5 and 6 pupils who represented the school in the UII's IAPS football championships in Loughborough on Wednesday and the UII IAPS hockey championships taking place more locally at Cheltenham College today. We also have had pupils competing in a cross country event at Newlands and a girls' football tournament today. Their commitment and teamwork across all these events are a real credit to the school – well done, everyone!

Today we were all treated to delicious bakes, thanks to the PTA's Cake at Break event. A big thank you to our Reception and Year 4 bakers! The PTA is such an invaluable part of life at Berky; its hard work makes a real difference to the children's experience here. Their generous contributions – including funding workshops – have a lasting impact. Next Monday's visit from Little City Gloucestershire for our Early Years children, which proved so popular last year, is taking place courtesy of the PTA. And this evening, we are looking forward to the annual PTA Quiz. The quiz is always a highlight of the school calendar, and I'm sure it will be another hugely enjoyable evening for everyone involved.

I am also looking forward to our Open Morning tomorrow, with a significant number of visitors expected. The school and grounds are looking beautiful, thanks to the hard work of our estates team and teaching staff. A special thank you also goes to our Year 6 guides – they will be wonderful Berky ambassadors.

Have a lovely weekend; I look forward to seeing some of you at Open Morning tomorrow.

Kind regards

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten children have been thoroughly enjoying a variety of autumn activities this week! We have loved using autumn treasures to create a beautiful collage. We learned about the changing seasons and the importance of nature, while also enhancing fine motor skills through cutting and gluing. We have also created some wonderful leaf print pictures to display in classroom.

The two Kindergarten mascots Edna and Andrew Bear are named after the school's founder Edna Andrews, and they play an important part in Kindergarten. This week we have enjoyed lots of bear-themed activities, and the children have been immersed in all things teddy bear. It's been wonderful to see their imaginations come alive. In our creative station, we have been making our very own bear headbands. We also went on an exciting bear hunt around the school, keeping our eyes peeled for clues. The children loved finding the hidden bears. To finish off the week, everyone brought in their favourite teddy from home for a special break time treat.

We are very excited to host Little City Gloucestershire on Monday morning. GB



BERKHAMPSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
VALUES TREE

### THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves:

Elowen S and Tilly P

Berky Bear:

Shelby R and Wyatt N







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM RECEPTION

In Reception we have continued our topic about ourselves by naming and labelling parts of our bodies and exploring our senses. The children enjoyed becoming scientists and conducting an experiment to see if they could identify different store cupboard ingredients using their sense of smell; they quickly identified mint, ginger and hot chocolate powder.

In maths this week we have been exploring pattern. We began the week by identifying different types of patterns that we found within the classroom; the children were great pattern detectives and found spotty, stripy and flowery patterns. We continued our learning by copying, continuing and creating our own repeating patterns using natural materials and loose parts. Our art this week combined maths with autumn as the children printed using harvest fruit and vegetables to create repeating patterns; the children have truly become experts in spotting and making AB patterns this week.

Literacy has focussed on using the sounds we have learnt so far in phonics this term to help us begin to write captions. The children have used their 'robot arms' to segment words into their individual sounds and then, using their sound mats, finding the letter that matches the sound. We are so proud of how well all the children are doing with their phonics and writing – their

progress over the few weeks has been amazing; thank you too for all the support you are giving your child at home with reading and recognition of sounds.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening on Monday; it is always a great opportunity to share your child's progress with you. Please remember our door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

JG



BERKHAMPSTEAD  
SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
VALUES TREE

### THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Orson D, Posey L,  
Eddie D and Theo W

Berky Bear:  
Dario N and Shay S







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

We want to make you aware of a recent safeguarding issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.



What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Mrs Stephenson, Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Gloucestershire Health and Care**  
NHS Foundation Trust

### FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu immunisations for Reception to Year 6, Tuesday 11th November

Parents, please remember to consent or decline the flu vaccination. Follow the link and then enter our unique school code:

<https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Berkhamstead School Unique Code: GC115800

If you are booked to attend, the gates will open at 7:20pm to give you a chance to get settled at your tables and enjoy your welcome drinks with your team. There will be a cashless bar open throughout the evening, and the cheese board and sweet treats will be served between rounds. We'll aim to start around 7:30 and usually expect to finish at 10-10:15pm.

We are now at capacity so please only attend if you have pre-booked.

Many thanks to Jo Davies for sourcing a wonderful selection of cheeses and to all the PTA staff and parents who will be helping on the night, including Chrissy W, Laura C, Ms Kang-Martinez and Mrs Smith.

The PTA team

### PTA QUIZ

The PTA will be hosting Quiz Night in the Prep hall tonight and we are now fully booked with 10 teams of parents and staff taking part across school and nursery, including last year's champions who are returning to defend their title! Quiz Night promises to be extra special this year as we have both a shiny new quiz cup (the Marc Titley Cup) to be won and we'll be introducing Mr Bareham on his debut as new quizmaster! He has been busy preparing rounds with a few jokes up his sleeve so it should be lots of fun!

