

Reminder

After-School and Tea Time Club

Please ensure you book your children into After-School and Tea Time Club on the Friday for the following week



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 11TH FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Children's Mental Health Week, highlighted some challenging statistics about the mental health of young people, one of which is one in six children aged five to 16 were identified as having a probable mental health problem in July 2020. That's potentially three children in every classroom.

Explanations often feature the idea of failure and range from the pressure children feel to be 'liked' on social media, to tests/exams and family. Encouraging our pupils to see that failure is as much a part of life as success, that it's central to learning and growth and that what really matters is to treat failure as a positive lesson, is an important part of what we do in school. FAIL - First Attempt In Learning, is no bad way to look at it as a parent and to encourage our children to do likewise.

Pressures exist and the pandemic has only made this worse but how we equip children to deal with them is key. Our focus on developing resilience - that quality of keeping going when things are difficult - is vital. It's been central to our ethos since 1945 when the School motto - **perseverantia vincit (perseverance conquers)** was adopted. Allowing our pupils to accept and even embrace failure as a stepping stone to better things is a part of school life from the youngest age; it's discussed in Kindergarten and throughout the school.

When resilience is put to the test, the children know that there is help in school and at home. Our pastoral system is long established and existed well before the current (and very appropriate) debate about child mental health took hold. Berkhamstead staff model good and supportive behaviour and encourage kindness and good manners. It helps us to create the civilised community spirit for which we are well-known. The reflective approach used in Circle Time and in Citizenship and Wellbeing (CWB) lessons, promotes kindness and resilience, sessions provide a forum where we listen to children and they listen to one another. This is a powerful tool for learning to be better members of the community and gives children an appreciation of others.

It has been a joy to be in school this week. I have witnessed our Year 5 historians heading off to The Commandery in Worcester; our creative Year 1 children basket weaving, and Year 2 children painting monarch portraits using oil pastels. Years 4, 5 and 6 have been involved in a Chinese Music music workshop - with the remarkable Andy Warn - and all the Pre-Prep 'Dressed to Express'. The children have a great time in school, learn brilliantly and most importantly are great citizens of our community.

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 14 Feb

U10/11 Netball v Hopelands (H)

Tue 15 Feb

Year 4 trip to Chepstow Castle
Year 1 African & Dance Workshop
3M Parents' Evening

Wed 16 Feb

2.15pm - U10A/B Netball v Dean Close (H)
2.15pm - U9 Netball v Dean Close (A)
2.30pm - U11/U10 Football v St Ed's (H)
3.00pm - U11A/B Netball v Dean Close (H)

Thu 17 Feb

3C Parents' Evening

Fri 18 Feb

Year 2 History Mystery Day
Year 6 Schoolbeat Visit
2.30pm - U9 Netball v King's, Glos (A)

Sat 19 - Sun 27 Feb - Half-term
Mon 28th Feb - School returns



Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

- Kindergarten decorated
- biscuits with faces to express
- how they were feeling.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Pre-Prep

It has been an incredibly exciting week in Year 1 with a special Activity Week!

It kicked off with activities to support Children's Mental Health Week. A 'Reach for the Stars' activity enabled each child to think about what goals they would like to achieve by the end of Year 1, and how we can work towards each goal. Then we made lovely support balloon pictures thinking about all the people that support us, how they are all connected and how they take care of us. We also made and enjoyed lovely fruit salads.

On Tuesday, we navigated a slight debacle with the African mask and dancing workshop company going to the wrong school! But it has all been sorted out, and they are now coming next week! Inspired by the film 'Lion King', the children created amazing animal patterns in pastel instead.

Kente paper weaving proved great fun - the children had to plan, design and make their weaves. They carefully chose their colour combinations and thought about what patterns they would like to use to design their weave.

A tour of All Saints' Church by our very own Mr Taylor was very much enjoyed and later that day, we conducted several experiments to learn more about wind and understanding that it is a force. The children learned about wind direction by blowing bubbles and had to run around with plastic bags as kites to see the effects of wind.

The week ended with a visit from Mrs Gargan's sister - who is a nurse - who taught the children the recovery position using Mrs Gargan to demonstrate! JKM

Meanwhile, although Year 2's week has been less slightly eventful, their 'Castles' topic has continued to be enjoyed by the children and to inspire many lessons. The children have been looking at the features of stories using a story mountain. Using a range of adjectives and similes, they created their own setting and characters based on their very own castle. The stories have been mapped out and the children are very excited to become authors next week as they turn their stories into their very own books. Year 2 will then visit Reception classes to share their stories with the younger children!

In maths, the children created their own tally charts based on favourite features of a castle. We have also continued to practise our multiplication and division with the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Each week, we set an added 'Extra' for the children on Doodle Maths, based on the week's learning. Please remind your child to complete this over the weekend. A HUGE well done to Isabella B and George L for their incredible Doodle streaks!

Our multi-talented Year 2s have also become scientists this week! Armed with toy vehicles, ramps, timers and rulers, the children created their own investigations. 2S discovered how the height of the ramp affects how far a toy car travels, and 2GS investigated how the surface of the ramp affects the speed of the travelling car. We all had to agree on varying factors to ensure we had a fair test! The children all made predictions and some of the results surprised us!

Oil pastels have been used to create royal portraits. The children worked so hard to create the right proportions for their royal subjects. Queen Elizabeth and Henry V now feature in our Year 2 royal portrait gallery! AS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news



PREP

Congratulations to this green-living Year 6 pupil, who was awarded her eco-warrior badge in assembly this morning. She submitted a most impressive Berky Eco Pledge, and among her green-living habits are using recycled and recyclable wrapping paper, turning off the tap when brushing her teeth, helping the family grow fruit and vegetables and doing the household recycling. The decision to award her badge of green-living honour was unanimous. Well done!



Thank you to the Year 5 pupils who saved all their crisp packets from their packed lunch on their school trip to the Commandery, and brought them back to school for recycling!



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For further insight into your child's day at Berky, please follow us on Social Media. We would be really grateful if you could share stories too. Here are our Social Media handles:

Instagram:
berkhampstead_school
Facebook: Berkhampstead
Twitter: BerkyCheltenham



PRE-PREP

Led most ably by Miss Kang Martinez, the Pre-Prep eco committee met this week, and were reminded to make signs for each classroom to encourage everyone to switch off the lights! They were also urged to increase their recycling habits at home. The Berky Eco Pledge is being rolled out to the Pre-Prep - all children are encouraged to take part and to earn themselves an eco-warrior badge!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around The school



CHINESE MUSIC WORKSHOP

Today the Prep Hall was filled with the sounds of gongs, cymbals and drums as the children learnt how to create the rhythms and texture of Chinese Music for a Lion dance and the traditional Dragon dance. Fantastic costumes and dancing meant a lively and colourful workshop with lots of rhythmic percussion. PM



MALVERN ART EXHIBITION

Congratulations to the following pupils who have had art selected for the Malvern St James Junior Schools' Art Exhibition, which takes place on 3rd March:

- Year 6: Alice S, Nancy B, Ellie B, Isabel C
- Year 5: Sophia B, Floyd R, Alexa S, Nina C
- Year 4: Sidney R, Ara K, Freddie L, Eva H
- Year 3: Jasper W, Toby R, Charlotte H, Olivia M
- Year 2: Edward S, Eddie H, Isabella B, Edith H
- Year 1: Ned D, Rupert S, Lucy W, Betty D
- Reception: Maddie LG, Zac H, Eleanor W, Kitty L





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report

NETBALL

U11 v The Elms

After getting distracted by the horses and the school grounds we headed into the sports hall! The environment inside the hall was very loud and took a bit of getting used to. We started well, with some good passing and movement around the court. We took a two-goal lead by half time. The Elms were starting to find their feet and get into a rhythm. There was a lot of crowding when The Elms had the ball. We had to try and remember to let them go and mark them again once there was room. During the penultimate third Elms managed 3 goals; we went into the last quarter losing by one. We made a few positional changes and got back on court. Thankfully our defence was on fire and getting lots of tips and interceptions, preventing The Elms from scoring further. The question is did we manage to sneak a few more goals? Right towards the end of the last quarter Berky got one more goal, finishing the game a 4-4 draw! Well done, girls!

U10 v The Elms

This was our first time visiting The Elms and I hope it was not the last! The girls were excited anyway, but as we parked up, we noticed people going out riding and the beautiful countryside around us. This was the girls' first match inside and the game is always played at a faster pace. Initially, there was a little bit of panic amongst the Berky girls as our hosts dictated the play and we were marking the ball rather than the players. After the first quarter, we settled down a little, trying to create space and move the ball up the court. Unfortunately, our footwork was not the best and we were rightfully penalised for this, allowing The Elms to capitalise on some of our mistakes. The girls did improve with each quarter, as their confidence developed. The final score was 5-3 to The Elms. There were some good passages of play and now training next week will focus on footwork! Well done ladies - you were perfect ambassadors for Berky!

U9 Bee v The Richard Pate School

The U9's second Bee Netball fixture saw us at The Richard Pate School on a Friday afternoon - and what a relaxed and friendly afternoon it was.

In a similar vein to our St. Ed's match, it was organised in a 'round robin' style so that each group of 4 played against each of the Pates' groups of 4. We encountered some excellent opposition, we played excellently ourselves too, lots of goals were scored by all of the teams and lots of superb sporting behaviour was witnessed by all the coaches. Charlotte was awarded the Bee Proud award, Millie the Bee Fair, Claudia the Bee Yourself, Olivia the Bee friendly, Mollie the Bee strong and Eva the Bee Together award. We had a lovely afternoon and were very proud of the way the girls supported each other and did their absolute best. Well done again U9s. CMC

U8 v St Edward's

Yellow

What a game! The girls started off with a bang, a goal within the first 45 seconds. They moved extremely well around the court together, creating space to support the next pass. Communication and strong basic netball skills lead to a convincing win. Well done Polly, Evie, Allegra and Charlotte, really good play. Won 15-1.

Purple

In both mini matches the girls played brilliantly. Good court play by Olivia and Melba with super accurate shooting from Flo and Lara resulted in a dominant performance in each game. Well done to all four girls. They won both games, 4-0 and a 5-0 win.

Navy

There was some lovely movement around the court; we had most of the possession but just couldn't always finish with a goal. The girls never gave up. There was some good passing with nice power. Final scores were a 2-1 win and 1-0 loss. Annabelle A, Matilda M, Diana S and Isabella B, all played well. Well done.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report

FOOTBALL

U8 Buffaloes v The Richard Pate School

Berkhampstead Buffaloes played the Richard Pate School in an exciting U8 away football fixture. A close first half with energetic play from both sides ended with Berky holding a narrow 2-1 lead. After the break, our lads really upped their game and emerged as comfortable 7-2 victors at the final whistle. The team showed a real collective spirit, were supportive of each other and demonstrated pleasing listening skills. The boys can feel real pride in themselves. Well done!

U9A v Beaudesert

We travelled to Beaudesert on Wednesday in wet, damp and drizzly conditions as we took on yet another team that have remained unbeaten this season. After the heavy loss the previous week at RPS we'd spent quite a bit of time in our training sessions on defence tactics and despite losing 5-0 some might think were still not quite there yet. Thankfully that couldn't be further from the truth. It was very much a game of two halves or rather four quarters. We conceded the five goals in the first two 10-minute quarters and nothing in the second two which was extremely encouraging bearing in mind we'd lost one of our best defenders to illness before the game. We made several counter attacks and had chances to score but alas it wasn't to be. Despite the disappointment the boys never gave up and worked hard over a long 40-minute spell. They should be pleased with the significant improvements they've made over the last four weeks. Well done boys!

U9B v Beaudesert

The U9B team came up against a very strong Beaudesert team this week but tried hard and fought back in the second half. Captained by Ben S - leading from the position of centre forward, the team defended well with Dylan, Luis, and Isaac determined to tackle everyone who came their way - occasionally their own team! They did very well though and Isaac and Dylan's strength of kick and Luis's sliding tackles were a feature. In goal, Jack played well, made some great saves and cleared the ball well from goal kicks. We struggled to get hold of the ball a little in midfield where Freddie, Tom and Ben R were up against some much bigger boys. However, they persevered and we did have a couple of chances. Owen and Hugo came on at half time and they too played well but the physical strength of our opposition made the difference. Well done boys - and Perseverantia Vincit for next time! The final score was a loss of 5-0.

U10A v Beaudesert

Berkhampstead U10A defeated hosts Beaudesert by a comfortable 7-1 margin on Wednesday. This match was a fantastic advert for attacking football and Berky played their best stuff of the season. The lads held their positions well and combined to paint lovely patterns on the park. Tom C-G (who scored four splendid goals) and Seb C were irresistible in attack while Will H, comfortable on the ball, was rocklike in defence. However, all the boys contributed to a fine result. Well played.

U10B v Beaudesert

Berkhampstead U10B slipped to a 6-0 away defeat against a physical Beaudesert outfit. Staunch defence and eye-catching goalkeeping from Ben A ('The Cat') in the first half kept the lead to a single goal but Beaudesert pulled away after the break. Three late goals gave the scoreboard a slightly unfair look; our boys' commitment, endeavour and bravery deserved a narrower score line. Great effort, lads!

