



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER
AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents

It's been another busy week, with our children involved in plenty of fun and varied activities in and out of school. On Monday, we welcomed Councillor Matt Babbage - the Mayor of Cheltenham - to both the Prep and the Pre-Prep assemblies. He explained the role of a mayor, and took questions from the children. Also on Monday, Year 4 attended the Cheltenham Literature Festival, and saw award-winning children's author, Pamela Butchart talking about her hilarious new book, 'There's a Beast in the Basement!' Then, on Tuesday, 13 of our Prep athletes from Years 4 - 6 competed at Newlands in the Cheltenham District Cross Country. Well done to all our competitors, many of whom finished in the top 50 (out of more than 100 competitors in each race), and particularly Olly B (5K) who came 7th in his race. Mid-week, Kindergarten enjoyed a super morning at Crickley Hill Country Park, and were kept very busy with all manner of nature-inspired activities (more from Mrs Main later in the newsletter).

I have been reflecting on the excellent results of our Year 6 children from last year. The graphic shown here shows their senior school destinations, but only tells half a story. Out of a year group of 34 children, an impressive nineteen were offered grammar school places, and fourteen were offered scholarships to independent schools (including academic, drama, art, sport and music.) The current Year 6 children have already sat this year's grammar school test, and we are in the process of preparing this same cohort for scholarships to senior school. The preparation the children receive for senior school entrance at Berkhampstead really is second to none. From Year 3, there are weekly critical thinking lessons, (a useful skill for all our pupils, and one that the grammar school entrance exams test), which increase to an hour a week in Year 5, and in the summer holidays Year 5 pupils are offered four extra sessions. Then, on the Saturday before the grammar school test, we organise a mock here in school. This helps familiarise the children with the process, boost their confidence and reduce feelings of stress and anxiety about the day.

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday 14th October

Open Morning

Tuesday 17th October

Cake at Break - 50p needed

Wednesday 18th October

2:30pm U11 & U10A & B Rugby

Triangular v Kitebrook and

Rendcomb (away)

2:30pm U8 Hockey v

Cheltenham College (away)

3:00pm ELS Phonics Parents'

Meeting for Reception and Year 1

3:45pm Early Years Parents'

Wednesday Wander

6:00pm 6E Parents' Evening -

appointments required

Thursday 19th October

Year 1 trip to The Wild Place

Year 3 Author Visit -

Christopher Edge

4:15pm Prep Boy' Cross Country

at Ashley Manor (away)

6:00pm 6M Parents' Evening

Friday 20th October

2:30pm Harvest Festival Service,

All Saints' Church,

Parents Invited

4:15pm Prep Girls' Cross

Country at Ashley Manor (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

The requirements for the scholarships and entrance tests for independent schools vary for each school, and we prepare the children accordingly. We hold mock interviews, and if children are going for a drama or music scholarship, the peripatetic staff within school will help prepare them for their performance pieces. Our Director of Teaching and Learning (and Deputy Head), Mrs Holland completes a reference for each child and each school. Scholarship candidates will also have an additional reference from the respective head of subject to support their scholarship application. The 2023 statistics are testament to the excellent preparation the children receive here, and we are confident that our children move on to their next schools in very good shape. Whether they are moving on to a grammar, independent school or state academy, they are well-prepared, motivated and ready to face new challenges. Once our leavers are at senior school, the children, of course, continue to flourish and evolve - just this week we have heard news of two Berky alumnae. Emily W - leaver of 2018 - has been awarded a Sports Scholarship to Cheltenham Ladies' College and Darcey C - leaver of 2020 - has been awarded a Sports Scholarship to Dean Close. Darcey has also just played her first U18 England Hockey Cup Competition; well done to both of these impressive sportswomen! Our current Year 6 families will be receiving the results of the grammar school test any day now - good luck to you all!

Have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seeing some of you for Open Morning tomorrow.

Kind regards

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

CAKE AT BREAK

Please remember to send your children in to school with 50p on Tuesday!

PLEASE NOTE

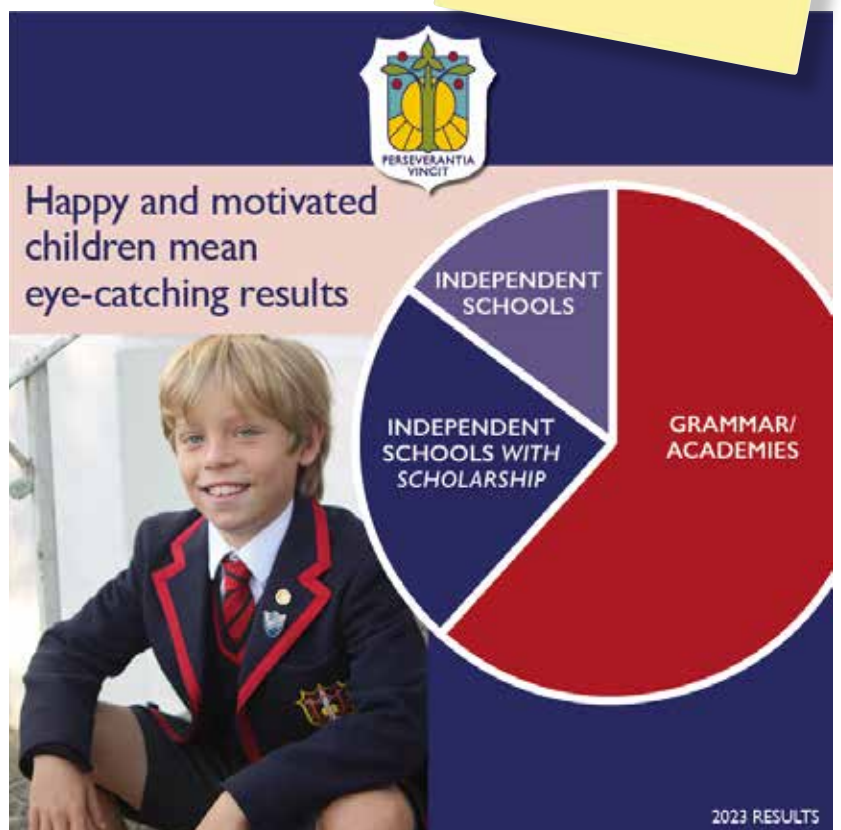
Please can all parents in all year groups check the name labels in their children's blazers to ensure their child has the correct one. Thank you

BERKY PRAYER GROUP

For Parents and Grandparents - please contact the school office if you would like to join us

PLEASE NOTE

Due to health and safety requirements, it is important that parents leave the Pre-Prep playground promptly at the end of the day and don't let their children play on the equipment. Unfortunately two children have been injured doing this this term.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

We have all had the most amazing fun week in Kindergarten. The Kindergarten children already know that I have a love for being outside, and it was such a joy to take our second group of children to Forest School. Together we found many minibeasts hiding in and under logs and leaves, and the children decided to work together to carry logs to create new habitats for our creepy crawlly friends. Some children showed an interest in the pond area. They knelt on the viewing platform to study the plants, and we discovered that some plants can be much taller than ourselves and some will grow along the ground; we also had the lucky find of two tiny shells.

Each day in Kindergarten we practise mindfulness and relaxation during our quiet time. Mindfulness meditation can help children learn to calm their bodies and minds. It helps to create a relaxed, positive environment which can benefit behaviour, communication, and emotional regulation. Our activities include yoga - lying with a soft toy on our tummies to watch it rise and fall as we concentrate on our breathing, or focussing on watching glitter swirl in bottles. The children are encouraged to do any of these activities if they feel overwhelmed during their day.

This week our Wednesday children went on a sensory outdoor experience to Crickley Hill. First, we listened to a story about Frank the Hedgehog who needed to find a home for winter and the children had an opportunity to stroke a 'real' hedgehog. Mr Cross was very impressed when one of our Kindergarten children said hedgehogs have spines to protect themselves. Our adventures continued with activities such as rolling pinecones and conkers down guttering, making leaf crowns, planting seeds, water painting and digging, going on a hedgehog hunt by following some picture clues and generally having a fabulous time. MM




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Florrie-Esme G,
Hugo H, Giulia J, Harrison N,
Reggie R, Blake R, Holly C,
Edna Bear: Sofia S, Gethin C





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

Reception have launched into space this week making junk model rockets linked to our literacy focus of *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy. We have also been making lists of things we would like to take to the moon in our rockets, from cuddly toys to chocolate biscuits, hairbrushes to sunglasses!

In maths, we have been making repeating patterns using natural resources, musical instruments and our bodies.

In CWB we have been talking about how our needs have changed since we were babies as well as sharing cute pictures of ourselves as newborns.

Our trip to Dinky Street was such a treat and the children represented the school beautifully. We especially loved the double decker bus as we got to sit on the top! Z M-S




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Kit M and India L,
Toby S and Amber W
Berky Bear: Alice A, Emelia A





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PARENTS' SUPPORT



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PARENTS' SUPPORT

*keeping parents
in the loop*

KINDERGARTEN, RECEPTION & YEAR 1

Phonics Information afternoon & Wednesday Wander

Parents and guardians of pupils in Reception and Year 1 are warmly invited to a presentation about our new Essential Letters & Sounds phonics scheme.

Zöe Meredith-Smyth, (Acting Head of Early Years & Reception teacher), Mrs Macpherson-Light (Year 1 teacher) and Miss Evans (Head of English) will be on hand to demonstrate how phonics will be taught in school, and answer any questions.

Following this, at 3.45pm, our first Wednesday Wander of the academic year will take place for Kindergarten and Reception parents.

Wednesday 18th October at 3pm
Venue: Pre-Prep Hall
Tea and biscuits will be served



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORT REPORTS

HOCKEY

U10 & U11 v King's Worcester & The Elms

We were kindly invited to play in a triangular match with the Elms and King's Worcester; as our planned match against Wycliffe could not go ahead. We fielded two teams.

Berky played King's Worcester first, and both teams started well. It was lovely to see an ex-Berky girl, who was playing for King's Worcester! Berky were strong and soon began to dominate the play, sending long passes up the field and connecting beautifully with the ball within the D. The goals began to come and with the goals, came more confidence to attack the ball. It was a great game to watch and to umpire! The final score was 5-0 to Berky. With very little break, as the heavens had just opened, we moved quickly onto our second match, against the Elms. Once again, Berky dominated the play. The girls moved around positions and experimented with their passing. They had the time to look up and plan the passages of play – well done ladies, you thoroughly deserved another win! The final score was once again 5-0. JH





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORT REPORTS

RUGBY

U8 Tag v Ashley Manor (formerly St Edward's)

Last Friday in glorious conditions, the U8s travelled the short distance to the newly named Ashley Manor to play in a tag rugby event. The Buffalos, Bisons and Bulls played three games each all at a frenetic pace. Throughout the afternoon boys tagged, scored tries and seemed to gain measurably in confidence. The only winner on the day was rugby and it was great to see all the boys enjoying themselves. A big thank you to Max who said the three cheers on behalf of the Berky teams and well done to all the boys for a great afternoon of tag rugby. SM

U9A Dean Close Festival

On Wednesday, the boys travelled to Dean Close for a festival. After the loss last week to Ashley Manor, the boys were clearly up for it. Playing Dean Close, Clifton and The Downs the difference in their passing and tackling from the previous week was obvious. Against each of the three sides we played our defence was solid; we left few gaps for the opposition to run in and closed opposing players down quickly. We passed the ball sensibly from free passes and worked our way through several phases of play before scoring a number of well worked tries. We won all three matches comfortably scoring a total of 11 tries, but more importantly giving away just two tries throughout the afternoon. Well done boys for a great team effort. SM

U9B Dean Close Festival

The U9B rugby team played at the Dean Close Festival on Wednesday and came up against Dean Close, Clifton College and The Downs, Wroxall. In the first game the boys played really well, running well and started putting some good tackles in. Tries were scored across the team and included Freddie, Eddie S, Quinn, Ioan, Ethan and Harvey. The next game was against a very strong Downs team and the boys were tentative with their tackling. It was good to see their confidence grow though, and the tackle of the afternoon was made by Quinn. There were great contributions from Milo, Eddie H too. With confidence down the boys headed into their final game against Clifton College and this was a more even game and very competitive. The boys struggled against a strong Clifton defence but runs from Toby and Magnus finally allowed Eddie to score in the corner. A good afternoon with much success - well done boys. RC

U10A v Rendcomb

This proved a very competitive and entertaining rugby match against a strong Rendcomb side. A single try (by Rendcomb) was scored in the first half; this was indicative of steely defence from both schools. In the second half each team scored three tries meaning Rendcomb edged Berky out by four tries to three. The Berky boys' rucking was much improved and caught the eye. DB

U10B v Rendcomb

This was very much a game of two halves. At the break Berky trailed by 8 tries to 3 but 'won' the second half 4 to 3. Although losing the fixture 12-7, our players showed resilience and determination to fight back. Atlas M's strong running and Hughie B's elusiveness caught spectators' eyes but all the lads contributed to a promising display. MC

