

## Please note...

Part of Pittville Circus Road will be closed from Monday to Thursday, 9-3.30pm next week. This is the stretch of Pittville Circus Road that branches off Pittville Circus (roundabout). The road will remain open from the school to the small roundabout by All Saints' Road.



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

The weather has not been great this week, but it hasn't stopped the enthusiasm for life in school. On Tuesday we had the School Photographers in to take Year Group photos. Normally at this time of year we have the Whole School Photograph but sadly this still wasn't possible. The children enjoyed this, though, and it was especially good for Year 6 to secure a photo of all their friends before they head off to a broad variety of schools. We are so proud of their achievements and look forward to some lovely end of Berkys for them.

As you can see, the photos were taken indoors due to the weather, yet sports fixtures have managed to avoid the showers this week and it was great to see the competitive effort and focus from the girls and boys. See the Sports pages for the results.

The School Council met this week; I am always impressed with how mature and thoughtful they are with their decision making. They have many plans including a fun afternoon that will be much like the Summer Fete but sadly just for the children! Each class is organising a stall and I am waiting nervously for the request to be in the stocks for the wet sponge throwing. I do hope the weather improves!

Yesterday I showed a Day Nursery parent around school and was so impressed with what we came across. Year 6 were investigating separating solids and were using Bunsen burners, funnels, filters and a variety of other apparatus to achieve this. Year 2 were in the Art Room using acrylic pastels to produce studies of native British wildlife and plants as part of their British Countryside Project. Finally, Year 3 were looking at what makes a suitable habitat in the wildlife garden. It was a joy to see the children so engaged in such wonderful topics and projects.

I am particularly excited by the plans the staff are making for September and the curriculum. We review our curriculum regularly and of course are considering what was learnt from the remote teaching and learning. In the Pre-Prep and Early Years, we are appraising the Letters and Sounds Phonics provision alongside our own Reading programme to ensure the children get the very best start on their journey to be free readers. This is such a vital skill and we have been very pleased to learn that this year, despite lockdown, the children have made very good progress.

Next week, the COVID restrictions are relaxing a little further. We are not making any changes in school, apart from:

- Parents are no longer obliged to wear face masks at drop-off and pick-up but will need to wear a face mask if entering the buildings.
- For PREP we do plan to make some changes to the drop-off and pick-up (and mistakenly some notices went up this morning). These changes will happen soon, but the finer details are being worked out. I will send a separate notice to Prep parents regarding this next week. For the time being, please drop-off and pick as per the current arrangements.

Please ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school - they will need this at break times, games times as well as for drop-off and pick-up.

*Richard*

Richard Cross  
Headmaster

**FRIDAY 14TH MAY  
SUMMER TERM**

## Diary dates

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Wed 19 May

Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill  
2.15pm Girls' Cricket U11 v Rendcomb (A)  
2.30pm Boys' Cricket U10 v Dean Close (A)

#### Thu 20 May

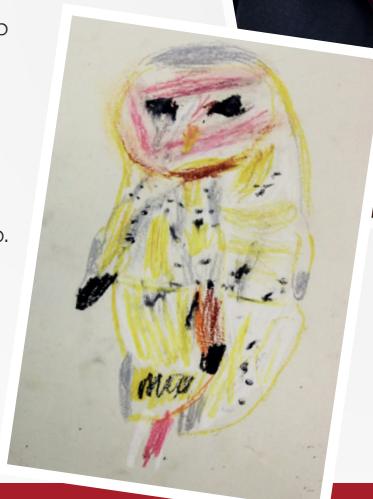
Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill  
Year 2 trip to Crickley Hill

#### Fri 20th May

Year 6 Residential trip to Viney Hill  
2.30pm - Boys' Cricket U9 v Rendcomb (H)

#### Sun 23rd May

Year 6 Verse Speaking, Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts





## BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

# News from Early Years

Kindergarten are continuing the topic of countries; the children have been buzzing this week as Andrew Bear has been off on his adventures. He has been sending us postcards from China. The children have been fascinated to find out all about different cultures and festivals celebrated there. We created The Great Wall of China using bricks in the construction area and said 'Ni Hao' when answering the register in the morning.



A big thank you to Harvey who brought in his smart clothes that he wears during the celebration of Eid, Harvey told us how he sings songs with his Daddy and Grandma.

We also learned about Diwali - the Festival of Lights; some children have made diva lamps from clay with Mrs Stoot. The children have enjoyed doing some research about this 5-day celebration and particularly liked watching fireworks.



Meanwhile, Reception children continue to be captivated with our topic 'Mad About Minibeasts'. The children were fascinated when finding out about worms and decided to make a wormery or - as they called it - a 'Worm Hotel'! They made the hotel by using sand and soil; the best part was finding the worms to put into their hotel! They are being very vigilant and the worms are getting first class treatment. We will be returning the worms back to our Wildlife Garden.

During Forest School, the children discussed different habitats. They were given an animal and challenged to build a habitat for their animal. The children used sticks, wood, stones, and mud and were provided with string and equipment to make their houses. They discussed with their peers how they had made their habitats.

The children had great fun exploring Spheros (Programmable robots) and became coding experts! They were shown how to aim the Spheros and make them move using the 'Drive' function. They were challenged to create mazes and pathways for the Spheros to follow.



Kindergarten  
Amelia S, Ben C  
Reception  
Ralph A, Jack W,  
Eleanor C and Lilian L,  
Lucy W, Florence P





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

- **ECO WARRIORS'**
- **TOP TIP**
- **Green Fingered Wellbeing with Mental Health Awareness Week 2021!**

- This year's focus is Nature. Many of us have made a much stronger connection with nature during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have walked more walks than we would have ever walked. We have explored new places in our existing environments and taken time to appreciate our surroundings. Nature is all around us.
- Our Eco Warriors have been working hard, ensuring that caring for nature is at the forefront of our minds, encouraging us to do more to protect green spaces.
- Plants are a wonderful way of boosting overall wellbeing. There are many benefits to having them within your space – you don't even have to have a garden! Picture a simple little house plant on your desk. Having just one plant in your home or workplace can give you a boost. It is proven that just by simply looking at a plant can promote positive mental wellness.
- Not only do they look lovely and enhance our mental wellbeing, but these happy little greens come with many other benefits...
  - *Boost air quality*
  - *Relieve anxiety*
  - *Give a sense of calmness*
  - *Help form simple routine*
- Taking care of just one plant is taking care of yourself.
- Some handy tips for caring for plants from the plants themselves:
  - *Water us sparingly, we're not as thirsty as you think!*
  - *Sit us in indirect light, too much light burns our leaves.*
  - *Rotate us every few weeks to help us make the most of the light.*
  - *Chop any yellow leaves off, we don't need these anymore.*
  - *Talk to us. Yes, this works. Maybe sing if you'd prefer?*
- Rule of thumb - a plant can recover from underwatering. An overwatered plant cannot.
- If caring for your own plant is a little daunting, perhaps on your next walk, take a few moments to observe a plant, a tree, a wildflower or even a weed. Take notice with a deep inhale and enjoy the nature around you. By Mrs Rees





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## Cricket reports...

### BOYS

Berkhampstead U11B 279

St. Edward's U11B 293

#### Berkhampstead lost by 14 runs

An exciting afternoon of cricket was played out by two spirited teams at the Victoria Ground. Berkhamstead won the toss and skipper Robert A elected to bat. Albie B-C was the most eye-catching batsman with several robust blows sending the ball cascading to the boundary. Robert A, Connor S and Harry M also hit fours as the home team set a respectable 279 target for the visitors to chase. St. Edward's replied keenly but were pegged back by some decent bowling and nifty fielding. Mateo S and Connor both impressed in the field, the former running out an opposition batsman with a splendid direct hit. Harry was probably the pick of the bowlers with his aggressive pace causing a few problems, but Luke R, Robert A, Charles C and Arthur B contributed with no little enthusiasm too. A tense final over or two saw the match ebb and flow in favour of St. Edward's but the overall winner was sport itself with both sets of lads embracing the occasion merrily. MC

#### U9A Cricket v Beaudesert

#### Lost by 26 runs

Our first outing of the season was to Beaudesert. Despite the inclement weather and playing on astroturf, our enthusiasm was certainly not dampened. We lost the toss and were put into bat. A very solid start of 32 was notched up by our two openers Seb and Joe and runs began to build from there; further partnerships saw Ben and Seb make 17 and Tom and Harry 26. Will and Bertie faced the toughest bowling which resulted in our final score being docked twenty runs. Despite their low score, they batted with dogged determination against very quick and accurate bowling. We finished our innings with 68 runs with the loss of five wickets. Bearing in mind it was our first match, our bowling looked pretty sound. 38 wides and no balls accounted for a large part of Beaudesert's final score of 94 for two wickets. It might have been a very different result if we'd managed to hold our catches; we were given seven chances in all but only one was taken - by Tom, fielding at deep mid-on. That aside, it was good to see the boys finally getting some cricket with some encouraging signs for the future. Well done, boys! SM

**Berky 308**

**St Edward's 223**

#### Berky won by 85 runs

The U11A team enjoyed their second fixture of the season against St Edward's on Wednesday. We batted first and scored at a steady rate throughout the innings. The boys showed good progress in terms of foot movement and shot selection. Will C was the top scorer with 32, including three sixes. Freddie B, Henry R and Michael C also batted well.

We finished with a very strong total of 308. In the field the boys bowled an improved line and length, taking 10 wickets in total. I was impressed by lots of the bowling with Rufus, Will J and Albie B amongst the wicket takers. Fielding was a little tighter and we restricted St Edward's to 223, winning by 85 runs. Well done, boys for an excellent performance!

#### U9B Cricket v Beaudesert Away

#### Win for Beaudesert by 18 runs

On Wednesday the U9B team went away to Beaudesert for an 8-over game. Beaudesert won the toss and invited Berky to bowl first. Captain Freddy led the way with the bowling taking a wicket and restricting the batsmen to only 6 runs. He was supported superbly by his team-mates who all bowled accurately. Considering this was their first school cricket match I was very impressed. Ben also bowled well and took two wickets and Cameron was the most economical with only 5 runs given away. Beaudesert posted a very good score of 266 runs. Freddie and Victor opened the batting and posted a good score of 11 runs for the first pair. Cameron, Isaac and Gideon scored well too in their pairs scoring another 28 runs. Floyd and Ben came in as the last pair and found scoring more difficult, with good bowling from Beaudesert. They scored another 9 runs leaving Berky 18 runs short of the total. I was very pleased with the way the boys played. They worked hard and showed good confidence – well done.

### GIRLS

#### U10 v King's, Gloucester

We turned up at Archdeacon in glorious sunshine, ready to play some cricket. We were playing our match on the astro due to the rainfall the previous evening. We lost the toss and had to bat first; we all started of a little lacking in confidence but worked hard to get back into the swing of batting! With both teams bowling a little unreliably, we weren't able to get the bat on some balls. We made a few good shots, with the first batting pair achieving 5 runs on the 5th ball of the first over. We made a handful of single runs and a few pairs got 3 runs. We got quite a few points from no balls. We finished our innings on 257. We knew we needed to field well to ensure King's didn't get more than 57 runs. King's played well and managed some great hits; their first pair managed 14 runs. We were under pressure now! The Berky girls worked well but unfortunately, we just weren't as quick to field as King's were. With the combination of them hitting our balls and us a little slow in the field at times, they managed to end their innings on 297. Well done, girls, on your first match. We have plenty to work on over the next week or two. CK



## Prep matches

Please keep an eye on fixtures each week; some details might change due to the ever-changing circumstances at the moment.