



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 15TH MARCH
SPRING TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

Mr Cross and I were delighted to attend the Junior Schools' Art Exhibition at Malvern St James on Saturday morning. The annual event is a wonderful showcase of children's art from many schools across Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties, and we have submitted work - and done very well - for many years. This year we were thrilled that two of our pupils achieved Highly Commended certificates; congratulations to Harriet C-W, (5B), and Maddie LG, (2S). A huge well done to all our talented exhibiting artists; it was so good to celebrate your creativity. We can all look forward to our own Summer Art Exhibition, which will take place in the Summer Term. This after-school celebration of art will showcase at least one piece of artwork from every pupil in the school; further details to follow soon.

In Monday's Pre-Prep and Reception assembly, I reminded the children about Rainforest Concern's visit to school a couple of weeks ago. I asked the children what they remembered about Helen's assembly, and was pleased with the facts they recalled including those about rainforest animals - particularly sloths - tropical plants such as aloe vera, and fruits including avocados. I taught the children the meaning of the word 'deforestation', and why we have chosen Rainforest Concern as one of this year's school charities. Remaining on the theme of the western world's demand for tropical produce - and using bananas as an example - I went on to explain the challenging conditions that banana pickers work in, and told the children why choosing to buy fair trade products is ethical. The children particularly enjoyed filing in and out of assembly to the traditional Jamaican folk song, of 'Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)!'.

You may have read in last week's newsletter that the Berky Gets Greener eco-committee is encouraging pupils to take part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event. This is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and cycling challenge, and is taking place this week and next. Its aim is to reduce congestion and air pollution on the school run - and to simultaneously increase children's physical activity. The eco committee had already taken a tally of the pupils' methods of transport to school before the event started, and they are hoping that the tally taken after the two weeks will show a trend towards car-free school runs triggered by the Sustrans event. Well done to everyone who is taking part in the challenge.

Well done to our Year 6 wildlife experts, who competed this week in the first round of the Gloucestershire Primary Schools' Wildlife Quiz. They beat Swindon Village and Christ Church primary schools, and are one of six teams though to the semi-finals. On Thursday, our quizzers - who had reached the semi-finals - tested their general knowledge to compete for a place in Quiz Club's primary schools' national finals. Although we didn't qualify, we came 16th out of 51 teams! Well done to you all!

With the Spring Concerts on Wednesday, next week promises to be tremendously busy, so enjoy a restful break this weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 18th March

Final Year 1 & 2 After School
Football Club

Tuesday 19th March

3:45pm Year 1 & 2 Parents'
Book Look
Final Early Years After School
Football Club
Final Year 3 & 4 After School
Hockey Club
Reception Parents' Evening -
Online

Wednesday 20th March

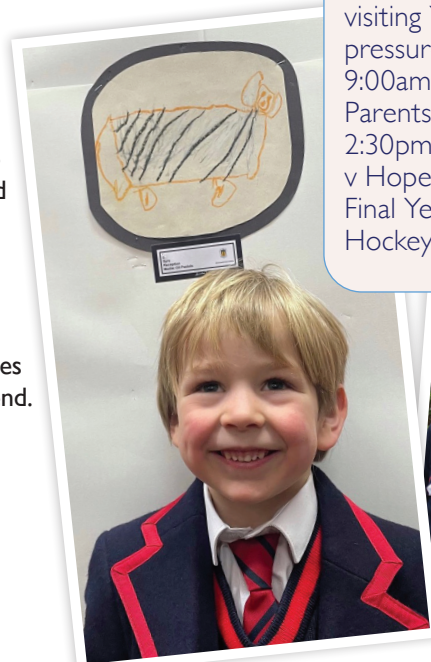
2:30pm Afternoon Spring
Concert - Cheltenham
Town Hall
2:30pm U11/U10 Netball
v Beaudesert (away)
6:30pm Evening Spring Concert
- Cheltenham Town Hall

Thursday 21st March

9:00am Year 6 trip to St Luke's
Church
4:15pm Rescheduled
Prep Spring Recital
Kindergarten Parents'
Evening - Online

Friday 22nd March

Cake at Break
9:00am SchoolBeat Officer
visiting Year 6 - drugs and peer
pressure workshop
9:00am Year 1 Class Assembly -
Parents invited
2:30pm U8 & U9 Netball
v Hopelands (home)
Final Year 2 After School
Hockey Club





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

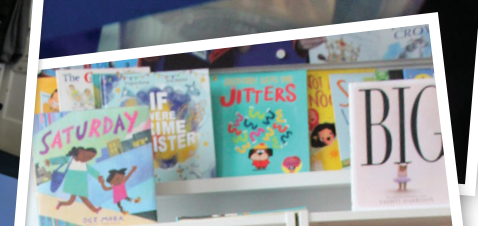
NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Wow, after their successful trips last week, what a brilliantly busy week Year 1 and 2 have had.

Last week, Year 1 went out of this world during an incredible trip to Oxford Science Centre. To support our term's learning, the children went inside a planetarium and were blasted into space, where they visited the moon and several planets of our Solar System. The children were fascinated exploring the planet Mars, star constellations and stunning galaxies. At the centre, the children also got to spend time in the 'Exploration Zone'; where a range of hands on, science-based activities inspired and enthused the children; they created giant marble runs, explored magnets, looked at changing temperatures, created circuits, made rockets that flew up into the sky from the air table and learnt to use microscopes. Who knows, maybe the skills learnt could help one of them to become an astronaut in the future!

Over the last couple of weeks, our budding Year 1 authors have enthusiastically written their second book. This time they have developed their own information books, finding lots of facts based on planets. What a fun couple of weeks it has been in Maths. Year 1 have been doing lots of weighing and measuring and have really enjoyed using scales: comparing objects to see which is heavier and which is lighter. This week rehearsals started for our Year 1 assembly. Lots of children have already learnt their lines - well done. We really appreciate all the help parents have given to help them.

Meanwhile, Year 2 have been excitedly etching and printing; they have been using safe print polystyrene and ink. First of all, they deconstructed a castle, spotting patterns and shapes within their castle pictures. After that, they etched them onto polystyrene - all under the expert guidance of Mrs Bareham. In CWB they have looked at staying safe and lots of fun has been experienced in science looking at habitats. Year 2 have also been developing their ability to measure mass and capacity; lots of practical activities have been experienced and they have worked well. Spurred on by World Book Day, last week, the year group have been inspired to do lots of reading in our beautiful library. We are looking forward to filling the Pre-Prep library with some new books, thanks to the fabulous support of everyone who came to the book fair. C M-L





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PTA NEWS

The PTA Team are busy getting organised for some big events coming up after the Easter Holidays, starting with the School Disco on Friday 26th April. Tickets are now on sale; please refer to the recent email. All children who would like to come will need to be booked and paid for by Monday 25th April, so we have names and numbers before we break up.

Then our big Summer Celebration for parents and teachers at The Frogmill takes place on Saturday 8th June. There are just a few tickets left; please email PTAevents@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk to snap them up!

We loved the Summer Festival last year, bringing our school and nursery community together for a day of family fun. We're looking forward to bringing it back again this year on Saturday 29th June. Save the date and we'll share more details soon.

Katie Chapman
Chair of the PTA

PTA EVENTS

Summer Celebration Saturday 8th June

We have just four tickets left. If you would like to come, please email Charlotte at PTAevents@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

School Disco Friday 26th April

Tickets are now on sale for Reception - Year 6. Please see email sent out. We will close bookings on Mon 25th March.

Summer Festival Saturday 29th June

Save the date, we'll share more details after the Easter holidays.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U8 v The Richard Pate School

The U8s travelled the short distance to The Richard Pate School for a great afternoon of netball. Although the sun was shining brightly, the wind was making some of the netball tricky. This did not hamper our girls, who produced some superb, fast flowing netball as well as some determined, organised defence. On top of this, it was fantastic to see the girls smiling and enjoying the afternoon competing. IP





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SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

U11B v Rendcomb

On Monday, the boys who have attended lunchtime hockey club played in a match against Rendcomb. It was wonderful seeing how the boys were able to use the skills they have learned onto a large astro. Confident dribbling and accurate passes led to several opportunities in front of the goal. George E (2) and Zack took their chances which led to a 3-0 victory for Berky.

I was impressed with our competitive spirit and speed to defend. This effort resulted in a clean sheet for our defence. All of the boys played their part, giving their all and working superbly as a team.

Well done to all of the boys! P McC

FOOTBALL

U11A v The Richard Pate School

Yesterday, the U11A team played their last football match for Berky against old rivals, RPS. The first half was a fantastic display of attacking skills by our team. We passed the ball around, keeping possession for long periods and when chances arose in front of goal, we converted with aplomb. Our goals came from George J (2), Alastair, Wilf and Ella. At 5-1 ahead, the game looked won by half time. However our opponents really upped their game in the second half and a combination of slick passing, clinical finishing and some passive defending by us saw them peg us back to 5-5. This was how the match ended.

It was a highly entertaining game. The first half in particular really showed how the team have progressed since January. Hard work and good team work have taken them a long way. They deserve much praise. Well done!

Thanks to all our supporters this term who I know have enjoyed the matches. P McC

U10A v The Richard Pate School

The U10A team played RPS yesterday in their last game of the season. RPS went a goal up early on, but the boys didn't drop their heads, and carried on playing their game. They were rewarded with a goal of their own not long after. This was the best performance of the season, and the boys played well. They worked together as a team and demonstrated great sportsmanship, checking the boys from RPS were okay if they went down in a tackle. At half time, the score was 2-1, but more goals were to come, and in the second half, the boys scored three more goals and conceded one to make it 5-2 at the final whistle. A fantastic result!

Well done boys, this was an excellent game. Thanks to the parents and friends that came along to support the boys for their final match of the season. DB

