



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 17TH MAY
SUMMER TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

The performing arts have dominated proceedings at Berkhampstead this week. On Monday, 24 plucky pupils from Years 2 to 5 entertained an appreciative audience after school in our Summer Term Recital. Some of the children had only this year started learning their instruments, and it was the first time that our Year 2 violinists had performed together. There were many noteworthy performances, from beginners to the more experienced musicians; well done to you all.

It has been thrilling over the last couple of weeks to hear about, and celebrate, the children's achievements at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Our talented pupils have entered numerous classes; individually, in duos and in groups, they have been awarded plenty of cups and medals. This week, our brilliant Chamber Ensemble put on a superb performance of Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons', and was among those who came home with silverware. Meanwhile, Year 2 entered a choral speaking class, and recited 'I'd Like to be a Teabag', with a great deal of expression. I commend both of these groups, and every single child who performed at the festival, regardless of being placed or not. Standing up on stage and performing to judges and an audience is no mean feat, so well done to you all. Here at Berky, we recognise how important the performing arts are, and with this in mind, we continue to proudly sponsor the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

This afternoon, Year 2 are performing their Summer Production, 'The Great Fire'. I have really enjoyed hearing the children rehearse over the last few weeks, and am thoroughly look forward to their performance. My background is art, and so I was delighted to be asked to help with the painting of the scenery, along with the other behind-the-scenes staff, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Jones, (Mrs Jones was responsible for props). I would like to extend my appreciation to our dedicated teachers who have worked tirelessly to nurture and guide our performers. Thank you for creating an environment where creativity and artistic expression thrive.

In recent assemblies, Mrs Howard introduced her initiative for a new social action group. She invited each class to submit an idea of a name for the group, and the school voted for 'Berky Changemakers'. Well done to 6E for coming up with this name; we all look forward to becoming involved in Berky Changemakers' activities.

Next week, the final one before half term, will be another packed week, concluding with our Olympic-themed party on Friday; I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Have a relaxing weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 20th May

Cake at Break - please bring £1
Year 6 Art Workshop

Tuesday 21st May

9:00am Whole School Photograph
4:00pm Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz Final
7:00pm Prep Cheltenham and District Primary Schools Swimming Gala - meet at 6.35pm

Wednesday 22nd May

Year 6 Residential to Viney Hill Kindergarten Pom Pom Party Day
8:30am Year 2 to Prep for Transition Assembly, Drop off to Pre-Prep as normal
2:10pm Music Taster Afternoon - Years 2, 3 and 4

Thursday 23rd May

2:10pm 4T Incom Gaming Trip

Friday 24th May

8:30am Visiting Head Prep Assembly - Miss E Jardine-Young, CLC, Parents invited
12:30pm - 2:00pm Head of School's Olympic-Themed Picnic Lunch - Parents invited
3:00pm approx Year 6 return from Viney Hill

Saturday 25th May to

Sunday 2nd June

Half Term

Monday 3rd June

Staff Inset - School closed to pupils



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

This week has been super exciting in Pre-Prep, especially for our wonderful Year 2 pupils! On Wednesday, they wowed the Year 1 and Reception children with the dress rehearsal of their awesome production 'The Great Fire' - jokes, songs and some serious method acting was on show. On Thursday, they graced the Town Hall to perform at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. 2S and 2J recited their choral poem 'I'd Like to be a Teabag' to a great reception from the judges and audience alike. Later that day, a number of children returned to the venue for their individual recitals, showing creativity and panache with their efforts. As this newsletter goes to print, they are showcasing their skills with the opening (as well as the final) performance of 'The Great Fire' to their grown ups - we know they'll do so well. We're very proud of their efforts and dedication! Alongside all this performing, pupils have somehow found time to produce a Great Fire artwork, crack fractions within their maths lessons, learn a spot of French, go swimming and even complete some creative writing. All in all, it's been a bit of a busy one this week for our Year 2 superstars!



Year 1 have been equally creative this week, albeit with a smaller external audience! Pupils have impressed the staff with their sewing skills, creating some incredible minibeasts, inspired by their recent trip to the nature garden. They initially designed their artwork, have created it this week and will evaluate their final piece next week, following a full process. Within maths, Year 1 pupils have been working hard to develop their understanding of equal sharing and grouping within maths lessons, using cubes, counters and drawing to bring division to life. They have also completed lots of practical, al fresco maths, exploring directional language. They certainly haven't been backwards in coming forwards with their language development! They have also fully set sail on their latest English adventure, all about a submarine adventure. We cannot wait to read their final stories; we're sure they will be epic! KJ





CAKE AT BREAK

The next Cake at Break takes place on Monday 20th May; All cakes are £1 each.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

LOST...
Tamar (4T) has lost her zipped sports mid-layer. Please can all parents check at home.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

CHELtenham SCHOOLS' WILDLIFE QUIZ

One of our knowledgeable quiz teams was in action this week in the semi-final of the Cheltenham Schools' Wildlife Quiz. Many congratulations to our quartet of experts in all things flora and fauna who saw off The Richard Pate School in a tense and close encounter. Berkhamstead will now face Gretton and St Mark's in the Cheltenham Grand Final next week. The winners of the final will represent Cheltenham in the Gloucestershire Final after half term. Well done and good luck to our young quizzers. MC



SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Do you have a spare hour a week for volunteering? The parents who have run the second hand uniform shop for the last three years would like to hand the reins over to a new team, from September.

Why running the second hand uniform shop is so rewarding:

SOCIALLY: It's a really important part of the school community - you meet new parents as well as long term parents and children

ENVIRONMENTALLY: You're helping to recycle uniform that sometimes only been worn for a season

ECONOMICALLY: You're helping raise funds for the PTA so that it can be reinvested in our children's school life

INCLUSIVITY: It means that everyone has access to our lovely Berky uniform

What's involved:

Opening the shop once per week (you can pick the time and day), either at 3.15pm or 8.15am for 45 mins

Helping parents find what they need

Entering the sales data into the school laptop

Labelling the donations and displaying them

Co-ordinating 1-2 helpers who can open the shop on another day

Bay and Chris - who currently run the shop - will be happy to help anyone who wants to take on the shop. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

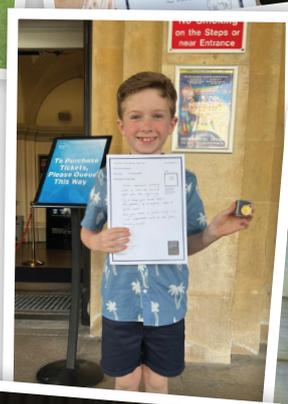




BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Well done to everyone who took part in this year's festival; here is a selection of photographs that have been sent to us.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

CRICKET

U11A Cricket v Hatherop

The U11 hardball team enjoyed an excellent match against Hatherop on Wednesday. It began well, with Berkhamstead winning the toss and electing to bowl.

We bowled a good line and length overall and took wickets at a steady rate. Our wicket takers were Ben R, Jasper, Sid, Wilf and George E. We held some very good catches. Ben, at full stretch diving forward, was the one for the highlight reel.

Hatherop finished on 246, having lost 9 wickets.

We batted pretty steadily and it was pleasing to see some of the work we have done in training coming to the fore. There were contributions from most of the team. Ella was top scorer and scored three superb boundaries. Our final total was 281 for the loss of 5 wickets. Well done to all of the team for an excellent win. P McC

