



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

The week kicked off in style with everyone (including me) wearing odd socks or jazzy tights! This marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week 2023, and reminded us of how important it is to accept uniqueness and differences. The theme for this year's is Make a Noise About Bullying, and across the week there were assemblies, discussions and activities exploring the importance of consideration and kindness - and how to speak out and stop bullying in our everyday lives. I stressed this important message in my assembly on Monday, and delved further into the subject in my CWB lessons. Anti-Bullying Week is such an important event, and a great way to remind the children about how they must speak to trusted adults if they are unhappy. Needless to say, the children's happiness and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do here at Berkhampstead. We work tirelessly to ensure that the pastoral care we provide is tip-top. We are proud that we continue to hold the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Award, and have done so since 2017.

Diwali was celebrated by Year 1 children on Monday. The children were thrilled to walk into Mrs Stephenson's classroom to find it adorned with pretty T-lights and jewel-coloured costumes. Mrs Amlani showed the children how to cook authentic Bombay aloo and chapati, and they tried on traditional costume, and designed henna and rangoli patterns (more from Mrs Stephenson later in the newsletter). Kindergarten also had the opportunity to dress up this week; they were celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week, so came to school on Wednesday dressed as their favourite character. Our youngest children also celebrated Diwali by drawing rangoli patterns on the entrances to Kindergarten.

It's also been an exciting week for Years 4 and 5, who have been on school trips this week. An excited Year 4 headed off across the border to Chepstow Castle, to enhance their learning of the Middle Ages. Mr McCreanor tells me how much the children enjoyed the tour of the castle, learning about its defences, dressing up and finding out about the weapons that were used in Medieval times. Meanwhile, the Year 5s travelled slightly further afield to the more exotic claims of the Living Rainforest ...but in Berkshire. The Year 5 geographers are now experts on tropical climates and the animals and plants that live there.

It was good to see so many of you at our SchoolsMobile information sessions yesterday. SchoolsMobile is a digital safeguarding platform, and their app is being installed on all 1:1 iPads (Years 4 - 6) that are managed in school but go home with the children. We are purchasing a licence for each child in Years 4 - 6, and parents of these pupils will then be able to use SchoolsMobile on non-school devices - free of charge - if they wish. If your child is in a different year group and you are interested in this for home use, please get in touch with SchoolsMobile: [SchoolsMobile.com](https://www.schoolsmobile.com)

I enjoyed chatting to Kindergarten, Reception, Years 1 and 2 parents at Parents' Evenings this week, and I look forward to seeing some of you this evening at the PTA Bingo Night.

Have a good weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 20th November

6:00pm Prep Parents'
English Curriculum Evening

Wednesday 22nd November

2:15pm U10 Hockey

v King's, Gloucester (away)

2:30pm U10 Rugby Festival
at Dean Close (away)

2:30pm U8 Rugby v

Cheltenham College (away)

3:00pm U10/11 Hockey v Dean
Close (away)

7:00pm PTA Meeting - online

Thursday 23rd November

Kindergarten Thanksgiving
and Lunch

4:15pm Prep Autumn Recital

Friday 24th November

2:30pm U8 Hockey v

St Edward's (away)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Diwali Day was an exciting start to the week for Year 1; the children arrived at school to find their classrooms decorated with lights and traditional Indian costumes. The children had a fully immersive day where they found out all about Diwali traditions and the story of Rama and Sita. Mrs Amlani helped the children with measuring, mixing and rolling ingredients to cook a delicious potato curry and chapatis. Thank you to Mrs Amlani's daughter - Krishna - for coming in to help with our Diwali Day. The children loved asking her questions about Diwali and they thought she looked like a real princess with her sari on! The children's team work skills were tested when the children created fantastic rangoli patterns in small groups; coloured rice and oats were arranged into traditional and symmetrical patterns. Some of the children's observations of the day:

Noah: *'Rama had a fight for Sita.'*

Bertie: *'There was a ten headed king.'*

Oscar: *'It is the festival of light.'*

Esme: *'People have a big meal with their families.'*

Peter: *'They send cards to each other.'*

Freddie: *'They have fireworks.'*

Huxley: *'They make rangoli patterns.'*

Penny: *'There are lots of lights to light the way home for Rama and Sita.'*



Over in Year 2, the children had brought in a range of recycled material. They thought about the properties of materials and what they would use to create their own bobsleigh/sledge. They designed, made it and then tested it down the slide; great fun! In RE, the Year 2 children have been finding out about Hanukkah; the Jewish Festival of Lights. The children learnt a Hanukkah song to help them remember the story behind Hanukkah and why the Jews celebrate it. AS



SCHOOLBLAZER FLASH SALE!

Schoolblazer is offering a 20% flash sale on 20th and 21st November. All items are included in this offer - don't miss it!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council has now chosen this year's local school charity: it is Emily's Gift. Emily's Gift supports children with cancer in Gloucestershire, and their mission is to raise £500,000 to fund a psychologist on the Emily Kent Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital for 10 years. The School Council would like everyone to wear a crazy hat, along with their Christmas jumper - on Friday 8th December - and donate at least £1 to Emily's Gift. The committee are still deliberating about the international charity, but the majority feel it should be one that saves the world's rainforests against deforestation.



ECO NEWS

Well done to the Prep School eco committee, who - in this week's meeting - made super posters to promote their mission to recycle medicine blister packaging. Following the success of last year's initiative, the team have decided to continue this year, so please bring your empty medicine blister packets to school, and the team will recycle them at Superdrug.

Thank you to Year 4 and 5 who all recycled their crisp packets from their lunches this week.

Berkhampstead School PTA

Merry
CHRISTMAS

Festive Friday!

The PTA would like to invite the school community
to come together on Friday 1st December to launch

Christmas month!

Mulled Wine

Hot Chocolate

Mince Pies

Music

Festive Facepainting

Christmas Hamper

Raffle Draw

Come along to the Pre-Prep
Lawn at pick-up 3.30 - 5pm

Berkhampstead School PTA

Merry
CHRISTMAS

Christmas Hamper Raffle

The Famous Berky Christmas Hampers are back!
This year's hampers to win include:



Christmas Celebrations
Christmas Pantry
Christmas Movie Night
Christmas Traditions
Family Festive Fun
Deck The Halls
Christmas Pamper
Night Before Christmas
Spirit Of Christmas



Tickets are £2 each. You can buy individual tickets and/or a book of 5 for £10.

Buy using the online form, or email:
pta@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U8 Tag Rugby v The Richard Pate School

On Friday, the Berky Bisons, Buffaloes and Bulls played three fast paced games against each of the three RPS teams. There were a variety of results with our boys getting the lion's share of wins. It is great to see the boys being enthusiastic on the pitch. Positional play is improving; we start in the correct formation but still need to keep that formation once the whistle has blown rather than just run after the ball. There were some great individual runs both to score tries and get the tags of opponents. Well played to all of our boys. TM

U8 Bisons and Buffaloes v Wycliffe

On Wednesday, the U8 boys played against two Wycliffe teams made out of Year 3 and 4 boys. The more experienced Wycliffe teams played very well, with some great runners, and were well practised in offloading before being tagged. The boys raised their game to this challenge and played equally well. We started to think more about offloading too. Our starting formations in attack and defence were very good, but we must remember to keep this formation when the whistle goes. Our runs were good, but we must remember to run forwards not sideways or even backwards. TM

U10A v The Richard Pate School

On Wednesday, the U10A rugby team played RPS. It was a very close game, although the score at half time did not reflect this, with Berky in the lead 6-2. In the second half, RPS came back and worked hard to get the score to 7-6. Our boys listened and applied what they have been working on in training to defend their lead and win the match. This was the best defensive display I have seen this season and I was impressed with their passion and team work. Well done, boys. DB

U10B v The Richard Pate School

For once the weather was on our side with blue skies and little wind. The U10 boys were as keen as mustard to take on our local rivals and started brilliantly. Hughie set the tone with the first big tackle, followed shortly after by a try. This gave all the boys the confidence to get involved and the gaps and tries started to appear. Jack F was a superb ball winner for the team and competed very well in rucks. Tries came from Leo, Jack, Atlas, Angus and more from Hughie. Tharusha and Charlie H distributed the ball well and Charlie F, Archie, Rishik all put pressure on our opposition. It was a fine win by 10 tries to 4. Very well done boys! RC

U11A v The Richard Pate School

The U11A team played RPS on Weds. The first half was very even with some excellent attacking play by both sides. At half time, honours were even at three tries apiece. The boys were very honest at the interval and recognised that they needed to up their physicality and try to make more use of the space available.

The second half was one of the best of the season. The support play and running in attack allowed the boys to exploit the gaps and we ran in five second half tries. In addition our defence was very strong, as was our work at the breakdown.

Our try scorers were George E (2), Wilf (2), Jack (2), Zack, and Alastair. However it was the all round team play that created the opportunities and led to a victory by 8 tries to 4. Well done to all of the team!

U11B v The Richard Pate School

The U11B team had a very tight game against RPS on Wednesday. Our defence was impressive and I witnessed several crunching tackles by the boys. The commitment was excellent. There was little to choose between the teams and it was all square at half time.

In attack there was some excellent continuity in attack and good handling skills and support play to create try scoring opportunities. Isaac scored two and Ben W one. The match could have gone either way and it hung in the balance for its duration. However, we were just pipped at the post, losing by 4 tries to 3.

Well done boys for another fantastic performance.

