



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

My Monday assemblies addressed Martin Luther King Day. A federal holiday in the United States which is celebrated on the third Monday of January each year, this year's fell on Martin Luther King's birthday. Never short of willing volunteers, a handful of our pupils demonstrated just how unjust it is to make rules and decisions based on - in my assembly example - the pupils' eye colour. I hope the morning's play-acting was an effective lesson in the inequity of racial discrimination, and a fitting tribute to the great social rights activist. I ended the assembly by reminding the children that if they feel anything is wrong or unfair here in our own community at Berky, that they all have a voice and will be listened to - they should raise the issue with the teaching staff or their School Council reps.

This term's Prep School School Council and Eco Warrior meetings kicked off this week. Both committees are an important feature of school life, and is made up of representatives from each form from Reception to Year 6. The committees allow our pupils' voices to be heard and enable them to make improvements to school life and further afield. Mrs Hannett - our new Head of Geography - along with Year 6 leaders Jack F and Mollie R - were at the helm of this week's eco meeting. Mrs Hannett welcomed new representatives from Years 3 to 5, and these are George R-S (3C), Ralph A (3M), Ollie S (4P), Ethan S (4T), Rosie E (5B) and Hannah P (5K). The Year 6 eco leaders remain the same for the whole year. The team are looking forward to welcoming a representative from Cheltenham Borough Council's 'Care For Our Air' project to deliver assemblies in two weeks' time. Deputy Head, Mrs Holland - along with George J, Luis M-R and Olivia W from Year 6 - lead the Prep School Council, and the team discussed playground, charity and menu matters. The first Pre-Prep eco meetings (led by Miss Kang-Martinez) also met this week; the Pre-Prep eco committee urge everyone to complete their Eco Warrior Pledge. This can be found on the school website. The Pre-Prep School Council's first meeting of term (led by Mrs Stephenson) is due to take place imminently. Well done to the pupils on both committees - you really do make a difference.

Kindergarten have had an exciting week; they had a wonderful time taking part Andrew Bear's Winter Adventure. Our family of bears is well known to our Early Years children. Andrew and Edna Bear - named after Edna Andrews, the school's founder, are much loved by our Kindergarten children, and they are very familiar with the antics of the two bears. Berky Bear is the Reception mascot, and is awarded to children in Early Years assembly for exemplary behaviour and displaying the Early Years values. The bears are well travelled as they often go on holiday with the children. Read more about Andrew Bear's Winter Adventure in the Early Years section of this newsletter.

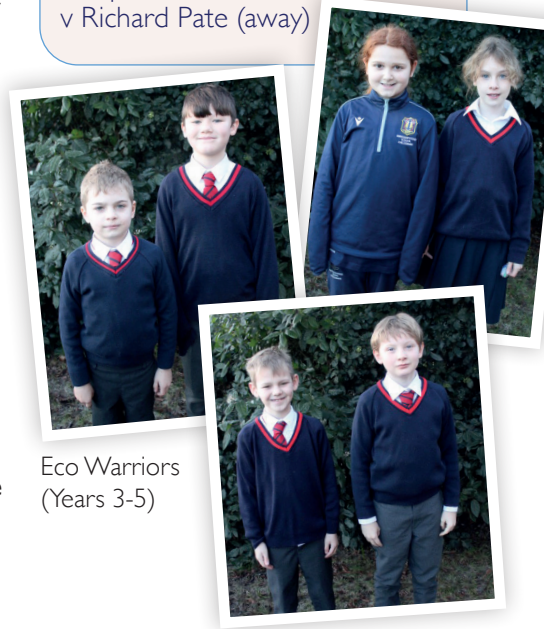


FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday 22nd January**
2:15pm U11A & U10A Football v Rendcomb (Home)
Kindergarten STEM week starts
- Tuesday 23rd January**
2:15pm Year 5 visit to St Matthew's and The Minster Church
- Wednesday 24th January**
2:30pm U11 Netball v Ashley Manor (away)
2:30pm U11B, U10A, U10B Football v Kitebrook & Cokethorpe (away)
2:30pm U9 Netball v Dean Close (away)
2:30pm U9A & B Football v Beaudesert (home)
7:00pm PTA Meeting - all parents welcome, Pre-Prep Hall
- Friday 26th January**
9:00am Schoolbeat Officer visiting Year 6 - Drugs & Peer Pressure Workshop
2:30pm U8 Netball v Ashley Manor (away)
2:45pm U8 Football v Richard Pate (away)



Eco Warriors (Years 3-5)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL- CONTINUED

The Year 3 and 4 qualifying round of Quiz Club's National Inter-School Quiz Championship happened on Tuesday. Under the watchful eye of resident quiz master, Mr Cole, the children answered questions that covered topics including capital cities, artists, flags and wildlife. The two highest scoring children from each year group will join forces with their older counterparts in Years 5 and 6 to form two teams made up of one pupil from each year group. The Year 5 and 6 qualifying round happens next week.

Today is a busy and fun day for everyone in the school. Early Years and Pre-Prep children have been participating in a book illustration workshop run by Berky alumnae Sasha and Poppy Sathasivam. Our leavers of 2015 have illustrated lovely children's books called 'Little Gold Ted' and 'ABC Alphabet Stories' and the enthusiastic twin artists enlightened our children with their animated story reading and fun book related activities. Meanwhile, Years 2 to 6 have been sharpening their mathematical skills in a brilliant problem solving workshop; solving geometrical puzzles is a superb way of helping the children develop essential skills such as reasoning and spacial awareness.

A word about the minor changes to our Spring Term menus. After some parental feedback, and with a desire for a reduction in sugar, we have introduced, once a week, a starter. Starters include butternut squash soup served with wholemeal sourdough bread or vegetable sticks served with humous, and the starter replaces a pudding on that day. Puddings are offered on every other day of the week, with fresh fruit as an alternative. Portion sizes remain the same as before, and there is invariably an opportunity for seconds. As well as fresh fruit, wholemeal sourdough bread is available with every meal. To find out more about our catering department, please see Mrs Agg's feature in the Autumn Term issue of the Blazer. I hope very much that your children are enjoying the new menu.

With best wishes for a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



BLAZER

By now you should have received your copy of the latest edition of the Berky Blazer. We hope you have enjoyed reading about the extraordinarily busy Autumn Term; as you know, we do pack a lot in!



LOST

Please could all parents check names in coats at home - Archie D's coat in Prep is missing.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to new car park and layout, Pre-Prep clubs finishing at 4.20pm will all be dismissed from the black gate.

Prep After School Club should now be collected from the Main Door by the school office.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

What a cold start to our Spring Term, but on Tuesday morning we braved the elements to find our mischievous missing Andrew Bear. On arriving at Kindergarten, Andrew was nowhere to be found, but he had left us a series of picture clues placed around the school. On our travels, we met Mrs Bareham, Mrs Brooks-Hughes, Mrs de Burgh-Thomas, Mr Cross, and Mrs Avery, and we eventually found Andrew hiding in our Forest School area. To warm us up, Andrew had left us a delicious snack of hot chocolate and sausage rolls - yum! Our in-house adventure days are so much fun. As well as providing the children with opportunities to work together as a team, they help build resilience and confidence. Our activity after the adventure was colour mixing with blue and white paints. The children drizzled PVA glue over their paintings and then sprinkled Epsom Salts on the glue to create a shimmering icy landscape.

During our topic 'Home Sweet Home' we have been learning about what is a safer stranger, healthy foods and how to keep our bodies healthy. We have learnt the different parts of the body and made a pictogram of our favourite fruits – apple was the winner. MM



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Robyn D, Holly C,
Freya C, Giulia J
Edna Bear: Hugo H, Philippa C



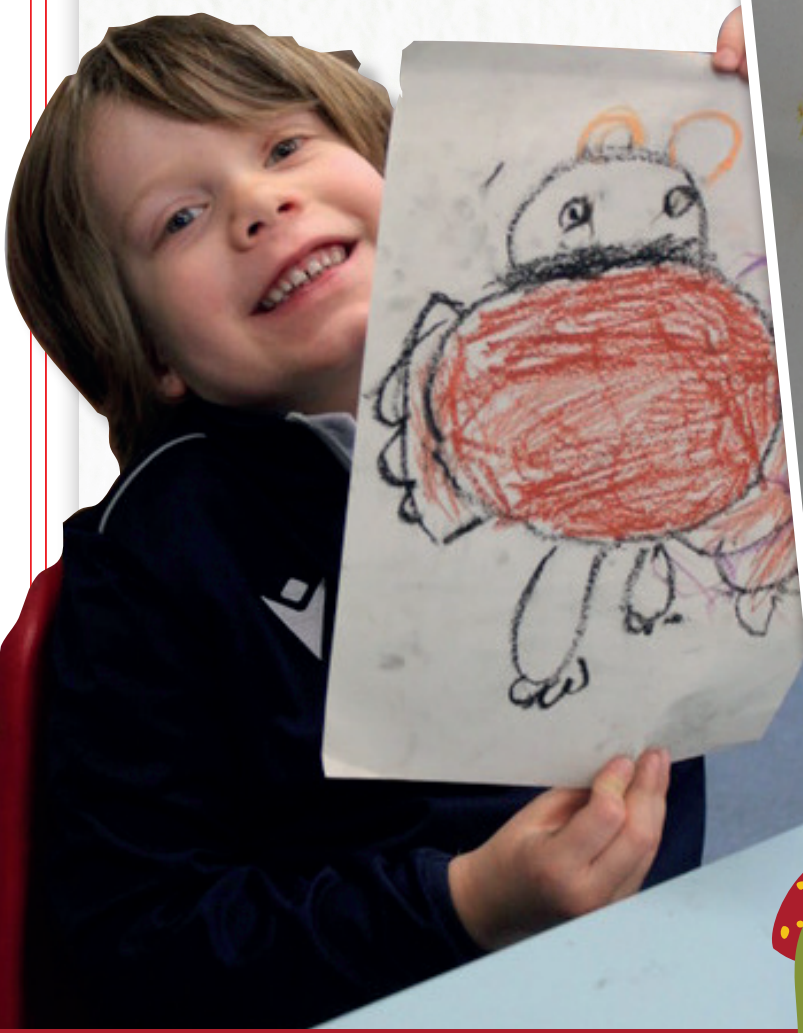


BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

Following our wonderful Christmas holiday, the children were delighted to return to school to our new topic, 'Toys!' We have spent a lot of time talking about our favourite toys and any new toys that Father Christmas may have brought us. In circle time, we discussed why they are so special to us, and linked to the story *Dogger* by Shirley Hughes, we imagined how we would feel if we lost our cherished toys (all a little close to home for some of the children who shared their own experiences of this!).

In art, we have used pastels to create beautiful pictures of our toys - which varied from teddies to walkie-talkies, and even a play Hoover - and these have really brightened up the display boards in Reception. We loved hearing about how toys have changed and evolved in recent history, and we learned about what Mrs Gargan's grandfather (now 93!) used to play with as a boy in the 1930s. Mr Cross also paid us a visit to tell us about what he played with throughout his childhood which was fascinating - there were certainly no iPads in those days! Z M-S




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Kit T, Joshua S,
Alex B, Kit M
Edna Bear: Toby S, Sam E



PARENTS' SUPPORT



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL

PARENTS' SUPPORT

*keeping parents
in the loop*



YEAR 3-6

'Book look'

Parents and guardians of pupils from Year 3-6 are warmly invited to visit their child's form room, accompanied by their child, to look at their work. *Although form teachers will be present, this is not an additional Parents' Evening.*

Thursday 1st February between 4-5pm
Venue: Child's form room



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U10 v Dean Close Prep School

These were the first matches of the season for the U10 girls, and they certainly didn't disappoint! With two wins and one narrow loss, the girls should all be pleased with their opening matches. Mr Parker was watching two matches, and all the girls were keen to play well. They successfully managed the strict rotations of Bee Netball, (every quarter; the girls change positions) and all girls were able to try shooting. It was a freezing afternoon, and I was very impressed that all the girls played with enthusiasm, despite their icy fingers! Both these matches were closely contested - a 5-3 win and a 4-3 loss. The match I was umpiring was slightly different as the Berky girls dominated throughout. It really didn't matter where the girls played, they passed the ball with confidence and used the space wisely around the court, finishing with a 12-3 win. A super start to the season! Well done, ladies! JH



U11 Netball Practice



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U9C v Cheltenham College

This was a fabulous match played in very chilly conditions. The Berky boys really played as a team, passing keenly and defending stoutly as a unit. The match finished 4-0 in our favour. Magnus D scored an eye-catching hat trick (including an audacious chip over the opposing goalie's head) with Teddy B adding a late fourth goal. All the Berky players contributed though. Quinn H, Ethan S, Harvey W, Toby M and Eddie H all ran their socks off and helped wonderfully in both defence and attack. MC

U9A&B v Cheltenham College

The U9A&Bs took on Cheltenham College on Wednesday in our first encounter of the season. From the outset the As looked in complete control, leading by 3-0 after the first 10 minutes. They continued their attack and created an endless number of chances for themselves to score. The rotation of attack and defence worked at times seamlessly and four more well taken goals in the second half of the game ensured a comfortable 7-1 win. The Bs were equally creative in attack and albeit camped out in the Cheltenham defence with wave after wave of attacks on the opposing team's penalty area. Not to be outdone by the As they too scored seven goals in an excellent 7-2 win. Well done to both teams for getting Berky off to such a great start to the season. SM



U11 Football Practice

