

Please note...

PREP AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
4pm - 4.30pm

Please ring the doorbell and pick up by the blue door on the right-hand side of the Pre-Prep building (except on Tuesdays when pick up is from the door by the office) (Tea-Time Club 4.30pm - 5.30pm please ring the doorbell by the office and pick up from there)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and exciting week. On Monday, we kicked off the annual Anti-bullying Week with an assembly about different forms of bullying, what help the children get and what help the children can give to ensure Berky is a bully-free zone. The theme for this year is 'One Kind Word' and this fits in with what I say to the children all the time... 'if there is one thing you can be - be kind'.

On Thursday, we all wore odd socks to school to remind us of how important it is to accept difference... and that different socks and different people bring colour to our lives.

On Tuesday, I had the delight of joining Year 2 for their Sewing Day. They have been lucky enough to have an Activity Week this week with all sorts of undertakings such as cooking, sewing, science and drama. I was sewing helper to Toby and Ellis as they constructed their brilliantly designed Christmas tree decorations - they had both chosen to make reindeer. They will be proud to place these on the tree this year... and hopefully for many years - and I too am proud that I could help in some way.

On Wednesday evening, I attended the PTA meeting and, whilst we have had to postpone or cancel certain Christmas events, there are some exciting things being arranged for the children. We are so lucky to have such a positive and supportive PTA and parent body, prepared to embrace the COVID challenge and come up with ways of making this Christmas a joyous one. There is already a buzz in school around the build-up to the Christmas festivities. Carol and Nativity rehearsals are well underway and I am hopeful that this year we will be able to invite parents into school for these.

Also on Wednesday, I spent the afternoon coaching the fabulous Year 3 boys. They play tag rugby at this age (U8) but clearly many of them were ready for some tackling and full-contact rugby. We have some great runners and their passing skills are coming on in leaps and bounds too. They are playing matches this afternoon against Hopelands School at home (the Victoria Ground) and I am thoroughly looking forward to it. Come on, boys!

I have noticed and been informed of several occurrences of inconsiderate and illegal parking around school this week - endangering pedestrians and obscuring the view of cars trying to manoeuvre. Most importantly, it puts your children at risk and sets a poor example to them of how to behave. It is imperative that we keep everyone safe - the vast majority do indeed park safely. PLEASE could everyone avoid parking on junctions, double yellow lines (particularly on the junction of Pittville Circus Road and Hayes Road junction) and across driveways.

Thank you.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



odd
socks
day





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Pre-Prep

YEAR 2 HAVE HAD A FANTASTIC ENRICHMENT WEEK!

Monday kickstarted the week with a Science Day. The children explored a range of materials and investigated bending, twisting and stretching them. They heated and cooled a range of things that became very useful once changed - the lemon cake mixture was a particular favourite once heated! An experiment in the afternoon to find the warmest part of our building was carried out by observing ice cubes at regular intervals. Some of us were surprised that our predictions were proved wrong.

A Sewing Day proved to be very exciting for the children, especially when Mr Cross and Mrs Agg came to help! The children designed their piece, gathered their materials and sewed them together beautifully. Staff were amazed at the children's sewing skills! We won't give too many details away as this will be a Christmas surprise for Year 2 parents - Ssshhhh!

A Drama Day developed the children's improvisation skills. Teamwork, facial expression and tone of voice were skills that shone through - as well as having lots of fun! We definitely have some stars that were born to shine on a stage! The children have also chosen their parts for the Christmas play.

Rolling, shaping and decorative skills were put to the test on Cookery Morning as Year 2's "Incredible Inventions" topic came to an end. The children's gingerbread machines were highly inventive, ranging from rockets to chocolate machines.

A visit to All Saints' Church helped the children to find out all about the different features of a church. The children learned so much and also had the chance to create some wonderful observational drawings.

What a busy week! Well done, Year 2!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM OUR YEAR 4 ECO-WARRIORS

Consider buying an alternative to ordinary Sellotape or sticky tape. Sellotape or sticky tape is not an eco-friendly choice for sealing. It contains polypropylene (plastic) and cannot be recycled. Try paper tape, water-activated tape (gummed tape) or 100% plant-based tape. Shown is Sellotape Zero Plastic - the tape - including the core and the packaging - is fully compostable.

www.johnlewis.com/sellotape-zero-plastic-adhesive-tape/p4985557

Congratulations to this green-living Year 3 pupil, who was awarded her eco-warrior badge in assembly this morning. She submitted a most impressive Berky Eco Pledge, and her many eco habits were discussed in Tuesday's Berky Gets Greener meeting. The decision to award her badge of green-living honour was unanimous. Well done!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PTA NEWS...

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Thank you to all the parents who attended our first virtual PTA meeting on Wednesday; lovely to see everyone!

We agreed at the meeting to fund the new Prep Garden and the plans for this are looking really exciting!

Unfortunately, it was decided at the meeting the Christmas Discos and Fayre posed too much of a Covid-19 risk and that parents would like to be as cautious as possible in the hope we are able to attend the school nativity plays and Carol Service at the end of term.

We appreciate this will be a disappointment to the children, but as they are not mixing in school as much since half term, it was felt mixing at the discos this close to Christmas may not be wise.

We did agree to provide each child in school with a small token Christmas gift this year again, so they still have something and we will see whether it's possible to do a couple of smaller Christmas things in school before the end of term.

We agreed the new date for the postponed Quiz; this will now take place on Friday 11th February. There are a couple of tables left and we will recirculate the booking form shortly.

The long awaited Cycle Scheme will be kick-started after half term next term; and the PTA had previously agreed to fund every child in the school to have one course each. Further details and timetables for this will follow in the New Year.

Don't forget when you are doing your Christmas shopping online to use Easyfundraising and nominate The Friends of Berkhamstead School as your charity. For every purchase you can make through Easyfundraising, a donation will be made to the school at no extra cost to you. You can also do the same through Amazon Smile.

A gentle reminder that this year will be my last year at the school and we are still looking for new volunteers to be part of the PTA for September. If you would like to be involved or have a chat about what is involved, please do let us know.

With best wishes

Joey Bowden
PTA Chair

PTA@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk



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BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

HOCKEY

U10 v King's, Gloucester
Won 4-2

Wow! What a match! The girls shone this afternoon and certainly worked as a team. The mantra for the afternoon was 'attack and think big!' The girls maintained their positions beautifully, spreading out across the pitch. Frankie hung around the King's D, making a complete nuisance of herself, and was rewarded with a hat trick, with a few assists from Chloe, who also managed to sneak one past the goalie. Sophia was like a terrier – she was everywhere and would not let that ball get past her! Nina, our stand in goalie, made some strong saves and was protected by some excellent defensive play from Alba (who had kindly offered to swap with Nina at the last minute), Yvie and Esi. Carly was a demon on the wing, chasing every ball down. Our attacking players were served with some beautiful long balls from Esi and Chloe, who distributed the ball effortlessly around the pitch. Well done, girls - it certainly was a team effort to be proud of, with plenty of good sportsmanship involved as well! Once again, parent support was outstanding - thank you to all.

U10B v King's, Gloucester
Won 3-0

What a lovely match! The girls worked hard and it was pretty even to start with but, with continued pressure in the King's 'D', Esha scored the opening goal. Alexa was playing her first game in goal and she made one very crucial save. Our two defenders, Erin P and Lettie in front of her were tackling hard and making some great clears out of our defending 'D'. Our second goal was scored by Emma who followed up her initial shot and there was super supporting play by Emilia for this goal. After half time, Berky had more and more of the ball and our third and final goal was scored by Emily. A great game, girls - well played, everyone.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

RUGBY

U8 Buffaloes v The Richard Pate
School

Won 8-4

Won 7-4

Won 5-2

The Buffaloes played three fantastic games of tag rugby on Friday. We managed to dominate all three games and won each by several tries. We were organised in defence with our straight line and "holding the rope". We made some fantastic tags and often forced RPS to go backwards. Whilst running with the ball, we showed good awareness of gaps in the opposition's lines and made great passes when tagged. Almost everyone got on the score sheet. Jack H, Toby R and Fergus G got the lion's share of the tries; Charlie F, Hughie B and Jacob D all put in a great effort. It is lovely to see the boys developing as a team and I hope that they can continue this if and when they encounter tougher opposition. Very well played, boys!

