



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

This week, during my assemblies, I have been focussing on the importance of kindness, and illustrated my message with key words written on cards, associated with being kind. On the reverse of the cards were opposing words. I also showed the children a cartoon about Joy the dog and a heron. At first Joy was angry at Heron for snatching worms, but when Joy saw that Heron wasn't taking the worms for herself, but rather to feed her hungry babies, her attitude changed from anger to compassion. I asked the children to reflect on this, stressing how the ability to empathise with others is so important. Kindness is a value that is celebrated at Berkhampstead from Kindergarten - and from Year 1, each half term, a child in Prep and one in Pre-Prep are awarded with Kindness Cups.

Thursday was a particularly busy day. The Prep and Pre-Prep eco committees were delighted to welcome Hannah Leatherland, from Cheltenham Borough Council to assembly. Her aim was to raise awareness about air pollution and the ways in which we can help reduce it here in Cheltenham. Hannah was armed with plenty of interesting and eye-opening facts and figures. For instance, leaving a car idle (the engine running in a traffic jam) for just five minutes produces an alarming 23 shipping containers' worth of emissions - and we breathe a staggering 11,000 litres of air per day, so clean air really is vital. Her advice for drivers of idle cars is to turn the engine off when the car is stationary. She also encouraged 'active' modes of transport to school such as walking, cycling or scooting, or using public transport. Lift sharing was also a suggestion. Hannah then attended a joint Pre-Prep and Prep eco meeting, and shared even more ideas about how we as a school community can raise awareness of the harmful effects of air pollution and how we can reduce them here at Berkhampstead.



FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 5th February

Y1 Space Day - Dress up with space costumes

Tuesday 6th February

Y5 History Trip to The Commandery
5:30pm 3C Parents' Evening (online)

Wednesday 7th February

2:30pm U11 Netball v The Richard Pate School (away)
2:30pm U11 & U10 Football v King's, Gloucester (home)
3:45pm Early Years Wednesday Wander

Thursday 8th February

4T Trip to SkillZONE - Morning only
5:30pm 3M Parents' Evening (online)

Friday 9th February

Cake at Break - Bring in £1
2:30pm U9 Netball v Ashley Manor (away)

Saturday 10th February -

Sunday 18th February
Half Term





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Julie Kent, from Emily's Gift, also visited us on Thursday, and was thrilled to receive a cheque from us for over £1000. Her bright pink number six balloon caused much attention from the children - it signifies just six weeks to go until the end of her appeal to raise £500,000. This is the sum that will fund the employment of a psychologist for 10 years at the Emily Kent Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously; Julie is thrilled with the generous total. Thanks, too to all our Prep parents who attended our 'Book Look' on Thursday after school; parents with children in Years 3 to 6 were invited to their children's classrooms, accompanied by their children, to look at their school books. It was super to witness the children's pride in showing off their work. The Book Look was one of a series of our 'Keeping Parents in the Loop' events; the next one will be a Future Schools evening - aimed at Years 4 and 5 parents - on Monday 4th March at 6pm.

The second Year 6 house captains were elected at the end of last week. We have an impressive cohort of pupils in Year 6, and we highly value them all, so the decision as to who should be elected wasn't taken lightly. Many congratulations to Kitty H, (St Andrew's), Coco P, (St George's), Estella L, (St David's) and Ellie P, (St Patrick's) - we are certain you will do a great job in leading your houses.

I am aware that some parents are concerned about the likely addition of 20 percent VAT on school fees if the Labour Party comes to power later this year. In addition to Richard's letter sent earlier in the week, I would also like to reassure you that we are working hard behind the scenes to look at ways of mitigating the impact of this, should it happen, and are mindful of the importance of ensuring Berkhampstead remains an affordable option for as many families as possible. If you have any concerns, please contact Tom Denmead, our Bursar: bursar@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk

I wish you all a happy and enjoyable weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



SECONDHAND
UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS

Monday 8.15-9am
Tuesday 3.15 - 4pm
Wednesday 3.15 - 4pm

CAKE
AT BREAK

The next Cake at Break
takes place next Friday 9th
February; all cakes cost £1.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

This week in Kindergarten, we have been celebrating National Storytelling Week. Everyone has brought in their favourite story which has provided some wonderful, eclectic books for us to read throughout the week.

The children had some definite ideas of why they liked their story.

Holly: *'Kitty McClaw runs away, they come and get her. This is my favourite page because the long tunnel goes round and round.'*

Eddie: *'The peas were too hot, and the bath was too cold.'*

Posey: *'It's find-you-mum book, he can't find his mum and a butterfly helps him.'*

Reggie: *'The tiger came, he drank all the water in the tap, he ate all the food in the fridge.'*

During Circle Time, I gave the children a list of clues. They needed to guess which traditional story I was describing. They listened and thought about each clue carefully before giving their answer. The children could guess the answer, can you?

'A little girl visits her grandma - who looks rather different, she now has to have big furry ears, huge eyes, and a long nose'.

Our storytelling has led the children to act out scenes from their favourite book and create story scenes in the tuff trays with bricks, twigs, and straw and three pigs. Using puppets from The Gruffalo, we observed the children using great imagination and story language as they immersed themselves in this wonderful story. MM



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Rafaela C, Ava B, Harrison N, Isabelle M, Reggie R, Ottilie H
Edna Bear: Theo C, Aurelia P



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION



The excitement this week in Reception is that we have completed the learning of all of our phase three sounds! This will now mean that the children will be able to apply these sounds to their reading and writing, becoming more confident when working independently. In maths we have been exploring numbers 6, 7 and 8 and mastering composition within these numbers, recording our findings both formally and within play. The children look forward to their regular specialist teaching sessions and I am often blown away when I observe their confidence in PE, French and Music.

This week we have welcomed Miss Tia Jolliffe to the Reception team. Miss Jolliffe is a PGCE student who will be with us until Easter. She has already made a positive impact on the teaching and learning in Reception and the children are enjoying getting to know her. Miss Eve Marsh, also a PGCE student, joins Mrs Stephenson's Class in Year 1, and likewise, is settling in well to Berkhamstead life.

On Tuesday this week, myself, Mrs Main and Katie and Mary from the Day Nursery spent the day with Helen Tate, an Early Years Consultant, who came in to audit our provision, both indoors and outside. A shared passion for ensuring children reach their full potential in their learning and development meant that we were able to identify some next steps to further evolve our learning environments – watch this space!

Next Wednesday, 7th February, will be our termly Wednesday Wander – please do pop along and see what amazing things we've been up to! Z M-S



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: George B, Emelia A,
Freya C, Eliza T





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U8 v Dean Close

On a cold, windy afternoon, the girls warmed us all up with some fantastic netball. The girls put into practice our learnt skills demonstrating lots of passing and moving, some excellent shooting and superb, resolute defending. Over the course of the nine mini games, the girls won more than they lost and everyone was fully involved with a big smile on their faces. IP

U10 v Hopelands

This was an evenly balanced match of Stingers Netball (five players on court), until the final quarter. The girls were rotating around the positions, allowing everyone the opportunity to shoot. All the girls improved as the match progressed, learning to mark the position rather than the person. Both teams were building their confidence and creating more space on the court. In the final quarter, Berky took hold of the match and stretched their lead to a 10-3 win. Well done, ladies! JH

U10/11 v Ashley Manor

This has been a busy week for some of the U10 girls! We took four teams to Ashley Manor and they played across four courts. Miss Keegan and I moved between the teams, encouraging and refereeing across all of the games. Each team was responsible for their own rotations, (which had been mapped out earlier). The girls took this responsibility seriously and used the rotation sheets effectively. We had some mixed results - winning two and losing two. This was a fair result, and most matches were even. One Berky team dominated and was very impressive. Our other teams fought hard, making some timely interceptions. The final scores were: 5-4 (win), 2-6 (loss), 3-4 (loss) and 14-2 (win). Well done everyone, it was certainly a blustery afternoon up there! JH





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

UIIA/B v Hopelands

Our UIIs mixed in to play Hopelands on Monday in what turned out to be a competitive game. There was lots of positive intent in attack, with lots of scoring opportunities created. We took the lead twice, but were pegged back with a couple of well taken goals by our opponents. Although we pressed for the winner, we came close but couldn't quite get over the line, with the final result being a 2-2 draw.

Our goal scorers were Isaac and Ella.

It was good to see the the As and Bs blending together to produce a competitive game. Well done to everyone! P McC

UIIA v Hatherop and Kitebrook

The UIIA team took part in a triangular on Wednesday. Our opening match against Hatherop was a tight affair and although we were in the ascendancy for much of the game, we only managed to convert one of our chances, which was well taken by George J. However it was enough to take a 1-0 victory.

Our second match was against Kitebrook, who were a very good side. We had to soak up a lot of pressure in the first half, and did well to be 0-0 at half time. The second half was a different story, with the Berky team playing with lots of energy. We had more possession and passed the ball well into space. When our chances came, we were clinical in taking them. Two goals from Wilf and one from Isaac, resulted in a very fine 3-0 victory. A mention must also be given to the fantastic defending from Sid, George E and the retreating midfield. Josiah made some fantastic saves to deny Kitebrook getting a foothold in the match.

Well done to all of the team. This was an excellent performance. P McC

UI0B v Ashley Manor and Beaudesert

Wednesday afternoon offered a triangular tournament of two halves (a geometry student's dream) with the Berky UI0B lads facing counterparts from our hosts Ashley Manor and Beaudesert. Our first match against 'the Manor' resulted in a 4-0 defeat with the Berky boys struggling to cope with the wide acres of the Ashley Manor pitch and our opponents' slick passing game. Leo played a blinder in goal though, making numerous brave saves; the woodwork also made some timely interventions. Before their second fixture, the Berky coaching team made one or two changes, refreshing the defensive line and suggesting the boys eschew 'the beautiful game' when the opportunity arose and adopt a 'long ball' tactic. This seemed to work against the green-clad fellows of Beaudesert. A couple of well-taken, poacher's goals from Charlie H and Henry saw us home two goals to one. All the boys contributed but Atlas deserves a mention for his rugged defending while Jack and Charlie F both ran their socks off for the cause. Played, lads. MC

UIIB v Ashley Manor and Beaudesert

The UIIB team had two great games at Ashley Manor on Wednesday. Playing on a nearly full-size pitch (**and goals - see pic**) they had to run hard and fitness was key. Defensively the team played well, and Luis, Ben W and Freddie showed great commitment. In the midfield, Jack, Tom and Hugo worked hard to support both defence and attack. In both games these players held the strong opposition to being goalless at half time. Ben S and Tommy had some great chances to score too but somehow the opposition defence and goalkeeper kept them out. In each match the goals came towards the end of the game and sadly Berky were on the losing side. Ben R in goal played superbly and made some great saves ensuring we were in the game right up until the end. Well done, boys - keep working hard! RC

